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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 9, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO 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 11:50 a.m.

END-OF-LIFE CARE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. One of the most difficult and challenging situations any family faces is dealing with circumstances surrounding the end of life.

Earlier this week, NPR ran a fascinating story on a little-known fact that physicians die differently than the rest of us. They are more comfortable. They are more likely to spend their final days surrounded by loved ones. They seldom die in an ICU or even in a

hospital setting. That is because doctors understand what works and what doesn't. Doctors are very clear about their wishes, and they choose quality of life and concern for their families as well as their own well-being.

I have been working in this area of end of life care for more than 6 years. The Ways and Means committee unanimously approved my legislation as part of the Affordable Care Act to provide greater support for families with that decisionmaking process.

It did pass the committee unanimously as part of the Affordable Care Act, even despite the furor of the 2009 lie of the year about death panels, on the strength of some of the most compelling testimony that was delivered not by expert witnesses, but by Members of the committee.

One of our Republican Members discussed how his mother didn't get the care that she needed at the end of her life. Another physician Member of the committee explained how he had these conversations repeatedly, but unfortunately they were often much later than they should have been. There wasn't adequate time for the family to prepare.

Well, there has been a sea change on this issue in part because of rising public awareness. Support for our bipartisan legislation, the Personalize Your Care Act, which I have worked on for years now with Dr. PHIL ROE, has made great strides forward.

We have had advocates like Dr. Bill Frist, former Republican leader of the Senate, who has spoken eloquently and written forcefully about the need to help families under these trying conditions.

The Reverend Billy Graham has written about how it is Christian responsibility to take this on for ourselves and spare our loved ones uncertainty.

Dr. Atul Gawande recently published a brilliant work, "Being Mortal," which quickly climbed to the top of the

best seller list for The New York Times.

The Institute of Medicine has put out a seminal, over 600-page report about dying in America that talked about the problems and opportunities to provide more choices and protect people's wishes.

Yesterday was another important landmark where the administration published a proposed fee schedule for next year in which they have assigned an activity code with payment for advanced care planning.

Now, of course, this is merely a proposal and CMS is still seeking comment, but it is a historic step forward for a decision that will be finalized this fall. It is yet another indication that we can and will do a better job of meeting the needs of America's families under the most difficult of circumstances.

We will make sure Americans have all the information they need to make the right decisions for themselves and their family and then to assure that those decisions, whatever they may be, are honored and enforced.

Medicare will pay for thousands of expensive medical procedures, and now, for the first time, the government is placing a value on this important conversation between a patient and their chosen medical professional.

Now it is the job of the rest of us to do our part to spare our loved ones. Who will speak for us if we are unable to speak for ourselves, and what will they say?

PROPOSED FIDUCIARY STANDARDS

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, most economists and financial advisers have recognized that families across the United States are headed toward a

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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major retirement crisis. Studies have shown that a majority of households headed by someone aged 59 or younger are in danger of suffering from falling living standards in their retirement years.

And so the administration and this Congress should be advancing policies that make retirement counseling, savings advice, and investment services more accessible, not less. Retirement planning, savings counseling, and investment advice can improve the quality of life and economic stability of every American.

Yet recent actions by this administration, however well intended, will make these financial services less accessible and less affordable to those who are in most need of them by forever changing the rules regarding financial advising related to retirement accounts.

Mr. Speaker, for years the community of financial advisers, including those throughout Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay area that I have the privilege to represent, has been governed by what is known as the suitability standard; that is, a financial adviser is required to provide financial counseling and investment recommendations that are suitable for a client based upon that client's financial position and financial goals. The suitability standard requires advisers to act fairly in dealing with clients.

This suitability standard has served individual investors well for many years, creating a market for financial services for new and low dollar investors seeking basic investment services and thoughtful financial and retirement planning.

But the administration is now in the process of replacing that standard with a new standard called the fiduciary standard. This new standard, under the guise of protecting investors, will actually have the opposite effect. The administration's proposed rule will ultimately reduce or, in some cases, eliminate financial counseling, products, and services to new and low dollar investors. The rule will result in the elimination of financial products that adequately compensate advisers for their services, and it will increase the cost of compliance on advisers who ultimately will need to pass on those costs to clients through a higher fee structure. And it will simply cause some advisers to cease serving many clients who are, in fact, in most need of financial services.

But worse, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor's new rule reflects the approach we continue to see from regulators throughout this administration, an arrogant and demeaning suggestion that industry throughout America is necessarily comprised of all bad actors, and unless these actors are forced to do so by this administration, they will no longer do right or do good but for the heavy hand of government and the heavy hand of this administration making them do so. It is a Washington-

knows-best approach that communities across the country continue to reject.

My message today is a simple one: The administration can do better. Do not issue the proposed new fiduciary standard rule.

The Department received thousands of comments about the proposed rule and seemingly ignored them all.

Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have sent letters to the Department of Labor expressing the negative impacts that this proposal would have on their communities, and we have begged the Department of Labor to revisit this rule and simply do better on behalf of the American people.

Congress has also taken action on its own and will continue to do so. Recently, the Appropriations Committee included provisions within their respective bills in the House and Senate to halt the administration from moving forward on this perhaps well-intended but completely wrong proposed rule. It was right that we did so.

The administration simply must do better. It starts with recognizing that the financial adviser industry is comprised of men and women across this country who provide a valuable contribution to individuals and couples seeking retirement guidance.

Then let's realize that transparency and sunlight can solve most concerns. But to instead impose a new legal standard that will only increase compliance cost, result in expensive and needless litigation and ever more trial attorney fees and will ultimately eliminate financial counseling to hundreds of thousands of families who need it most, well, Mr. Speaker, that is the wrong answer.

Let's keep the suitability standard. Let's trust financial advisers for the good service they provide. Let's strictly enforce the current law against the very small number of individuals who seek to take advantage of individual investors. Let's protect financial services for those who need them most. And let's revisit a rulemaking process that focuses only on transparency, ultimately providing consumers and clients with the information they need to make responsible investment decisions and to responsibly select a financial adviser that is right for them.

It is time that this administration begins trusting the American people.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, for the record, I am not Mexican, and I am not an immigrant. Given the rhetoric of one of the leading Republican candidates for President, it is important to point that out at the start before I am accused of being a criminal, a drug dealer, or a rapist.

To be fair, Donald Trump didn't say that all Latinos or all Mexicans are rapists, just that the vast majority of

Mexican immigrants are rapists, drug dealers, and criminals. Clearly, if anyone has firsthand knowledge of Mexican immigrants working in the United States, it should be the owner of a hotel, casino, office buildings, or a clothing line. But Trump doesn't seem to be basing his opinions about Mexican immigrants on personal knowledge.

To justify his claims, Trump says that most of the women coming from Central America to the U.S. through Mexico and other countries report being sexually assaulted. On this point, he and I have some agreement. Women and children at the lowest rung of our economic and social ladder are incredibly vulnerable to sexual assault and rape. But the leap from saying that most undocumented women are vulnerable to assault and saying most undocumented men are rapists is, as he might say himself, huge.

The documentary on PBS Frontline, "Rape in the Fields," was a powerful expose on how immigrant women toiling in our fields are regularly the victims of rape and abuse because perpetrators recognize how vulnerable immigrant women are. They are afraid to talk to the police, afraid they will be deported, and afraid they will lose their children. And this fear to report crimes makes us all less safe.

Yes, the rape and abuse is sometimes perpetrated by other Latino immigrants, perhaps even Mexicans, but these crimes are also committed by men of all colors and national origins, including red, white, and blue Americans.

So when Donald Trump says on CNN, "Well, someone is doing the raping," as further evidence that we should be building a big wall so he can plaster his name on it and keep immigrants out, I think it is pretty clear The Donald misses the point.

The question is: How do we create an immigration system that protects us from criminals and that allows people to come with visas and not smugglers so that their work is honored, safe, protected by our labor laws? How do we make sure that these workers who contribute so much to America's economy are not afraid to dial 911 and report wage theft or assault when someone, anyone, is threatening them or their families?

Now, the anti-immigration wing of the Republican Party in this body and on the air is saying that Trump may have a point. After all, a beautiful, innocent woman was shot in cold blood by a Mexican immigrant in San Francisco just last week.

Why wasn't he deported? Why wasn't he held in jail the last time? And you will actually hear this on FOX News: Why is President Obama letting Mexicans kill beautiful young American women?

As the father of two daughters about the age of Kate Steinle, the young woman who was shot and killed, I pray every night that no one of any racial or

ethnic background ever does my daughters harm, and I can only imagine the grief that her family is feeling.

When we have felons in Federal custody or State or local custody with warrants for drug crimes who are deported multiple times and come back, this Congress has not done its job, unfairly leaving States and localities to cope with decades of inaction on immigration, criminal justice, and a range of other issues. I have no sympathy for the man accused in this crime. Murderers should rot in hell.

So if we had a system that allowed people who have lived here a long time, contributed productively to American society, and who have children and other deep roots in the United States, what if we allowed them to come forward? What if we made them pay for their own criminal background checks, fingerprinted them, made them prove their identity, and check on them every so often to make sure that they are not gaming the system or committing crime?

What if we had a system where people came here legally in the first place, if they could prove their identity and that they had no criminal background?

I argue that such a system would allow us to reduce significantly the number of people who are in this country without legal status. It would shrink the size of communities where many people are undocumented, where people are afraid to call the police so that criminals find it easy to blend in and not stick out. Such a system would allow us to concentrate our enforcement and deportation resources on real criminals who should be jailed and then thrown out and kept out.

□ 1015

I argue that such a system would make it harder for criminals to hide and easier for honest, hard-working folks to contribute to their communities without fear. Unfortunately, that is exactly the system that some Republicans have been fighting against.

When a hotel and casino owner gets on his high horse about Mexican immigrants, about crime, rape, and murder, let's think about who is standing between the United States—this country, the one that we love and we have sworn to protect—and a modern immigration system based on common sense, compassion, and, yes, the rule of law.

TIME FOR HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS THAT LOWER COSTS AND EMPOWER PATIENTS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2 years, my email inbox, mailbox, and phone lines have been flooded with reports of canceled health insurance plans, soaring premiums, increased deductibles, and exasperated constitu-

ents trying to navigate the confusing Washington bureaucracy that is ObamaCare.

Members of Congress have to buy their health insurance on the ObamaCare exchanges along with millions of other Americans, and I experienced many of the same frustrations, including the nightmare of navigating a confusing, unfinished Web site.

Despite its central promise, the Affordable Care Act has proved to be anything but affordable for many North Carolinians, and the Supreme Court's recent decision in *King v. Burwell* doesn't change that fact.

House Republicans are continuing our efforts to minimize the damage caused by ObamaCare. We have passed legislation that would permanently repeal ObamaCare's 2.3 percent excise tax on medical devices, which has hindered innovation as well as restricted growth and job creation in an industry that has improved the quality of life of millions around the world.

We have voted to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which was created under the President's healthcare law and gives a panel of 15 unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats sweeping authority to slash Medicare payments to providers or eliminate payments for certain treatments and procedures altogether.

The House has passed legislation that would change ObamaCare's 30-hour definition of full-time employment and restore the traditional 40-hour workweek. From adjunct professors to hourly workers, I have heard from constituents across North Carolina's Fifth District who have one thing in common: their hours are being reduced.

ObamaCare has placed an undue burden on employers and their employees by undermining the 40-hour workweek, which has long been the standard for full-time work.

We have voted to make it easier to hire veterans by exempting those who already have health insurance from being counted as full-time employees under the President's healthcare law. No employer should be penalized for hiring a veteran, and no veteran should be unemployed because of ObamaCare.

However, the best approach to solving the multitude of problems resulting from ObamaCare is to unite behind a complete repeal of the law and replace it with solutions that lower costs and empower patients to choose the care that is right for them.

I recently signed on as a cosponsor of H.R. 2653, the American Health Care Reform Act. This bill would repeal ObamaCare completely and allow a standard deduction for health insurance that treats individually purchased plans and employer-sponsored plans the same, making sure that all Americans receive the same tax benefits for health care.

H.R. 2653 would return decisions about healthcare and insurance coverage to patients. It is people, not government, who can best determine the

coverage and services that meet their needs.

A government takeover of health care is not what Americans asked for and certainly not what we can afford.

STAND UP AGAINST RIGHT TO WORK LAWS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said: "Where free unions and collective bargaining are forbidden, freedom is lost."

When President Reagan made those remarks in 1980, he recognized then what many can't seem to understand now: efforts to undermine unions are an attack on workers' rights.

Unions have long been the foundation of our middle class and helped create the most competitive workforce in the world. The 40-hour workweek, minimum wage, sick leave, workers comp, overtime pay, and child labor laws are just a few of the basic labor rights that unions have championed over the years that many now take for granted; yet for all the good that unions have done to empower all workers across this country, there has been a recent revival in the war against them, and the weapon of choice has been right to work laws.

Don't be fooled by the name. The only thing right to work laws do is unfairly allow free-riding workers to benefit from union-negotiated contracts without having to contribute their fair share in the fight. The laws do not, as many supporters complain, protect workers from being forced to become union members. In fact, Federal law already restricts this.

In union States, workers covered by union-negotiated contracts can only be required to pay for the cost of bargaining and not for any other union activities.

However, over the last few years, there has been an alarming increase in antiunion sentiment. Currently, half of our States have right to work laws, with Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin recently passing their own versions.

In my own home State of Illinois, Governor Rauner has made passing right to work a top priority. In fact, he is making this a cornerstone of his first-term legislative agenda.

The idea behind his right to work law is that by increasing the number of free-riding workers, unions will be forced to drastically reduce their budgets, weakening their ability to negotiate stronger contracts and defend the rights of American workers, but the evidence clearly shows how misguided this stance is and the attacks on organized labor truly are. For instance, research shows that 7 of the 10 States with the highest unemployment rates are right to work States.

On top of that, we know that even if half of the counties in Illinois adopt right to work laws, we would see the

State's annual economic output shrink by \$1.5 billion, labor income fall by \$1.3 billion, and an increase in both racial and gender income inequality.

If right to work laws are not actually good for the economy, what are they good for? Right to work laws do a great job at harming hard-working middle class families, widening income inequality, and weakening unions. Right to work States have seen almost a 10 percent decline in unionization, which has undermined growth in wages and led to the deterioration in workplace safety.

In right to work States, wages for all workers, not just unionized workers, are over 3 percent lower than in non-right to work States. That is about \$1,500 less per year in the pockets of teachers, firefighters, nurses, and other hard-working Americans.

Furthermore, injuries and deaths in right to work States are much higher than in non-right to work States. In the high-risk environment of construction, where unions have played a fundamental role in demanding adequate safety standards, deaths are 34 percent higher in right to work States than in non-right to work States.

As you can see, right to work is not right for our country, not right for our States, and not right for our workers. Using right to work as a strategy to lower wages and attract more businesses is not a suitable and sustainable strategy.

Instead of focusing on attacking unions and middle class workers, Governors should focus on fixing broken budgets and investing in our schools, public safety programs, and transportation systems. That is the real recipe for economic success.

Let's stand up against right to work laws and stand up for the right to organize, the right to a safe job, and the right to a fair wage.

HONORING DR. PETER SCHRAMM

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Peter Schramm of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. Earlier this week, the Ashbrook Center, supporters, and friends gathered to recognize Dr. Schramm for his years of service and to name the center's library in his honor.

Since 1987, Dr. Schramm has been teaching political science at Ashland; mentoring students; and shaping the minds of the next generation of teachers, lawyers, and political thinkers.

His story starts in Hungary, as a young boy living under the brutal Soviet regime. When he was 10, after the Communists crushed the Hungarian uprising in 1956, Peter's father decided it was time to leave Hungary and come to America. Peter asked his father why he chose America, and he was told: "We were born Americans but in the wrong place."

After leaving Hungary, the Schramm family found their way to California, thanks to an American dentist his father met shortly after World War II.

With just a few American dollars, Peter's family started a new life. His parents found work, and Peter and his sister went to school. Peter did not know English and had to learn along the way, with the help of his classmates.

Eventually, they saved enough money to open a restaurant. The whole family worked there. Peter continued his studies and worked through college. He studied history and graduated, taking a few years longer than usual because he was unaware he actually had to graduate. Peter was content to learn for the sake of learning. Years later, he once said: "I think it is true that human beings by nature desire to know."

His economic curiosity led him to Claremont for his master's and doctorate degrees. It was there that he studied the classics, focusing more on philosophy than history.

When he began teaching, Dr. Schramm insisted on an open discussion, encouraging and directing debates among his students. He once said: "A good education is a conversation."

He didn't want to lecture his students and believes that a classic liberal arts education should teach its students how to read, to analyze, and to explain and defend their beliefs.

The Ashbrook Center, where he served as executive director and senior fellow of the scholar program, states that their mission is to restore and strengthen the capacities of the American people for constitutional self-government. Having witnessed the corruption and horror of the Soviet rule, he was able to impress upon his students how important Ashbrook's missions and values are.

One of his most recent students and an intern in my office, James Coyne, told me: "Dr. Schramm has dedicated his life to preserving and perpetuating American greatness by teaching us what it means to be an American. The many of us he has taught will continue his work and honor his legacy by educating future generations on what makes America great."

Dr. Schramm, who is battling an aggressive illness, can be assured that the principles of self-government of free men with free minds and the values that our Founding Fathers cherished are alive and well in the generations of students he has taught.

On Monday evening, Dr. Schramm said that, despite his medical condition, no man has been happier than he has been.

Thank you, Dr. Schramm, for adopting America as your home and teaching so many young minds to keep the flame of freedom burning.

DARK PERIOD IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the utter outrage of the Congressional Black Caucus regarding the Calvert amendment, scheduled for later this afternoon, which is an amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill.

That amendment would allow Confederate imagery to remain on graves on Federal lands. Don't Republicans understand that the Confederate battle flag is an insult to 40 million African Americans and to many other fair-minded Americans?

The Confederate battle flag, Mr. Speaker, is intended to defend a dark period of American history, a period when 4 million Blacks were held as slaves, held as property, as chattel, not as human beings. The slaves were bought and sold and mortgaged and gifted as chattel.

Mr. Speaker, this period of enslavement continued for more than 200 years and did not legally end until December 6, 1865.

Here is the history, Mr. Speaker. Following President Lincoln's election in November 1860, 12 Southern States ceded from the Union in response to their belief that President Lincoln would free the 4 million slaves. South Carolina was the first State to cede from the Union, on December 20, right after Lincoln's election.

These Southern States formed the Confederate States of America. They empowered a military, elected a President, adopted a constitution, and adopted a currency. They engaged in a brutal, brutal civil war with the Union. Thousands of lives were lost on both sides of the battle. The Confederate flag, Mr. Speaker, was their symbol; it was their flag.

The Southern States lost the war. The States then rejoined the Union. President Lincoln then proposed the 13th Amendment, legally ending slavery. That amendment, Mr. Speaker, passed this Congress on January 31, 1865, and finally was ratified by Georgia on December 6, 1865. During the period of ratification, President Lincoln was assassinated.

For the next 50-plus years, every Black person living in the South faced the possibility of lynching. More than 4,000 Blacks were lynched between 1890 and 1950, and 136 Black people were lynched in South Carolina.

There are some now who want to continue to honor slavery and to honor bigotry, and this House, Mr. Speaker, must not be complicit.

The horrific shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, was an example of a 21st century lynching.

□ 1030

The manifesto left by the Charleston killer stated:

I have no choice. I am not in the position to, alone, go into the ghetto and fight. I chose Charleston because it is the most historic city in my State, and at one time had

the highest ratio of Blacks to Whites in the country.

He was right, 57 percent.

We have no skinheads, we have no real KKK, no one doing anything but talking on the Internet. Well, someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world, and I guess that has to be me.

Mr. Speaker, bigotry continues to exist in this country. This Congress should not pass any legislation, today or any other day, that would embolden those who continue to hold racist beliefs.

The Calvert amendment—the Calvert amendment—is misguided, and it emboldens bigotry. I ask my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, respectfully, let's defeat the Calvert amendment this afternoon, and even if the gentleman would consider to withdraw his amendment and not put this House through this turmoil today.

HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in a terrible attack, over 200 people were killed across these United States. This headline should lead every TV news show, hit the front pages, and generate outrage from across the country, but it did not appear. This is not make-believe. The news is real, but no one reported it.

We lose more than 80,000 people a year now to suicide and drug addiction overdose. That is over 200 people a day. Where is the news?

Now, these are the sudden and tragic deaths. Then there are the slow-motion deaths which we can't even count, those who have a mental illness and ended up homeless, or have a co-occurring chronic illness, such as diabetes or heart disease, and face that slow-motion death sentence. In fact, people with serious mental illness tend to die 25 years earlier than their cohorts.

And then there are the mentally ill who are victims of attacks. Last week, The Washington Post revealed how, in the first 6 months of this year, a person who was in mental health crisis was shot and killed every 36 hours by police. The vast majority were armed, but, in most cases, the police officers who shot them were not responding to reports of a crime. More often, they were called by relatives, neighbors, or other bystanders, worried that a mentally fragile person was behaving erratically. The crisis built, and it ended in death.

Further, the mentally ill are more likely to be the victims of violence, robberies, beatings, rape, and other crimes. These individuals are also 10 times more likely to be in jail than in a hospital.

If you are a minority, chances are your mental health treatment comes in a prison, not in a community health center.

Have we become so numb we no longer notice? Are we so numb, we no longer care?

Tragically, government tries to help, but, frankly, it is a mess. The chaotic patchwork of current government programs and Federal laws make it impossible for those with severe psychosis, schizophrenia, and serious mental illness, to get meaningful care.

For example, when someone with serious mental illness is haunted by delirium and hallucinations and doesn't even know they are ill, they frequently stop taking their needed medication. They don't follow up on appointments and their health declines. Our Federal laws prevent a caregiver from getting their loved one to the next appointment or to follow up on their care.

We need to provide treatment before tragedy and get these individuals help before their loved ones dial 911. The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646, provides millions of families the tools needed for effective care.

H.R. 2646 empowers parents and caregivers to access care before the mental illness reaches the most severe stage. It fixes the shortage of inpatient beds, so patients in mental health crisis can get proper care, not be sent to a jail, not tied to an emergency room gurney, and not sent home.

It helps reach underserved and rural populations. It expands the mental health workforce. It drives evidence-based care. It provides alternatives to institutionalization. It integrates primary and behavior care.

It increases physician volunteerism, advances critical medical research, brings accountability to mental health and substance abuse parity, and it also provides crisis intervention grants for police officers and first responders. This training helps law enforcement officials recognize individuals who have a serious mental illness and learn how to properly intervene.

My bill eliminates wasteful and ineffective programs and directs money where it is needed most. It restructures the Federal mental health system to focus on serious mental illness rather than behavioral wellness and feel-good fads that yield no meaningful results yet cost taxpayers millions each year.

My bill elevates effective programs and helps communities adopt programs to stop the revolving door of mental health crisis, violence, incarceration, ER visits, and abandonment.

This bipartisan legislation, now with more than 50 cosponsors, marks a new dawn for mental health in America. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. Let's no longer turn a blind eye and, instead, help those that need it the most.

Whether on the fast road or the slow road, the 200-plus deaths per day, the 80,000 deaths per year and unknown number of victims is far, far too many. Compassion calls us to act—and act

now. The cost of delay is deadly. For those families who are suffering, how can we look them in the eye and defend our delays to act?

CONFEDERATE FLAG AMENDMENTS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, there are days in this House when morality and the values of our country, as articulated in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution of our country, summon us to vote as Americans, as moral representatives, and as representatives of the values of our country. Today is such a day, my colleagues.

Three Democratic amendments were adopted earlier in the consideration of the Interior bill that would end the practice of displaying or selling Confederate battle flags and flag merchandise in national parks and National Park Service cemeteries. Those amendments were adopted by voice vote. They reflect the strong consensus in this country and, hopefully, in this Congress, that a symbol of slavery, secession, segregation, and secession has no place in our national parks or in the cemeteries whose grounds have been hallowed by the veterans who rest there after having served and given their lives in defense of freedom and justice and the values of our country.

Unbelievably, however, Mr. Speaker, several hours ago, in the dark of night, the chairman of the Interior Subcommittee offered an amendment on this floor that would effectively strike those amendments which surely reflect the values to which all of us have risen our hand and sworn to protect.

Today, on the anniversary of the ratification of the 14th Amendment to our Constitution—how ironic that we would meet this vote on this day—which enshrined the principle of equality for all Americans, we have this shameful Confederate battle flag amendment on our floor.

This amendment would keep in place a policy that allows Confederate battle flags in our national parks and National Park Service cemeteries, a symbol, as my colleague JIM CLYBURN, the assistant leader and the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and an extraordinary Representative in South Carolina, said yesterday was so offensive and hurtful to so many millions of our fellow citizens and our fellow colleagues in this body.

Even in South Carolina today, where the Confederacy was born, that flag is being taken down from the State capitol grounds after both Republican-controlled houses of that State's assembly voted to remove it.

Certainly—certainly—on this day we ought not to see a Republican-led Congress move in the opposite direction. My colleagues, together, not as Republicans and Democrats, but as Americans deeply committed to the values of

equality and justice and opportunity for all, we ought to remove that flag from our national parks, the cemeteries where our veterans rest and, I would say further, all public places. That includes the United States Capitol.

And I support my friend Representative THOMPSON's resolution that sits now in the House Administration Committee that would remove the flag of Mississippi, which contains the Confederate battle flag, until such time as Mississippians, as South Carolinians did yesterday, make a statement and remove that from their flag.

I urge my colleagues, my fellow Americans, the 434 of my colleagues that have raised their hand and sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, I urge my colleagues, let us do the right thing and reject this amendment and send a powerful message about what America truly represents: equality, justice, respect for one another, freedom for all.

Let us make America—every American—proud of us this day and reject the amendment adopted in the dead of night.

NEGOTIATIONS ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

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

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the negotiations taking place right now in Switzerland over Iran's nuclear capability. With all that has been going on lately, I fear not enough attention is being paid to what I believe is one of the most important issues facing our country right now.

Last week, the Obama administration quietly announced yet another deadline extension to the multilateral negotiations over Iran's nuclear capability, and this week, negotiators blew past that deadline once again.

Of course, the goal for the United States and our allies must be to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. However, recent reports out of Switzerland have raised concerns that our negotiators have already conceded too much on major points like uranium enrichment, economic sanctions relief, and inspection access.

Mr. Speaker, the very fact that we keep extending the deadline tells you all you need to know about the priorities at play for this administration. It seems that President Obama and Secretary Kerry are so concerned with striking a deal—any deal—that they are unwilling to walk away from a bad one as deadlines keep passing.

The Boston Globe reported that negotiators have spent their downtime speculating which movie stars would play them in a Hollywood movie about the Iran deal.

If this is true, Americans should be outraged. This is an extraordinarily important issue that will have an extraordinarily far-reaching effect on

this country and the world for many years to come.

The fact is we have had extension after extension and concession after concession to the point that I am not sure a good deal is even possible at this point.

A few months ago, I traveled to the Middle East with the Speaker as part of his delegation to the region, and we visited countries that would be directly affected by dealing with a nuclear Iran—Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia.

Our allies in the region are rightfully concerned that what is being brokered isn't good at all.

□ 1045

We cannot forget how high the stakes are here. If a bad deal is ratified, we aren't just talking about a nuclear armed Iran.

We are talking about setting in motion a nuclear race, a chain of events that could allow multiple countries in this very volatile region of the world wanting to become nuclear as well.

And after seeing the international community reward Iran's hostility and obstinance with a nuclear deal, who would blame them?

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of my colleagues in this Chamber and in the Senate. And I agree with Senator CORKER, who is the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who wrote a letter to the President, "Walking away from a bad deal at this point would take courage, but it would be the best thing for the United States, the region, and the world."

We may not be able to control the outcome in Switzerland, but we can control how we respond if a bad deal is put forward.

This Congress can have the final say whether or not to lift sanctions in Iran. It can have the final say on the deal, itself, by way of a resolution of disapproval.

I believe Members of Congress must prepare to stand up and have the courage that it would take to stop a bad Iranian deal from happening. For some, this will take a lot of courage, but it is necessary.

We cannot allow President Obama and Secretary Kerry to put their desire for a legacy achievement above the best interests of this Nation and our allies.

CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG SYMBOLISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, had this Confederate battle flag prevailed in war 150 years ago, I would not be standing here today as a Member of the United States Congress. I would be here as a slave. Over the last 150 years, we have made tremendous progress in this country, but we still have a long way to go.

As the tragic events in Charleston, South Carolina, illustrated, when nine God-fearing, churchgoing African American citizens were killed by a White supremacist, there is much work that needs to be done to eradicate the cancer of racial hatred.

When Dylann Roof committed this act of domestic terror, his emblem was the Confederate battle flag.

Later on today we are going to have a vote on the legitimacy of this flag. On Tuesday, it appeared that House Republicans were prepared to do the right thing in support of three amendments to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the purchase, sale, or display of the Confederate battle flag on National Park Service land.

But less than 24 hours later, House Republicans reversed course in the dead of night under cover of darkness to introduce an amendment supporting the Confederate battle flag, which is nothing more than a symbol of racial hatred and oppression.

There are some in this House who have made the argument that the Confederate battle flag is about heritage and tradition. I am perplexed.

What exactly is the tradition of the Confederate battle flag that we are supporting? Is it slavery? Rape? Kidnap? Treason? Genocide? Or all of the above.

The Confederate battle flag is nothing more than a symbol of racial hatred and oppression. And I stand here with chills next to it because the red in this flag is a painful reminder of the blood that was shed by Africans who were killed when attempted to be kidnapped and thrown into the institution of slavery.

The red on this flag is a painful reminder of the blood that was shed by millions of Africans who died during the Middle Passage when being transported from Africa to America.

The red on this flag is a painful reminder of the blood that was shed by African American slaves who were beaten, raped, lynched, and killed here in America as a result of the institution of slavery.

What exactly is the tradition the Confederate battle flag represents?

We were sent here as leaders to make decisions on the morality of America. And where we are, notwithstanding our painful history and the legacy of slavery, we have an opportunity today to make a definitive statement to be leaders, not individuals who cower in fear of some narrow-minded Americans who aren't aware that the South lost the war 150 years ago.

Let's choose racial progress over racial poison. Let's choose harmony over historic amnesia. Let's choose togetherness over treason. Let's come together not as Democrats or Republicans, not as Whites or Blacks, not as northerners or southerners.

Let's come together as Americans and vote down the Calvert amendment and relegate the Confederate battle flag to the dustbin of history, which is where it belongs.

WYOMING COUNTY, 2015 SADD NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wyoming County, West Virginia, chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions, also known as SADD.

The Wyoming County chapter has been named the 2015 SADD National Chapter of the Year. Consisting of 300 members from six different schools, these Wyoming County students work hard to encourage young people to avoid underage drinking, drugs, and other destructive activities.

Wyoming County and the surrounding area, like many parts of our State and country, are limited in the number of youth programs and social services leading to temptations for many teenagers. SADD helps fill the void and is a positive force in helping students make positive life choices and avoid destructive decisions.

These students represent our State's values and demonstrate compassion, commitment, and courage through their work. I know they will take the skills they have learned in SADD and become the next generation of leaders in West Virginia.

I congratulate these students and teachers and thank them for making Wyoming County a better place to live.

CONFEDERATE FLAG AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as you pointed out, I am from Minnesota. Minnesota's Governor Ramsey was in Washington, D.C., shortly after the attack at Fort Sumter, and he was the first to offer up our support—1,000 Minnesotans—to keep our Union together.

Minnesota was at the Battle of Gettysburg. Our regiment suffered 82 percent in casualties, the greatest loss of any unit at Gettysburg on a single day.

So last night, when the Republican leadership put forward a last-minute amendment that would allow for the display and sale of the Confederate flag in our national parks, an amendment which we will vote on today that would allow this hateful symbol which evokes memories of racism and a painful period in our country's past to be displayed on public lands, I found myself shocked, outraged, and disappointed because the people in Minnesota sent me here to strive for what they strive for every day: to build a better, stronger America, an America in which we strive to give everyone hope and opportunity, that they too can pursue life, liberty, happiness, and justice.

So the flag that we are talking about is a symbol of a time when African Americans were enslaved, sold as

human commodities. It had been used as a rallying cry throughout our history for those who wish to keep our country segregated.

And we saw again last month in Charleston this flag being used as a symbol for many who carry hatred in their hearts, a man who carried so much hatred that he took the lives of nine parishioners because he viewed this flag as a symbol of his beliefs.

This flag should be no point of pride for any American, and we should take this flag down.

Just 2 days ago, without opposition, as I had the honor of being ranking member as we were doing the Interior bill, this body voted to adopt amendments which would prevent the sale or display of Confederate flags in national parks.

Those amendments were simple, commonsense efforts to place into law standards that the National Park Service had put forward last month. It was a moment of great pride for me.

All those new standards would do was bring the Federal Government in line with decisions made by many private sector retailers: Amazon, Wal-Mart, Sears, Disney. And other national retailers have all made the decision to take down this flag because of its racist history.

Private businesses are rallying behind a commonsense decision to stop peddling hateful symbols. So why in heaven and Earth is the House of Representatives, the Republican Caucus, working to ensure that the Federal Government allows them to be sold?

For House Republicans, it appears perhaps the cost of getting the votes to pass the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which panders to polluters, is to wrap themselves in a banner of racism.

I think that is wrong, and I urge my colleagues to stand with people of great courage and great passion to say "no" to hate, "no" to racism, and "yes" to America.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Calvert amendment.

CLEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR CRIMINAL ALIEN REMOVAL ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to discuss H.R. 2964, the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act.

This is a bill that I have had introduced every Congress since 2007. And we have many Members of this body, Mr. Speaker, who have joined as co-sponsors of this legislation.

What it would do specifically is this: It would ensure that State and local law enforcement officials have the tools necessary to help the Federal Government deport criminal illegal aliens from the United States.

□ 1100

My legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security, when a State or local law enforcement agency arrests an alien and requests DHS to take custody of that alien, to do a few specific things. Number one, they have to take the alien into Federal custody and incarceration within 48 hours and request that the State or municipality temporarily incarcerate the alien or transport the alien to Federal custody. This would allow them to remove this individual from the country and bar them from coming back.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also requires the DHS to train State and local police in enforcement of immigration laws, the Federal Government to reimburse local and State governments, and to withhold funds from sanctuary cities.

Now, we have heard a lot about these issues in the last few days, and one of the problems that we have is the sanctuary cities. Mr. Speaker, I have before my colleagues a map that was prepared by the Center for Immigration Studies. We now have in this country 200 sanctuary cities. I am reading from this map. More than 200 cities, counties, and States across the U.S. are considered sanctuary cities.

Now, what happens in these cities is they choose to work around and to circumvent or not to abide by Federal law when it comes to immigration policy. That is one of the reasons passing the CLEAR Act is so important, holding them accountable.

Also, reading from the map, I find it so interesting that the Department of Justice has never sued or taken any measure, including denying Federal funds, against the jurisdiction that is a sanctuary city. On the other hand, we know that the Department of Justice actually sued the State of Arizona for trying to strengthen its immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, I would come to the floor today as we talk about dealing with the criminal illegal alien population and highlighting H.R. 2964. I would ask my colleagues: What does your vote record say about your actions? Are you strengthening Federal law and abiding by Federal law? Or do those actions strengthen sanctuary cities? Do they provide more accountability? Is that what you are providing through your vote actions? Or is it something that allows a violation of Federal law to continue?

I think it is imperative that we address the issue of criminal illegal aliens, that we address the issue of sanctuary cities; and, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is imperative that we move forward with passage of the CLEAR Act by this body. It is a simple bill.

I encourage my colleagues to read it. It is 21 pages, and you will find in there that it addresses these issues that are front and foremost in our minds this day.

THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like, first of all, to thank the Speaker of this House and the other Members who came to Charleston last month to help us with the ongoing ceremonies for Senator Clementa Pinckney.

I would also like to thank especially my colleagues—Senator TIM SCOTT, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, and Congressman MARK SANFORD—for joining with us as we stood with the Governor of South Carolina and called for removing the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the statehouse.

This afternoon, at 4 o'clock, as a result of a very definitive vote early this morning of 94–20, the Governor is going to sign the bill, and tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, the flag will be removed from the statehouse.

I regret that I am not going to be able to accept the Governor's invitation and be there this afternoon because, around 4 o'clock this afternoon, we are going to be voting here on this floor.

I understand there will be around 25 votes, and 24 of them, I might not feel all that bad about missing, but one of them, I cannot afford to miss because that one vote, the Calvert amendment, will reverse votes taken by this body to join with South Carolina, Alabama, and activities going on in Mississippi to get rid of any official application to this flag, the Confederate battle flag.

Now, I think it is important for us to point out that this is not the Confederate flag. The Confederacy had three flags. This was never one of them. This flag was the Confederate battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee's Army; and when Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, he asked all of his followers to furl this flag.

"Store it away," he said. "Put it in your attics." He refused to be buried in his Confederate uniform. His family refused to allow anyone dressed in the Confederate uniform to attend his funeral. Why? It is because Robert E. Lee said he considered this emblem to be a symbol of treason; yet, Mr. Speaker, Calvert puts up an amendment that we are going to vote on this afternoon to ask us to allow this flag to be sold and displayed in our national parks.

I was so proud when the decision was made by the National Park Service, Fort Sumter, a national park where the Civil War started off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina, they decided to take away all of these symbols; but the Calvert amendment is saying: No, don't take them away, put them back, and we are going to ratify the action to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon all of my colleagues who come to this floor this afternoon to remember that it was on this date in 1868 that South Carolina—where it all started—South Carolina was the State that gave the votes necessary to ratify the 14th Amendment.

To me, this was a very, very important amendment calling for due process and equal protection of the laws.

A BAD DEAL WITH IRAN IS WORSE THAN NO DEAL

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in March, before a joint meeting of Congress, the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, warned "history has placed us at a fateful crossroads."

As a world leader at the forefront of this crossroad, I believe America has a responsibility to prevent a nuclear Iran. An Iran with nuclear weapons capabilities would further exacerbate and destabilize the region and would certainly inspire an arms race among other nonnuclear nations.

The Obama administration's foreign policy missteps do not inspire confidence that the current negotiations will conclude any differently. After numerous delays, negotiations are veering further away from any type of reasonable agreement that would contain Iran's nuclear ambitions.

I do not trust this administration as it approaches the reversal of a half century of nuclear nonproliferation policy. As Chairman ROYCE stated over the weekend: "The Obama administration's fundamental misread of the Iranian regime is part of what makes this potential agreement so dangerous to our national security."

The sanctions relief numbers that are being reported now are staggering and would directly undercut years of democratic success. Sanctions are a vital tool when working to keep our citizens and allies out of harm's way.

In dealing with an aggressive state sponsor of terror, there should be no daylight between the position of Republicans and Democrats in Congress, nor Congress with the President or the United States with our allies.

Civilized nations must stand united against the destructive output from rogue regimes like Iran. As it stands now, the reported details of the deal will not dismantle the nuclear ambitions of the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, if the past is any indication of the future, we can expect that Iran will continue to employ its stonewalling tactics, blocking any real transparency or inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Why isn't Iran answering questions asked 4 years ago by the International Atomic Energy Agency about their past activities? How can we trust a country that won't answer simple questions or allow scientists to be interviewed? How can we set up a sanctions relief system that is based on trust and verification if the country has proven objectively incapable of trust and transparency?

We certainly cannot continue to overlook Iranian compliance failures

as reported this week in The Washington Post, nor come anywhere close to lifting its successfully firm arms embargo. These negotiations will have long-term implications on every country on this planet.

I believe the United States has a responsibility to stand with Israel and other allies across the globe now more than ever. We must ensure our allies know they do not stand alone. With the current negotiations extended once again, it appears that the administration simply wants to get any agreement.

I believe it is a legacy item for the President, Mr. Speaker. This administration's willingness to ignore Iran's troublesome behavior throughout negotiations does not inspire confidence.

President Obama promised 7 years ago that he would not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. He is failing to keep that promise to the American people and the rest of the world, in my opinion.

The stakes are too high. Negotiations are reaching a critical moment as we speak here today. This administration needs to understand one indisputable truth: a bad deal is worse than no deal.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary since the end of the Vietnam war and 20 years of normalized relations between the U.S. and Vietnam.

This week, our President hosted the General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong, a political leader but not an official leader.

During that meeting, I know that the two leaders discussed more normalization of economic and military issues, and I know that President Obama brought up the issue of human rights; but I am going to say this: after 19 years in this Congress of fighting for human rights around the world, the Vietnamese Communist Government always promises, when economic issues are on the table, to do something better with respect to their human rights record, but they never follow through. In fact, it gets worse.

Today, Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I don't want to focus on what the economic implications are and the trade implications are that are going on with respect to Vietnam, but I want to remind my colleagues about what is happening with respect to human rights in Vietnam.

□ 1115

Nguyen Dang Minh Man is currently serving a 9-year prison term after being charged with "attempting to overthrow the government" under article

79 of the constitution of that country. Her crime, she was arrested while taking photographs during a protest against Chinese encroachment of the Paracel and Spratly Islands.

Ho Duc Hoa, a community organizer and a contributing journalist for Vietnam Redemptorists' News, is currently serving a 13-year prison sentence for defending human rights and promoting democracy. He has been charged with "attempting to overthrow the government." He is currently suffering from harsh treatment in prison, including torture and denial to medical care, water, or adequate food.

Dang Xuan Dieu, another activist, is currently serving a 13-year sentence under article 79 in response to advocating for education—imagine this—for education for children living in poverty, for aid to people with disabilities, and for religious freedom in Vietnam. Mr. Dieu is also a victim of mistreatment and torture in the prison system.

Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, a human rights activist and entrepreneur, was also arrested for writing blogs that called for political reform and improved human rights in Vietnam. He only peacefully exercised his rights to freedom of expression; yet Thuc was charged of attempting to overthrow the government under article 79. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest.

These are just four of the so many people in prison in Vietnam.

The government of Vietnam continues to deny its citizens their rights to freedom of speech, to freedom of assembly, to freedom of the press, to freedom of religion. Although Vietnam strives to further its relations with the U.S., it does not grant human rights to its people.

I understand that President Obama has agreed to visit Vietnam in the near future, and I strongly urge that not only the President and the administration work on the issues of human rights with respect to the Vietnamese people, but that we in the Congress continue to push because, as we know, as Americans, people around the world look to us as the shining light of upholding democracy and human rights and freedom and liberty and freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, we are quickly approaching one of the most important deadlines in the recent history of the national security of the United States, the often postponed end of negotiations to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program.

I support the goal of stopping Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions forever, and I have grave fears that the United States is headed down a very dangerous path of concession and surrender to a

terrorist regime that has had American blood on its hands since 1979, military and civilian.

Each and every day, we read new reports that Iranian leaders are systematically "moving the goalposts" on these important negotiations.

Let me cite just a few examples. First, any prudent agreement would allow "no notice" inspections of suspected—not just declared—Iranian nuclear weapon sites; yet the Iranian parliament has passed legislation banning inspections of their military installations.

Senior Iranian officials have also taken it further, declaring: "Not only will we not grant foreigners the permission to inspect our military sites, we will not even give them permission to think about such a subject."

This attitude would make any agreement totally unverifiable.

Secondly, any worthwhile agreement would phase in sanctions relief as the regime proves, over time, that it is complying with all provisions; yet President Rouhani has declared: "We will not sign any deal unless sanctions are lifted on the same day."

Why would we allow Iran to boost its staggering economy by providing an immediate capital infusion with which to support their relentless military, intelligence, and political efforts across the globe?

President Obama's explanations have been nothing short of baffling. He told National Public Radio: "How, if at all, can you prevent Iran from using its new wealth over the next several years to support Bashar al-Assad of Syria, to support Hezbollah, adventures in Yemen, or elsewhere? I mean, there's been no lessening of their support of Hezbollah or Assad during the course of the last 4 or 5 years, at a time when their economy has been doing terribly."

Well, that is the point, Mr. President. The United States should not throw up its hands and actually allow the Iranian economy to be stimulated so they have even more money to solidify their place as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Immediate sanctions relief will only provide more resources for them to use their elite Quds Force and their proxy militias in Iraq; dominate that country; and advance their goals in Syria, Yemen, and elsewhere.

Of course, they will have more motivation to do so. The tentative agreement announced in April and everything we have heard and read since then seems to reinforce the lesson this administration is willing to give away much more in return for nothing in the way of changing their behavior. Once again, we must never forget that Iran has had American blood on its hands since 1979.

Iran has cheated before and is likely to cheat again; yet the administration makes concession after concession to Tehran, even as Iran spreads violence in Yemen, Syria, Iraq; threatens the

safety of our troops in the Middle East; and develops new ICBMs that will put America in its "crosshairs."

My colleagues, Iran's nuclear weapons quest must be blocked indefinitely, including the verifiable dismantlement of its weapons infrastructure. They cannot be allowed to remain a "threshold nuclear weapons state," only to join the "nuclear club" the moment the agreement lapses.

From where I stand and from what we know today, we must oppose this agreement. In fact, no deal is better than a bad deal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

ENHANCEMENT OF UNITY IN AMERICA

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey for his kindness.

Might I rise, really, to follow up to ask America to be unified and to be able to have a debate on the floor of the House on a resolution that I offered, H. Res. 342. To the gentleman from New Jersey, it says "the enhancement of unity in America."

What it speaks to is for this body to go on the record for saying that divisive emblems and symbols—swastikas or a rebel flag, a fighting flag—does not even represent the flag that most people think it is—the Confederate flag, this is the rebel flag—to put all those away; to be able to educate our children about the excitement of how diverse we are; to be reminded of the history of Reconstruction—African Americans who are Senators and Congresspersons; to look at schools who now carry names of people who really might be considered traitors; to be able to stand on the floor today or next week, as those in South Carolina did, in a civil way, so that our children will know that these symbols that divide are not history; and to be able to stand together and support the diversity of America.

That is what I stand for, and I stand with Houston, who is reconsidering many school names at this time.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, overnight, House Republicans have dramatically and inexplicably reversed their position on taking down this terribly divisive symbol, the Confederate battle flag.

While they initially allowed House Democrats' amendments to remove this symbol from our national parks, late last night, they allowed an amendment on voice, which was challenged. I will be on the floor for a rollcall later today to keep—believe it or not—keep the Confederate flag as a symbol for sale and for display in America's national parks.

Of course, this morning's headlines, the scathing headlines, tell it all:

“House GOP takes step back on Confederate flags.”

Unbelievable—it is a shame. It is really a shame that House Republicans last night, very late last night, without warning, attempted to turn back important progress on taking down this terrible and divisive symbol.

This, of course, happens just weeks—days, literally—after nine Americans were slain in an historic Black church in Charleston, South Carolina. A terrible and tragic massacre committed by an evil individual, who wrapped himself in that very symbol, and celebrated the hate that it stood for.

I attended the funeral of Reverend Clementa Pinckney and, with other Members of Congress, grieved with that community in their pain. I saw that community asking themselves a question: Why, why does that hateful symbol, that flag, continue to fly over their State capitol?

On the same day that the South Carolina Legislature expressed the will of its people and the American people and voted overwhelmingly to take down this horrible symbol, on the same day that South Carolina voted to take down that hateful symbol, a Member of this House of Representatives came to this floor and offered an amendment to preserve that symbol in America's national parks—what a shame.

Amazon, Walmart, and Sears all have taken that symbol out of their stores and no longer sell it; but the Republican leadership allowed and would have allowed on voice vote an amendment to stand that would preserve the right to have that symbol sold in our national parks—what a shame.

I hope the American people are watching and paying attention to this because it is a moment of truth, I think, for this Congress. I hope and I pray that Democrats and Republicans—I know the feelings of the Democratic Caucus; we spoke about it this morning—but I hope will be joined by Republicans on the other side in turning back this awful amendment that would say horrible things about the progress that we hope that we had made just in the last few weeks.

I ask Americans to join us. Use social media, #takeitdown. Express yourself. Join with us in rejecting this horrible symbol of hate. Let's take it down.

THE CONFEDERATE FLAG, A SYMBOL OF PRIDE

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives and being recognized.

I have been listening to this debate over the last week or so, and it has troubled me considerably to watch divisions being driven between the American people over symbolism that has now been redefined by a lot of Members of the opposite party.

I regret, like all of us do in this country, the tragic and brutal and evil murders of the nine people in Charleston, South Carolina. I pray for them and their families. They stood up and showed us an example of faith that I think surpasses any that I have seen in my lifetime by forgiving the killer.

I am not to that point in my faith, Mr. Speaker, the least that I can tell, but that was very moving. They didn't want to see a division created, they wanted to heal, and they wanted to see Christ's love come out of Charleston.

Charleston is a wonderful and beautiful city, and I don't know where I would go to find nicer people if I couldn't go actually home, Mr. Speaker, so I couldn't say enough good about that.

I have listened to this rhetoric that has poured forth over these days. It appears to me that it is now being turned into something that is division, rather than unifying.

We unified in our grief with the people of South Carolina, the people of Charleston. Now, we are seeing the Confederate battle flag be put up as a symbol to be redefined as something different than is understood by the majority of the American people.

□ 1130

I grew up in the North, Mr. Speaker, and the Confederate flag always was a symbol of the pride of the South from where I grew up. My family and my predecessors and my ancestors were abolitionists, and they went to war to put an end to slavery.

Mr. Speaker, I have now in my hand a leather-bound New Testament Bible that was carried in the shirt pocket of my great uncle, John Richardson, and it is written inside here. It was presented to him on the eve of his departure for the war in July of 1862.

He walked home 3 years to the day with this Bible in his shirt pocket, it having protected him. It has fly specks on it from laying open by the campfire. It has verses that are written in it. I have found his picture, his musket, his bayonet, his belt buckle, and his ink file.

That is what is left of this man who committed himself to putting an end to slavery. Yet, his cousin, my five times great-grandfather, was killed in that effort. Many gave their lives to put an end to slavery.

I was standing before the Lincoln Memorial, reading his second Inaugural Address, and I will read that into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. This component is from Lincoln's second Inaugural Address of March 4, 1865, when he said:

Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said: “The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

Mr. Speaker, these are not disputed numbers. The numbers of Americans

who were killed putting an end to slavery and saving the Union: 600,000.

Another number not disputed is the number of Black Africans who were brought to what is now the United States to be slaves: 600,000. I take you back to the words “until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword . . . ‘The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.’”

A huge price has been paid. It has been paid primarily by Caucasian Christians. There are many who stepped up because they profoundly believed that they needed to put an end to slavery.

This country has put this behind us. It has been through this brutal and bloody battle. We have come back together for the Reconstruction, and we have healed this country together. I regret deeply that we are watching this country be divided again over a symbol of a free country.

When I go to Germany and see that they have outlawed the swastika, I look at them and I think: We have a First Amendment. That can't happen here in the United States because we are open enough. We have to tolerate the desecration of Old Glory, the American flag.

Yet, we have people here on the floor who say they are offended by a symbol. They are the ones who are putting it up for all to see, and then they are saying that we should outlaw that so the American people don't have a chance to see our heritage.

Everything about America's history is not glorious. Everything about our history is not right in our judgment, looking back in hindsight, but none of us know what it was like for the people who lived during that time, in that era.

We can accept our history. We can be proud of our history. We can unify our country. We can grieve for those who were murdered, and we can preserve our First Amendment rights.

SEMINAL MOMENTS IN TIME

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are seminal moments in time.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor was a seminal moment in time that will live in infamy. The crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge was a seminal moment in time that will live in history. It was a turning point in the civil rights/human rights movement.

There are seminal moments in time.

The House of Representatives confronts a seminal moment in time. Will we allow the healing to continue or will we try to roll back the clock?

There are seminal moments in time.

If we take this vote—and I hope that we will not, and there is an indication that we may not—the taking of the vote, in and of itself, can be a seminal moment in time.

A vote to legitimize the Confederate flag—the battle flag—would be a seminal moment in time for the United

States House of Representatives—a flag that represents slavery, a flag that represents division.

We have come together in this country under a flag that represents unity, one that stands for liberty and justice for all, the flag of the United States of America. This is not that flag.

We confront seminal moments in time.

In South Carolina, the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives stood tall when confronting a seminal moment in time, and the Confederate battle flag will be removed.

I was so proud to hear a relative, a descendant, of Jefferson Davis take to the floor of the House of Representatives in South Carolina and proclaim that the flag must come down.

Seminal moments in time.

We have our opportunity to do that which is right, to do what Dr. King talked about when he said that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

We can bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice or we can turn back the clock, understanding that this is a symbol that causes a lot of pain for a lot of people. This symbol would have prevented my having the opportunity to stand here if it had prevailed.

I call upon all people of goodwill to please do the righteous thing, not just the right thing—do the righteous thing.

How can you possibly vote for this after you saw the relatives of the nine who were killed stand in court before a judge and before the person who was the assailant—the person who actually killed people—and say, “I forgive you”? We have forgiven those who have fought to enslave us. We have forgiven. I forgive you.

How could you possibly now decide that you will legitimize this symbol of hatred, of slavery, of a bygone era of a time when people were not even proclaimed to be human beings in the minds of many?

So this is a great opportunity for this House of Representatives to answer the clarion call of justice and to do as Dr. King indicated, to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice.

But it is also something else. It is an opportunity to see where we are.

There will be a moment in time beyond this time when someone will look back upon these moments and he will look to see where we stood.

Where did you stand when you had the chance to stand for righteousness? Where were you when you had an opportunity to vote to recognize justice as opposed to the injustice associated with this symbol?

C.A. Tindley was right. So I will leave you with these words:

Harder yet may be the fight; right may often yield to might. Wickedness awhile may seem to reign; Satan's cause may seem to gain. There is a God that rules above with the hand of power and a heart of love. When we are right, He will help us fight.

I stand against this symbol. I stand for the American flag. I stand for justice.

IS ISIS A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the terrorist army of ISIS is stronger than ever. It maims, rapes, pillages, burns, and beheads in its zeal to commit religious genocide against anyone who disagrees with them.

ISIS controls and manipulates the minds of thousands of foreign fighters, including those who come from the United States. This is done arrogantly through American social media companies.

The U.S.' answer to the ISIS threat? Well, let's see what it is.

Part of the current U.S. strategy is to train foreign mercenaries to fight against ISIS. It has had a yearlong American budget of about \$500 million.

The program is to equally fund equipment and to train these so-called moderates from Syria to fight ISIS. I call them mercenaries.

However, the Secretary of Defense of the United States—Carter—admitted that, even after this 1 year of training, the United States has only trained 60—six, zero—of these moderate Syrian rebels.

If I do my math correctly, Mr. Speaker, we are spending about \$4 million apiece on these 60 fighters to go and fight, supposedly, ISIS.

This is embarrassingly pathetic. The greatest nation that has ever existed sees ISIS as such a threat that we are going to send 60 folks over to try to take care of them.

Ironically, there are more Americans who are fighting with ISIS than we have rebels who have been trained to fight against ISIS.

The United States obviously is not taking ISIS seriously. ISIS even mocks the United States and its 60 fighters on, once again, American social media.

There is more.

The President has recently admitted that the United States really doesn't even have a complete strategy against ISIS. Now, isn't that lovely?

The question is, Mr. Speaker: Is ISIS a national security threat to the United States? That is the question. That is the question that has to be answered by the administration and by Congress, and a decision needs to be made by the administration.

It is time for the administration to pick a horse and ride it. If ISIS is a threat, then we must have a plan to defeat them, then actively implement the plan, and defeat ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, the Commander in Chief needs to lead. He needs to command or ISIS will continue its reign of terror in the Middle East and in other parts of the world.

And that is just the way it is.

THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, if there is any doubt in the mind of any person as to what this Confederate battle flag stands for, I urge people not to listen to me. I urge you to listen to the secessionists themselves.

Here is a quote from the Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union.

It reads:

This sectional combination for the submersion of the Constitution has been aided in some of the States by elevating to citizenship persons who, by the supreme law of the land, are incapable of becoming citizens, and their votes have been used to inaugurate a new policy hostile to the South and the destruction of its beliefs and safety.

Those persons were Black people. That new policy that was hostile to the South was ending the enslavement of the millions of people based on their race.

Here is a quote from the Vice President of the Confederacy. I think he can speak authoritatively as to what other Confederate flags mean. Vice President Alexander Stephens said:

Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite of the American idea. Its foundations are laid—its cornerstone rests—upon the great truth that the Negro is not equal to the White man, that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and normal condition.

That is what the Vice President of the Confederate States said under banners like this one as they were fighting and offering the lives of their own children to maintain slavery.

□ 1145

This is what the flag represents.

I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last night the South Carolina House of Representatives finally approved legislation to take down this symbol of hatred and bigotry and the darkest time in our Nation's history.

It is shameful that less than 24 hours after the State of South Carolina took this important step for progress and equality that the United States House of Representatives would consider an amendment that would allow the Confederate flag to be placed in National Park Service cemeteries.

Let's be clear. This amendment is a symbol of hate, and anyone who supports its being in a place of honor is imposing an insult on anyone who has experienced racism in their lives or believes in America's founding principles of equality, justice, and freedom.

150 years ago hundreds of thousands of brave soldiers died to save our Union and to defeat all the ugly beliefs that the Confederate battle flag represents.

Dr. Martin Luther King was fond of saying that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. Our country has come far since

the end of the Civil War, but returning this flag to a place of honor would undermine that progress. It is time to relegate this symbol of hate to the dustbin of history.

Take it down.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for leading on this issue.

It must be throwback Thursday, because just yesterday the South Carolina State House voted to take down the Confederate flag. However, today our House Republican colleagues want a bill, they want an amendment that will put that flag back up and allow people to salute that same flag across our country in our national parks.

It is time to finally, once and for all, take down an ugly flag that is nothing more than a tribute to an ugly past. Mr. Speaker, let's throw down this flag. Let's not throw back to an ugly part of our history.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In these most important days and debates here in the people's House, we beg You to send Your spirit of wisdom as the Members struggle to do the work that has been entrusted to them. Inspire them to work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

In this week in the wake of celebrating the great blessings bestowed upon our Republic, please bless those men and women who serve our Nation in uniform wherever they may be.

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

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

FIGHTING FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S LAND, WATER, AND HERITAGE

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its impact on both New Hampshire's natural resources and our access to hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities.

Established by Congress in 1965, the LWCF provides money to Federal, State, and local governments to purchase and preserve land, water, and wetlands for the benefit of all Americans.

As Granite Staters know, we are blessed to call one of the most pristine ecological environments in the Nation our home. From the seacoast region to the White Mountain National Forest to Lake Winnepesaukee, outdoor recreation and activities are a vital part of New Hampshire's First Congressional District's economy.

In fact, the Outdoor Industry Association found that active outdoor recreation generates \$4.2 billion annually in consumer spending in New Hampshire, supports nearly 50,000 jobs across the State, and produces \$293 million annually in State and local revenue. Furthermore, over 800,000 people hunt, fish, or watch wildlife in New Hampshire each year, spending over \$560 million on wildlife-related recreation.

It is no surprise that the LWCF is a critical part in maintaining and strengthening those numbers, while simultaneously preserving our beautiful State.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this legislation.

CANCER DRUG COVERAGE PARITY ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this year, more than 1.5 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. Fortunately, innovative research has led to more effective and accessible treatments. However, insurance has not kept pace with the science, and cancer patients are paying the price.

Chemotherapy, previously administered only through injection, is now available for many types of cancer in pill form. Today, oral chemotherapy represents 35 percent of all new cancer drugs. However, copayments for oral chemo can be hundreds or thousands of dollars per month. As a result, it prevents patients from filling their prescriptions.

A cancer patient should never be forced to make a treatment decision based on finances. That is why I joined Congressman LEONARD LANCE to reintroduce the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act, which would require health insurance plans that cover traditional chemotherapy to provide no less favorable coverage for prescribed orally administered drugs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to ensure cancer patients can receive the treatments their doctors prescribe.

START REBUILDING AMERICA

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, David Keene for 27 years headed the American Conservative Union and is now opinion editor of The Washington Times.

Last month he wrote that, as a result of our wars and attempts at nation building in the Middle East, there "is a generation of young Americans who have never known peace; a decade in which thousands of our best have died or been maimed with little to show for their sacrifices, our enemies have multiplied, and our national debt has skyrocketed."

Now we are about to spend \$82 billion in the OCO account for our unnecessary wars and nation building in Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the Middle East. This is over and above our regular defense budget. This 1-year, \$82 billion appropriation would more than pay for a 6-year highway bill, which everyone on both sides say they want.

Let's stop trying to foolishly rebuild the Middle East and start rebuilding America. Let's bring all those hundreds of thousands of jobs home.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the strongest possible opposition to House Republican efforts to support hate through the promotion of the Confederate battle flag.

Make no mistake, the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of hate and racism. The Calvert amendment would allow for the display and sale of this symbol of hate at our national parks and Federal cemeteries. That is outrageous.

This flag speaks to one of the darkest moments in our Nation's history, and its display and sale in our national parks is simply unconscionable. Today, our Nation still grieves the tragedy in Charleston, and we remember the nine lives that were tragically cut short by a person whose sole goal was hate and division.

The South Carolina Legislature voted last night in a bipartisan way to take down the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse. Likewise, major retailers have removed this symbol of hate from their shelves. Yet my Republican colleagues want to return it to our national parks and Federal cemeteries. This is simply outrageous.

It is past time for our Nation to get serious about putting away not only these hateful symbols, but ensuring liberty and justice for all. It is past time to take it down.

NATURAL GAS

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the shale energy revolution, America has moved from a posture of energy scarcity to one of energy abundance. This shift is helping to drive economic growth, environmental stewardship, and greater energy security. However, without the acceleration of natural gas infrastructure in all regions of the country, only a few will benefit.

A large interstate gas transmission project has been proposed to bring this affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy source to southeastern North Carolina, and with it the potential for economic growth in some of our State's most economically challenged and rural areas.

We are blessed with the natural resources and innovations in technology to be the energy capital of the world, which would drive economic growth to new heights. The Congress must put into place rational and predictable regulatory structures that create a more stable climate for the natural gas industry.

I urge my colleagues to support policy solutions that will lead to energy independence and economic growth for America.

CONFEDERATE FLAG DOES NOT REPRESENT AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have children to educate, and we have children to love and to have them to

understand what America is all about. We are southerners and northerners. We come from the East and the West. We love our cooking, we love our culture, but we are Americans. So today I ask this body to allow us to debate this question to a resolution that enhances American unity.

The Supreme Court issued a statement in Walker v. Sons of Confederate Veterans, a Texas case. Before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, early on, as just a civilian, I argued against Confederate license plates. We won that case. The Supreme Court said that public speech that offends or oppresses is not allowed.

I am not talking about the flag on your car or your home, but I am saying that this rebel flag does not represent America, does not teach our children, and it does not heal. And I would offer to say that we are long overdue for a debate like that in the senate in South Carolina, to follow Reverend Pinckney's words that we have to know how to break the cycle and of a roadway toward a better world. He knew that a path of greatness involves an open mind, but more importantly, an open heart.

I hope we can debate H. Res. 342, which enhances the unity of our country, not this flag.

HONORING CHARLES "CHUCK" HARMON

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, Cincinnati will host the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, and I want to take the opportunity to recognize a famous Redleg, Charles "Chuck" Harmon, the first African American to play for the Cincinnati Reds.

Chuck Harmon paved the way for many African American major league baseball players, like fellow Redleg Frank Robinson, who credits Harmon as helping launch his career.

Mr. Harmon entered the 1954 season on April 17 as a right-handed infielder with the Reds. With a .242 batting average during his Reds career, he was also known as the fastest player on the team during his rookie season.

Ohio's Second District continues to celebrate Mr. Harmon's legacy by celebrating his career at the Great American Ball Park at the All-Star game 50 years after his first at bat, by renaming a street in his hometown of Golf Manor to Chuck Harmon Way, and by unveiling a statue for the Reds Urban Youth Academy in Roselawn.

Thank you, Chuck Harmon, for your pioneering contributions to breaking the color barrier in our Nation's pastime. Your accomplishments will forever be recognized by generations of Americans to come.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I awoke this morning to find news that last night, in the wee hours, House Republican leadership advanced an amendment to allow the display of the Confederate battle flag in Federal cemeteries and to allow National Park Service agents to do business with gift shops that sell Confederate battle flags.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when South Carolina, itself the cradle of the Confederacy, has outlawed the flying of the Confederate battle flag on their statehouse grounds, at a time when all Americans were horrified at the slaughter of nine churchgoers by an individual motivated by that battle flag, at a time when everyone understands and acknowledges that it is a symbol of hate, we find the House Republican leadership wrapping itself in the Confederate battle flag. I object to this.

ENSURING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR HUMANITY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, early this year, I had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador David Saperstein, the U.S. Ambassador At Large for International Religious Freedom. He is tasked with leading America's fight against religious persecution throughout the world. This is a significant mandate, especially in the Middle East, where Christian, Jewish, and minority Muslim communities that have been settled in the same areas for millennia are being uprooted, subjugated, and murdered.

These aren't acts of geopolitical jockeying or even political domination. These are acts of pure, unadulterated evil perpetuated by those of dark and wicked souls.

Fundamental American values, among which are commitments to religious freedom and human rights, will always be the cornerstone of this Nation's foreign policy.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1150, the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, because now, more than ever, we need to ensure that former Congressman Frank Wolf's landmark legislation is updated for the 21st century to be able to give us the best tools to promote religious freedom around the globe.

I thank Ambassador Saperstein for his work.

□ 1215

REMOVE CONFEDERATE FLAGS FROM OUR NATIONAL PARKS

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

Mr. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to express my outrage that my Republican colleagues, in the darkness of the night, offered a surprise amendment to allow the Confederate battle flag to be displayed in our national parks and at Federal cemeteries. Just a couple of days ago, this body voted to remove the Confederate battle flag from our national parks.

My Republican colleagues are choosing to raise the Confederate battle flag again, despite growing opposition by Americans who recognize it as a disgraceful celebration of the war waged to prolong slavery in this country.

Yesterday, in a stunning sign of progress, South Carolina voted to take down that flag after 50 years of flying it at their State capitol. Why do some here continue to insist on defending this painful symbol of racism?

This is shameful. In the wake of the devastating murder of Senator Pinckney and the eight other churchgoers at Emanuel AME, this is a new low for this Congress.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, today, we have 10,000 known diseases, most of which are considered rare. However, we only have 500 cures for these diseases. Americans can do better than that, and today, we have that opportunity to do so.

We have a bill that will be heard here on the floor today, the 21st Century Cures Act, which I am proud to be a sponsor of and thrilled to see that we actually have an opportunity to help so many people with increased funding so that we can help find some cures, help people—sometimes in our own family, people that we know, our friends—with some of the diseases and some of the things that we face.

Finally, today, with all the negative press that we have got, we have an opportunity to actually do something to be proud of, something that actually makes a difference for people in our own community.

Again, I ask that this House approve this bill.

GOP CONFEDERATE FLAG AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, the hope of a secure, livable world lies within those who believe in justice and equality for all.

Democrats have worked in a bipartisan fashion to ban the display of Confederate flags in Federal cemeteries and barred National Park Services from doing business in gift shops that sell the Confederate flag.

Last night, Republicans rolled out an amendment that would resurrect the

Confederate flag in our national parks. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled by these actions.

The tragic events in Charleston led to South Carolina's landmark vote last night to take down the Confederate flag from their statehouse. If South Carolina can act, certainly and surely, Congress can support our national parks in acting to don't sell that flag.

Mr. Speaker, these are America's parks, and they belong to all people. The Nation is watching. Don't go down in history as not standing up against violence and racism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me to ensure that we don't sell that flag, the Confederate flag.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, last night in the South Carolina Legislature, we saw Democrats and Republicans join together to take down the Confederate battle flag, many with tears in their eyes and still grieving the nine lives lost in Charleston.

While the people of South Carolina move one step past this terrible tragedy, many House Republicans want to take our Nation 150 years back.

We were scheduled to vote on the Interior Appropriations bill today. The bill was pulled because Members on the other side of the aisle objected to banning the display and sale of the Confederate flags at national park facilities.

For years, I have heard all the arguments from those who defend the display of the Confederate battle flag, but it is moral cowardice to ignore this flag's history of White supremacy and treason, to pretend it symbolizes anything other than a heritage of hate and human oppression.

The Confederate battle flag does not belong atop our State capitols, and it certainly should not be sold or displayed at our national parks. It belongs in a museum of shame, alongside the other relics of hate and division that tore our country apart.

SHERIFF RALPH LAMB

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

Ms. TITUS. Sheriff Ralph Lamb, who passed away on July 3, was one of those larger than life characters who dot the landscape and lore of the Old West.

A rancher from humble Mormon beginnings, he embodied the independent cowboy spirit. He was John Wayne, Wyatt Earp, and Dirty Harry all rolled into one. He was a rodeo rider. He inspired a TV series, and he changed the face and future of Las Vegas by cleaning up the streets and reining in the mob.

Sheriff Lamb wasn't afraid of the devil because he always had an angel

on his shoulder. He cut a wide swath and cast a long shadow over Las Vegas when times were simpler, but the stakes were high.

Our community misses him; I miss him personally, and I look forward to reading George Knapp's biography on his amazing life.

CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to this discussion about the Confederate battle flag.

As a daughter of the South, a Representative from Alabama, a native of Selma, Alabama, I have to tell you I cannot believe, in 2015, we are talking about whether or not this body would allow on Federal grounds, Federal cemeteries, and Federal national parks the display, the selling of this Confederate battle flag.

There is no denying that our Constitution talks about "We, the people," and there is no denying that this Confederate flag is controversial. Some see it as heritage, and most see it as hatred.

I can tell you one thing: we, the people, cannot allow on Federal grounds—we all pay taxes and are citizens of this great Nation—and to allow this flag to be sold and to be displayed on Federal land is unacceptable.

I really hope that, when I gathered together 100 Members of Congress in Selma for the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march, it was not a kumbaya moment in Selma in March; rather, I hope that we will do what we promised this Nation we would do, and that is represent we, the people, by taking down this flag and not displaying it on any grounds.

PENNSYLVANIA OREO PLANT CLOSURE

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, many of us were proudly waving our flag, celebrating the Fourth of July, and also rooting on the successful women's soccer team in winning the World Cup.

Unfortunately, at the very same time we were doing that, displaying our patriotism, the company that makes Oreo cookies and Ritz crackers, two very well-known American brands, decided that, for the first time in 60 years, they would close their legendary Philadelphia plant in the heart of my district, laying off over 300 workers because they are shipping the jobs to Monterrey, Mexico.

Now, keep in mind, this is a company, Mondelez, that is in no way in financial disarray. In fact, their revenues last year topped \$50 billion. This plant that was closed is profitable, but not profitable enough.

But there is good news. I do congratulate their CEO, Ms. Irene Rosenfeld, who got a 50 percent pay increase in the last few months at the same very time over 300 workers from my district were getting laid off.

Mr. Speaker, it is not right. Say “no” to Oreo.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we have just learned that the Interior Appropriations bill will be pulled from the floor today.

A number of Southern “irreconcilable” Republican Members apparently planned to vote against the bill, unless it permitted the display of the Confederate battle flag in our national parks and permitted vendors to sell Confederate souvenirs. This is unbelievable, and I say that as a Southern representative.

It is unbelievable, after the unspeakable tragedy in Charleston and the action in the South Carolina Legislature yesterday to remove the battle flag from South Carolina’s Capitol grounds. But the House Republican leadership last night chose to accommodate the Southern Republican irreconcilables with an amendment, and now, they are pulling the Interior bill, lest the irreconcilables bring it down.

Mr. Speaker, we shouldn’t have to debate whether a symbol of hatred and oppression in our Nation’s darkest hour should be displayed on Federal lands. Is the Republican majority really that out of touch? Let us join together to take down that battle flag.

CONFEDERATE FLAG

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, so I have heard that the Republicans have pulled their Interior Appropriations bill from the floor, and I sure hope it is because they have reconsidered their support for flying the Confederate battle flag, overturning an earlier decision of this very body by unanimous voice vote to take it down.

Last night, unbelievably, unforgivably, House Republicans acted to uphold the Confederate battle flag at the very moment that South Carolina was voting to take it down. House Republicans surreptitiously rushed to have National Park Service continue to sell this symbol of hate and to keep the Confederate flag flying on Federal lands.

Even worse, House Republicans tried to cloak this shady move by wrapping it in language about our American flag and the MIA-POW flag—how dare they.

Sears, Amazon, and many other retailers have stopped selling that symbol of hate, and that is what a Repub-

lican State Representative in South Carolina tearfully called it.

It is astonishing that the Republicans are so out of touch. We cannot allow this shameful decision to hold. Take down the flag.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, a strong nuclear agreement that truly forestalls Iran’s weapons breakout ability could be positive for regional and national security. However, I fear too many concessions are being made to secure a deal, and a bad deal will be worse than no deal at all.

We must remember Iran sponsors terrorism throughout the region. They are constantly provocative and a serious threat toward our ally Israel.

We all want to see the threat of war with Iran diminished and to disable their nuclear pursuits, but giving them too much to secure a vapid deal will only increase Iran’s threat. That is why any agreement must have unassailable standards for inspections any time in any place.

Access to all background on their prior military nuclear research must also be in the agreement. The strictest limits on centrifuges and enrichments must be there. A breakout time of no less than 1 year and a phased performance-based sanctions relief and airtight snapback sanctions when Iran violates these standards must also be included. Anything less should be rejected.

CALVERT AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, when we were beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery, there were officers of the law wearing the Confederate battle flag on their helmet.

When the Klan marched through our neighborhoods in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, countless homes in Birmingham were bombed and burned. When they set fire to Black churches throughout the South, the Confederate battle flag was the symbol of their cruelty and injustice.

There is no way, but no way that the Federal Government should ever display this flag on any Federal site or sell it on Federal property. It is a symbol of division and a symbol of separation. It is a symbol of hate. It is a relic of our dark past.

We must defeat every attempt to return this flag to Federal properties.

□ 1230

SOUTH CAROLINA’S REMOVAL OF THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, following the horrific murder of nine of my constituents during their Bible study class at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, many Members of this body came to Charleston to help celebrate the life and legacy of Reverend Senator Clementa Pinckney.

I thank the Speaker of the House and the bipartisan delegation for coming, showing their concern.

And I thank the Governor of South Carolina for calling for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the State house grounds.

At 4 o’clock this afternoon, she is going to sign the bill, which passed this morning around 1:30 a.m. by a vote of 94–20, to remove that flag from the State house grounds. Tomorrow morning at 10 o’clock, they will remove that flag.

I cannot believe that today we have been asked to condone a backward step. Why we in this body would do such is beyond me.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 13, noes 402, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 424]

AYES—13

Bass	Doggett	Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer	Farr	Lee
Boyle, Brendan	Gallego	Schakowsky
F.	Grijalva	Slaughter
Castro (TX)	Jackson Lee	

NOES—402

Abraham	Bishop (UT)	Calvert
Adams	Black	Capps
Aderholt	Blackburn	Capuano
Aguilar	Blum	Cárdenas
Allen	Bonamici	Carney
Amash	Bost	Carson (IN)
Ashford	Boustany	Carter (GA)
Babin	Brady (TX)	Carter (TX)
Barletta	Brat	Cartwright
Barr	Bridenstine	Castor (FL)
Barton	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Beatty	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Benishek	Buchanan	Ciattarelli
Bera	Bucshon	Clark (MA)
Beyer	Burgess	Clarke (NY)
Bilirakis	Bustos	Clawson (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Butterfield	Clay
Bishop (MI)	Byrne	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
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
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
Huijenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kieme
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Loeb
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
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)

Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
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
Schiff
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers

Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup

Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—18

Amodei
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Buck
Fattah
Forbes
Gibson
Hastings
Jones
Larsen (WA)
Lofgren
Miller (FL)
Pascarell
Payne
Peters
Pompeo
Rangel
Walker

□ 1313

Ms. ADAMS, Messrs. HIMES, MCKINLEY, WESTERMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Messrs. MOULTON and MEEKS changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Ms. LEE changed her vote from "no" to "aye."

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX, I rise in regard to a question of the privileges of the House, and I send to the desk a privileged resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 355

Whereas, at 4 p.m. today, July 9th, the Governor of South Carolina will sign legislation to remove the display of the Confederate battle flag;

Whereas, on December 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first State to secede from the Union;

Whereas, on January 9, 1861, Mississippi seceded from the Union, stating in its 'Declaration of Immediate Causes' that '[o]ur position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery—the greatest material interest of the world.';

Whereas, on February 9, 1861, the Confederate States of America was formed with a group of 11 States as a purported sovereign nation and with Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as its president;

Whereas, on March 11, 1861, the Confederate States of America adopted its own constitution;

Whereas, on April 12, 1861, the Confederate States of America fired shots upon Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, effectively beginning the Civil War;

Whereas, the United States did not recognize the Confederate States of America as a sovereign nation, but rather as a rebel insurrection, and took to military battle to bring the rogue states back into the Union;

Whereas, on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Vir-

ginia, effectively, ending the Civil War and preserving the Union;

Whereas, during the Civil War, the Confederate States of America used the Navy Jack, Battle Flag, and other imagery as symbols of the Confederate armed forces;

Whereas, since the end of the Civil War, the Navy Jack, Confederate battle flag, and other imagery of the Confederacy have been appropriated by groups as symbols of hate, terror, intolerance, and as supportive of the institution of slavery;

Whereas, groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and other White supremacist groups utilize Confederate imagery to frighten, terrorize, and cause harm to groups of people toward whom they have hateful intent, including African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and Jewish Americans;

Whereas, many State and Federal political leaders, including United States Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, along with Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn and other State leaders, have spoken out and advocated for the removal of the imagery of the Confederacy on Mississippi's State flag;

Whereas, many Members of Congress, including Speaker John Boehner, support the removal of the Confederate flag from the grounds of South Carolina's capitol;

Whereas, Speaker John Boehner released a statement on the issue saying, 'I commend Governor Nikki Haley and other South Carolina leaders in their effort to remove the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds. In his second inaugural address 150 years ago, and a month before his assassination, President Abraham Lincoln ended his speech with these powerful words, which are as meaningful today as when they were spoken on the East Front of the Capitol on March 4, 1865: 'With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.';

Whereas, the House of Representatives has several State flags with imagery of the Confederacy throughout its main structures and House office buildings;

Whereas, it is an uncontroverted fact that symbols of the Confederacy offend and insult many members of the general public who use the hallways of Congress each day;

Whereas, Congress has never permanently recognized in its hallways the symbols of sovereign nations with whom it has gone to war or rogue entities such as the Confederate States of America;

Whereas, continuing to display a symbol of hatred, oppression, and insurrection that nearly tore our Union apart and that is known to offend many groups throughout the country would irreparably damage the reputation of this august institution and offend the very dignity of the House of Representatives; and

Whereas, this impairment of the dignity of the House and its Members constitutes a violation under rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall remove any State flag containing any portion of the Confederate battle flag, other than a flag displayed by the office of a Member of the House, from any area within the House wing of the Capitol or any House office building, and shall donate any such flag to the Library of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of privilege.

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. McCarthy moves that the resolution be referred to the Committee on House Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this resolution raises a number of important questions, and the House would be best served by committee action on this measure. Accordingly, I am moving to refer the resolution to the Committee on House Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion to refer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a recorded vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman asking for a recorded vote on ordering the previous question?

Ms. PELOSI. I thought the motion was to refer it to committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has not yet put that question.

The question is on ordering the previous question.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman may state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I will stay where we are until the gentleman rules.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a recorded vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman asking for a recorded vote on ordering the previous question?

Ms. PELOSI. Yes.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 185, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 425]

AYES—238

Abraham	Blackburn	Byrne
Aderholt	Blum	Calvert
Allen	Bost	Carter (GA)
Amash	Boustany	Carter (TX)
Amodei	Brady (TX)	Chabot
Babin	Brat	Chaffetz
Barletta	Bridenstine	Coffman
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Cole
Barton	Brooks (IN)	Collins (GA)
Benishek	Buchanan	Collins (NY)
Bilirakis	Buck	Comstock
Bishop (MI)	Bucshon	Conaway
Black	Burgess	Cook

Costello (PA)	Jones	Rice (SC)
Cramer	Jordan	Rigell
Crawford	Joyce	Roby
Crenshaw	Katko	Roe (TN)
DeSantis	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (AL)
DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Rohrabacher
Denham	King (NY)	Rokita
Dent	Kinzinger (IL)	Rooney (FL)
DeSantis	Kline	Ros-Lehtinen
DesJarlais	Knight	Roskam
Diaz-Balart	Labrador	Ross
Dold	LaMalfa	Rothfus
Donovan	Lance	Rouzer
Duffy	Latta	Royce
Duncan (SC)	LoBiondo	Russell
Duncan (TN)	Long	Ryan (WI)
Ellmers (NC)	Loudermilk	Salmon
Emmer (MN)	Love	Sanford
Farenthold	Lucas	Scalise
Fincher	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Fitzpatrick	Lummis	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	MacArthur	Sensenbrenner
Fleming	Marchant	Sessions
Flores	Marino	Shimkus
Fortenberry	Massie	Shuster
Fox	McCarthy	Simpson
Franks (AZ)	McCaul	Smith (NE)
Frelinghuysen	McClintock	Smith (NJ)
Garrett	McHenry	Smith (TX)
Gibbs	McKinley	Stefanik
Gibson	McMorris	Stewart
Gohmert	Rodgers	Stivers
Goodlatte	McSally	Stutzman
Gosar	Meadows	Thompson (PA)
Gowdy	Meehan	Thornberry
Granger	Messer	Tiberi
Graves (GA)	Mica	Tipton
Graves (LA)	Miller (MI)	Trott
Graves (MO)	Moolenaar	Turner
Griffith	Mooney (WV)	Upton
Grothman	Mullin	Valadao
Guinta	Mulvaney	Wagner
Guthrie	Murphy (PA)	Walberg
Hanna	Neugebauer	Walden
Hardy	Newhouse	Walker
Harper	Noem	Walorski
Harris	Nugent	Walters, Mimi
Hartzler	Nunes	Weber (TX)
Heck (NV)	Olson	Webster (FL)
Hensarling	Palazzo	Wenstrup
Herrera Beutler	Palmer	Westerman
Hice, Jody B.	Paulsen	Westmoreland
Hill	Pearce	Whitfield
Holding	Perry	Williams
Hudson	Pittenger	Wilson (SC)
Huelskamp	Pitts	Wittman
Hultgren	Poe (TX)	Womack
Hunter	Poliquin	Woodall
Hurd (TX)	Pompeo	Yoder
Hurt (VA)	Posey	Yoho
Issa	Price, Tom	Young (AK)
Jenkins (KS)	Ratcliffe	Young (IA)
Jenkins (WV)	Reed	Young (IN)
Johnson (OH)	Reichert	Zeldin
Johnson, Sam	Renacci	Zinke
Jolly	Ribble	

NOES—185

Adams	Clawson (FL)	Eshoo
Aguilar	Clay	Esty
Ashford	Cleaver	Farr
Bass	Clyburn	Fattah
Beatty	Cohen	Foster
Becerra	Connolly	Frankel (FL)
Bera	Conyers	Fudge
Beyer	Cooper	Gabbard
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Gallego
Blumenauer	Courtney	Garamendi
Bonamici	Crowley	Graham
Boyle, Brendan	Cuellar	Grayson
F.	Cummings	Green, Al
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Green, Gene
Brown (FL)	Davis, Danny	Grijalva
Brownley (CA)	DeFazio	Gutiérrez
Bustos	DeGette	Hahn
Butterfield	Delaney	Heck (WA)
Capps	DeLauro	Higgins
Capuano	DelBene	Himes
Cardenas	DeSaulnier	Hinojosa
Carney	Deutch	Honda
Carson (IN)	Dingell	Hoyer
Cartwright	Doggett	Huffman
Castor (FL)	Doyle, Michael	Israel
Castro (TX)	F.	Jackson Lee
Chu, Judy	Duckworth	Jeffries
Cicilline	Edwards	Johnson (GA)
Clark (MA)	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Clarke (NY)	Engel	Kaptur

Keating	Meng	Schrader
Kelly (IL)	Moore	Scott (VA)
Kennedy	Moulton	Scott, David
Kildee	Murphy (FL)	Serrano
Kilmer	Nadler	Smith (WA)
Kind	Napolitano	Sherman
Kirkpatrick	Neal	Sinema
Kuster	Nolan	Sires
Langevin	Norcross	Slaughter
Larsen (WA)	O'Rourke	Smith (WA)
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Speier
Lawrence	Pascrell	Swalwell (CA)
Lee	Pelosi	Takai
Levin	Perlmutter	Takano
Lewis	Peterson	Thompson (CA)
Lieu, Ted	Pingree	Thompson (MS)
Lipinski	Pocan	Titus
Loeback	Polis	Tonko
Lowenthal	Price (NC)	Torres
Lowe	Quigley	Tsongas
Lujan Grisham	Rangel	Van Hollen
(NM)	Rice (NY)	Vargas
Lujan, Ben Ray	Richmond	Veasey
(NM)	Roybal-Allard	Vela
Lynch	Ruiz	Velázquez
Maloney,	Ruppersberger	Visclosky
Carolyn	Rush	Walz
Maloney, Sean	Ryan (OH)	Wasserman
Matsui	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
McCollum	T.	Watson, Maxine
McDermott	Sanchez, Loretta	Watson Coleman
McGovern	Sarbanes	Welch
McNerney	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Meeks	Schiff	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—10

Bishop (UT)	Lamborn	Peters
Forbes	Lofgren	Smith (MO)
Hastings	Miller (FL)	
Huizenga (MI)	Payne	

□ 1356

Ms. CHU changed her vote from “present” to “no.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 176, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 426]

AYES—238

Abraham	Carter (GA)	Emmer (MN)
Aderholt	Carter (TX)	Farenthold
Allen	Chabot	Fincher
Amash	Chaffetz	Fitzpatrick
Amodei	Coffman	Fleischmann
Babin	Cole	Fleming
Barletta	Collins (GA)	Flores
Barr	Collins (NY)	Fortenberry
Barton	Comstock	Fox
Benishek	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Bilirakis	Cook	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (MI)	Costello (PA)	Garrett
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Gibbs
Black	Crawford	Gibson
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Blum	Culberson	Goodlatte
Bost	Curbelo (FL)	Gosar
Boustany	Davis, Rodney	Gowdy
Brady (TX)	Denham	Granger
Brat	Dent	Graves (GA)
Bridenstine	DeSantis	Graves (LA)
Brooks (AL)	DesJarlais	Griffith
Brooks (IN)	Diaz-Balart	Grothman
Buchanan	Dold	Guinta
Buck	Donovan	Guthrie
Bucshon	Duffy	Hanna
Burgess	Duncan (SC)	Hardy
Byrne	Duncan (TN)	Harper
Calvert	Ellmers (NC)	Harris

Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry

McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce

Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Stefanik
Stewart
Noem
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trotter
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Castor (FL)
Costa
Courtney
Deutch
Fattah
Forbes
Graham

Serrano
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Graves (MO)
Hastings
Loftgren
Miller (FL)
Payne
Peters
Rice (NY)

Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Rogers (AL)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sewell (AL)
Smith (MO)
Smith (TX)

on the Motion to Refer H. Res. 355, "aye;" rollcall vote No. 426—On Motion to Refer H. Res. 355, "aye."

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, July 9, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, 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 July 9, 2015 at 9:09 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 728.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 891.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1326.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1350.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 6, 21ST CENTURY CURES
ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 350 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 350

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-22 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be

NOES—176

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro

DelBene
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster

Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley

NOT VOTING—19

□ 1404

Mrs. LOVE changed her vote from "present" to "aye."

So the motion to refer was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, now that the House has voted to refer my privileged resolution to committee, can the Chair inform Members of the status of the Thompson of Mississippi resolution referred to the House Administration Committee, the same committee that we are referring today. That resolution was on the floor 2 weeks ago and referred to committee 2 weeks ago.

Can the Chair inform us of the status of it, especially in light of the action taken by the South Carolina Legislature and the Governor of South Carolina to take down the Confederate battle flag?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot comment on pending committee proceedings.

Without objection, a motion to reconsider the motion to refer is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

Stated for:

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 426 I missed the vote, but would have voted "yea" had I made it to the floor before was closed.

Stated against:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 426 I would have voted "no" on this motion.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 426, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 426, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following rollcall votes: No. 424—No. 426 on July 9, 2015 (today).

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 424—On Motion to Adjourn, "nay;" rollcall vote No. 425—Ordering the Previous Question

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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 350 provides for a rule to consider a critical bill that will help millions of Americans and their families who are suffering from diseases for which there is no cure.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the majority and the minority of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and makes eight amendments from Members of both parties in order so that the House may fully debate the merits of this legislation.

As is custom, the minority is offered a final motion to recommit the bill prior to its passage.

I am pleased the House is considering this bipartisan legislation. The Energy and Commerce Committee has spent 14 months working to bring our healthcare innovation infrastructure into the 21st century.

Today, there are 10,000 known diseases or conditions, and we have got cures for 500. There is a gap between the innovation and how we regulate our therapies. It is not unheard of to have a company take 14 years and spend \$2 billion to bring a new device or drug to market.

Members held nearly 20 roundtables and events around the country to ensure that we involved patients, advocates, researchers, innovators, and investors that have firsthand experience and help understand the gaps in our current system.

H.R. 6 touches each step of the healthcare innovation process: discovery, development and delivery. This bill attempts to close the gap between

the fast pace of innovation and our current, often burdensome regulatory process.

The bill provides exciting new tools to uncover the next generation of treatments and cures. H.R. 6 is, indeed, transformative—transformative of the way that doctors and researchers study diseases, develop treatments, and deliver care.

It encourages innovation. It fosters the use of data to further research. It modernizes clinical trials and takes steps toward the future of personalized medicine.

Not only does this bill take a major step forward in bringing more cures to patients, this bill addresses our Nation's ever-increasing healthcare spending. This bill establishes a temporary innovation fund which is fully offset, including permanently reforming our entitlement programs.

Beyond the budget window, these reforms in Medicare and Medicaid are established to yield at least \$7 billion in additional savings for taxpayers; but make no mistake. The biggest cost saver—the biggest cost saver—will be finding cures to some of America's most deadly and costly diseases.

I am thankful to have worked on many parts of this bill. The legislation contains five bills that I have introduced and other provisions that I helped with the authorship. I would like to take a minute to talk about a few of the sections where I have personally worked on them.

While thousands of Americans are affected by multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, and other neurologic diseases, very little accurate information exists to assist those who research, treat, and provide care to those suffering from these diseases.

H.R. 6 actually includes H.R. 292, that I introduced, with Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland, to advance research for neurologic diseases. H.R. 6 will allow for surveillance systems for tracking key neurologic diseases, which may then be used to help us further understand these devastating diseases and deliver their cure.

We are improving patient access to needed treatments by supporting expedited approval for breakthrough therapies and actually making it easier to seek approval for new indications of approved therapies.

Currently, the Food and Drug Administration approved drugs may be only promoted for the approved indication, even if the sponsor determines that the drug is an effective treatment for another indication.

H.R. 6 includes another bill, H.R. 2415, which I introduced with Mr. ENGEL of New York, and would formally establish a program within the Food and Drug Administration, which would allow companies with approved drugs or biologics to submit clinical data summaries for consideration of a new indication.

This would reduce the time to approval and reduce resources required to

approve new indications of drugs, drugs that have a well-established knowledge base and well-established safety information.

I introduced H.R. 293, with Representative DEFAZIO of Oregon, to protect continuing medical education, which plays a vital role in our healthcare system. This improves patient outcomes, facilitates medical innovation, and keeps our Nation's medical professionals up-to-date.

With the inclusion of this provision in H.R. 6, we will ensure that doctors continue to have access to these vital tools.

□ 1415

The provision simply enforces current law, which states that educational materials were explicitly excluded from reporting requirements in the Affordable Care Act.

Unfortunately, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has acted in conflict with the law, but we correct that in H.R. 6 and ensure that physicians have access to materials and information to keep us informed and up to date on medical innovation. With its inclusion in H.R. 6, we will ensure that doctors continue to have access to these vital tools.

We ensure that Americans have access to their critical health information by identifying barriers to achieving fully interoperable health records.

Mr. Speaker, the United States taxpayer has spent well over \$30 billion to ensure that healthcare providers obtain an electronic record system. However, the investment has not resulted in access to information in those records and patients across the healthcare spectrum.

While we have seen widespread adoption of electronic health records, our Nation continues to maintain a fragmented healthcare system, making it difficult to ensure the continuity for evidence-based care for patients.

The 21st Century Cures Act would finally set the United States on a path toward achieving a nationwide interoperable health information system. This will be transformative for research and for medical treatment.

Finally, along with Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. BUTTERFIELD, we aid patients by requiring companies to clarify availability of expanded access programs.

Further, with the inclusion of H.R. 2414, which I introduced with Mr. SCHRADER of Oregon, we are requiring the Food and Drug Administration to issue guidance on the dissemination of up-to-date, truthful, scientific medical information about FDA-approved medications.

This legislation passed out of Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health on May 19 on a voice vote, and it passed the full committee on May 21, 51-0, the second time in 3 years that the committee has had a 51-0 vote, the previous one being on the repeal of the sustainable growth rate formula.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and "yes" on

the underlying bill. 21st Century Cures would not only deliver hope to the millions of American patients living with untreatable diseases, but it will help modernize and streamline the American healthcare system.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, before I speak on this bill, I want to thank Leader PELOSI for leading today's efforts to hold House Republicans accountable for their divisive Confederate flag amendment.

You know, it is stunning to me that my Republican friends decided to refer the minority leader's resolution to committee so we could not have a debate.

The legislature in South Carolina could have a debate, but my Republican friends here in the House of Representatives ensured that we in Congress cannot have that debate.

And the fact is that Americans, I think, are ready to leave behind the discrimination and hate symbolized by the Confederate flag, but my friends on the other side of the aisle seem to have a different idea.

Last night House Republicans introduced an amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill that simply has no place on this House floor.

It would undo the successful Democratic amendment adopted by voice that would have barred the display of Confederate flags in Federal cemeteries and barred the National Park Service from doing business with gift shops that sell Confederate flag merchandise.

Simply put, while South Carolina voted this week to take the Confederate flag down, Republicans in Congress were ready to put it back up.

And even more troubling, House Republicans tried to sneak this amendment into the bill late last night, hoping that nobody would notice. We noticed. The American people noticed.

And I am ashamed that, in 2015, Congress would even consider a measure that seeks to perpetuate the hate and racism that the Confederate flag represents.

Now, my friends on the other side of the aisle, especially the leadership, seem to be in a little bit of disarray.

The Speaker of the House is trying to distance himself from the measure, notwithstanding that the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee who offered the amendment said that he did so at the request of the Republican leadership.

The Confederate flag is a symbol of racism and a reminder of one of our Nation's darkest periods of division. It has no place in America's National Parks. Congress should not promote this symbol of hate.

And now is the time to come together. I am proud to join with my colleagues who are standing up today for all Americans united against hate.

I will be asking my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question so that we can bring up the Pelosi resolution before all of us here and have that debate and have that vote. I hope my Republican friends will join with me.

I just want to say one final thing. The fact that the Interior Appropriations bill was pulled from consideration on this House floor by my Republican friends because they believed that, without this pro-Confederate flag amendment, that they could lose up to 100 of their own Members, is stunning to me.

It never ceases to amaze me. Just when I think that this institution can't sink any lower, then something like this happens.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to stand with me and vote against the previous question so we can actually have this debate, a debate I think the American people would want us to have.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on the underlying bill before us, H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, I just want to say that this is the product of bipartisan hearings, stakeholder meetings, drafts and re-drafts.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the version of H.R. 6 that was passed by the Energy and Commerce Committee by a vote of 51-0. A vote like that doesn't happen often, especially in this Congress.

I want to commend Chairman UPTON and Congresswoman DEGETTE for leading this initiative and tirelessly working to get H.R. 6 to the floor.

I think it represents the kind of investments that we should be making to help families stay healthy and to grow our economy.

It provides \$8.75 billion in mandatory funding over the next 5 years to the National Institutes of Health to spur scientific innovation and discovery by the country's premier medical researchers and scientists.

During the Clinton administration, Congress doubled the NIH budget and made a real commitment to keeping America on the front lines of scientific research. That investment led to exponential advances in medicine.

We should continue that progress by once again giving NIH the resources they need to make new advances in medicine. We shouldn't let our politics limit our ambition.

As Members of Congress, we were elected to be leaders, and this is an opportunity to ensure America continues to lead the way on new breakthroughs in health.

Now, I would have preferred to see the original \$10 billion in NIH funding that was included in the bill that passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I hope that we can increase NIH funding back to that level as the bill moves forward.

We know without a shadow of a doubt that basic medical research produces results. In fact, NIH-funded research at institutions like the University of Massachusetts Medical School in my hometown of Worcester has been the single greatest contributor to advances in health in human history.

Today the average American lives 6 years longer than in the 1970s largely because of pioneering NIH investments.

All across the country, NIH-supported researchers are forging a path toward treatment and cures for debilitating diseases that impact patients everywhere.

But their success depends upon us. Our decision to invest in NIH is imperative to their success in improving health for all Americans.

Just consider UMASS Medical School as one example. For years, UMASS has been in the forefront of medical innovation because of investments from NIH.

In 2006, Dr. Craig Mello received the Nobel Prize in medicine for his groundbreaking discovery of RNA silencing, which, in layman's terms, means shutting off bad cells.

UMASS has researchers working toward finding cures for AIDS, Down's Syndrome, and Lou Gehrig's disease. All of this is possible because of our investment in NIH.

But I hear over and over again from scientists and medical researchers that they worry about the uncertainty of NIH funding because of crazy things that we do, like sequestration. They worry about our commitment to advancing basic medical research.

Fewer and fewer research grants are being funded. Countries like China, India, and even Singapore are luring away the best and brightest American researchers because they are committing to making meaningful investments in medical research.

21st Century Cures helps to reverse that trend, but I worry it is not enough. I am pleased to see that H.R. 6 takes a number of steps to modernize clinical trials, improve how the Food and Drug Administration approves new drugs and devices, and encourages the development of next generation treatments through the use of precision medicine, which President Obama highlighted in his State of the Union speech.

Just last week we saw the approval of a major new drug that will improve the quality of life for more than 10,000 people living with cystic fibrosis. The investments included in 21st Century Cures will help us to make more of these kinds of groundbreaking advances a reality.

Mr. Speaker, for all of the bipartisanship and positive aspects of this bill, I would be remiss if I didn't point out one glaring inconsistency.

Despite numerous hearings, round tables, and forms on this bill, a controversial policy rider that restricts access to abortion was added to the bill that came before the Rules Committee.

It is like the majority couldn't help themselves. They couldn't resist an opportunity to add a contentious rider to an otherwise bipartisan package to advance medical research.

I am pleased that the committee made in order an amendment offered by my friends BARBARA LEE, JAN SCHA-KOWSKY, and YVETTE CLARKE to strike these controversial policy riders.

Unfortunately, the committee prohibited a number of other amendments from coming to the floor for debate. Out of the 36 amendments submitted for consideration, only eight will be considered on this floor during debate on this legislation.

Many of our colleagues came to the Rules Committee last night to testify on their amendments. They raised important issues and made suggestions as to how we can improve this legislation.

So while I support the underlying bill, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule, which prohibits debate on a number of amendments worthy of consideration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, FRED UPTON, and DIANA DEGETTE for their great bipartisan work. And we all put a shoulder to the wheel here to get this done.

This is really big, 21st Century Cures. All of us have known someone afflicted by deadly diseases. Most of us have seen people in our own families.

My mother passed away as the result of ovarian cancer. My sister-in-law had brain cancer. I lost a son to a congenital heart defect. My mother-in-law had rheumatoid arthritis from a very early age. My stepmother died of a stroke. We are all affected.

Investing in cures, investing in treatments, investing in innovation and doing it right here in America is the best step forward.

This legislation would modernize the Nation's biomedical innovation infrastructure and streamline the process for how drugs and medical devices are approved in order to get new treatments to patients and get it to them faster.

To do this, we solicited input from some of the best scientists in the world, including Dr. Brian Druker of OHSU, Oregon Health Sciences University, Knight Cancer Research Center, a true pioneer in the fight against cancer.

This initiative would give hope to countless Oregonians. Like my friend Linda Sindt, a close friend in southern Oregon, she lost her husband Duane to pancreatic cancer. She said this legislation will put us on a path to improved survival for pancreatic cancer.

Nancy Roach, a colon cancer advocate in my hometown of Hood River, praised the bill, saying, "Investing in 21st century science by boosting funding for the NIH makes sense."

Colton and Tiffany Allen are residents of Talent, Oregon. They said this bill will give hope, hope, to individuals like Colton, who struggles with ALS.

We owe it to people like Linda, Nancy, Colton, Tiffany, to our families, to all Americans and literally people around the globe to pass this legislation, to tackle these diseases that have no treatment or cure, to develop new innovative treatments, provide better health technology, and ultimately bring hope and better lives for all.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important day for me, as a member of the Rules Committee. Rules, as you know, is the process committee. I want to spend my time discussing the process that has been going on here.

The process that rules have in the House is to really make certain that fairness is presented to all parties.

□ 1430

Whether you are a majority or a minority, you have your rights, but they have been trampled on and abused with increasing regularity under this majority, and we have two glaring examples of that just today. We have glaring examples every day, but let me bring up these two.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is critically important to all of us, and as everybody has spoken before makes it clear—and we all agree on the importance of putting more money into major research in the United States—we are falling behind other countries in finding the cures and the innovation for which we have been known for centuries. This is an important step that we are taking. This is a critically important bill, but process matters.

Mr. Speaker, after the committee had voted out this bill unanimously, major changes were made with no committee input at all. They include reduction of the amount of money that the committee had said would be put into the National Institutes of Health by \$1.025 billion, a very substantial sum.

They added some policy riders that literally made no sense. Why in the world would you put an abortion rider on a thing for medical research? As far as I know, the NIH and most medical universities doing this research do not perform abortion procedures. It was simply a way, again, to mollify people and make somebody think that, if they vote for this bill, they are doing something that is impossible to do. But like Alice in Wonderland, we are all trained here to try to believe six impossible things before breakfast because we are confronted with them daily.

Another one is that they changed the pay-fors, which is critically important to everything that we do.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. So, Mr. Speaker, despite the importance of this bill, despite the fact that it came out of committee unanimously, despite the fact that so many people have worked on it, and despite the fact that good things were in it, the process was completely changed after it was over by rewriting major portions of it. That doesn't appear anywhere in the rules of the House.

Now, not only that, let's think about what happened here this morning. Last night on the Interior bill, which is an open rule, after the Democrat who was up, BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, had yielded back her time, after the time had been yielded on both sides and the vote had been taken, suddenly another amendment appears at the request, as Mr. MCGOVERN has said, of the Republican leadership. So they suddenly come up with this. Ms. MCCOLLUM was not informed in any way. She had absolutely no knowledge of what was going to happen. That may not break a specific rule of the House, but it sure does break etiquette. You do not come out onto the floor to try to fool people who are on the other side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, what happened here this morning, obviously, I think Mr. MCGOVERN has stated it precisely. Without the ability to have that amendment, without that crazy amendment, frankly, that resolution—as far as I am concerned, once you send them back to committee, you are sending them to interment—we will never see that one again. But they had to have that in order to get the votes to pass the bill. That is the kind of horse trading and all the things that go on here. After all the process and procedure that belongs to the Congress of the United States, and has for centuries, has been absolutely abused, as I said earlier, and trampled on on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker, it is time we stopped it. Nothing happened here today except to make this place look stupid.

I was born in a border State, in Kentucky. All my life I have lived there. I was educated there, and I was married there. I never saw a Confederate flag in all the years of my life. These battle flags that they are putting up appeared in the South after the civil rights legislation. They were the products of Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrats. That is when they started to bloom all over. It is a symbol of pure hate and revenge or whatever else they want to call it. It needs to go.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 10 seconds.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. It is the equivalent to my having the German Government flying the swastika over the Bundestag.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule for H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

The 21st Century Cures Act is one of the best things Congress has done in a long time in my opinion. H.R. 6 is a holistic reform of how we can get cures and treatments to patients who need them. That is what this bill is all about, patients, our constituents, Mr. Speaker.

One provision I was particularly proud to author will establish a drug management program which prevents at-risk beneficiaries from abusing controlled substances. This program will help protect our seniors. It is a fix to Medicare part D, that is a program that is really desperately needed. This commonsense measure has been recommended by GAO and IG, and it is also recommended by CMS.

Mr. Speaker, it is utilized by private industry, TRICARE, and State Medicaid programs. This bill makes strides to prevent prescription drug abuse and promote a healthier America.

I urge support for the rule and the underlying bill as well.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule to consider the 21st Century Cures Act on the floor. On the Energy and Commerce Committee, we worked tirelessly with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to get this bill to a place that we could all agree upon, a place where we provide new mandatory funding for NIH to do the critical research that is a foundation for cures, a place where we tweak FDA processes and provide FDA with additional resources to do the new things that will help get treatments and cures to patients faster.

As we worked together to find ways to accelerate innovation, patients with rare diseases have been at the forefront of our conversations. It is often more difficult to research and develop cures for rare disease patients due to their small populations. However, finding cures for rare diseases is not just of the utmost importance to the patients with those rare diseases and their families, it is important to all of us. You never know where a cure might come from, and often research and drug development on one disease may turn out to be fruitful for another.

Mr. Speaker, we all need to work together to advance cures and treatments. A provision of this bill would encourage public-private partnerships

to foster better utilization of patient registries that generate important information on the natural history of diseases, especially rare diseases for which other types of research can be difficult.

I also applaud the efforts in this bill to advance the President's Precision Medicine Initiative to accelerate discoveries that are tailored to individual patients' needs.

The telehealth language in 21st Century Cures recognizes telehealth is the delivery of safe, effective, quality healthcare services by a healthcare provider using technology as the mode of delivery, and the interoperability provision makes great strides toward ensuring that our health IT systems can communicate amongst each other and with patients.

Mr. Speaker, I don't claim that this bill is perfect. Compromises have been made. I am disappointed that the amount of NIH funding has been recently reduced from \$10 billion to \$8.7 billion. I am also disappointed that policy riders, such as the Hyde amendment language, have been inserted after we voted this out of committee, and I look forward to voting for the amendment offered by my colleagues BARBARA LEE, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and YVETTE CLARKE to strike the policy riders language. With that, Mr. Speaker, I do, however, support the 21st Century Cures legislation.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. BURGESS and Chairman UPTON for a bill that is truly visionary that will actually save lives, something we can rarely say we do up here in this place, but I believe this will provide cures for the next century.

Mr. Speaker, there are two provisions I am very pleased to see in the bill. One is the Andrea Sloan CURE Act, which expands compassionate use to those who have life-threatening diseases and gives them greater access to lifesaving medications. Andrea is a friend of mine who, on her deathbed, asked me to try to make sure that this didn't happen to other people.

And finally, I am pleased to see the reauthorization of the Creating Hope Act, which has now led to the second childhood cancer drug approved since the 1980s and the first FDA-approved drug to treat high-risk neuroblastoma.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that with the passage of this bill we will see greater cures in the future, and we will not only save adults from cancers, but also children from this dreaded disease in the future.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, coming out of committee, H.R. 6 was a bipartisan huge

leap forward in our efforts to accelerate the development of lifesaving cures through medical research. Yet somehow, between the committee and the floor, the majority once again has tacked on antiabortion Hyde amendment language, which makes no sense at all.

It is like the Republicans are cheap stage magicians attracting our attention with the promise of critically needed medical advances, all the while stuffing the same old, flea-bitten Hyde provision rabbit into their hat. We are tired of this tedious stage show. NIH is already subject to the Hyde provisions in appropriation bills. This is just a way to continue politics as usual.

If H.R. 6 passes under a mantle of bipartisanship, they will pull out the rabbit, wave it around, and say, Look how amazing and wonderful we are.

I, for one, am sick of the House being run like a boardwalk magic show. Adding this type of language between open, transparent committee consideration and open, transparent floor consideration makes a mockery of representative government. Adding an anti-abortion rider to bills in the dead of night through sleight of hand turns the substantive bipartisan work that is crafted in H.R. 6 into a pathetic imitation of cooperation.

Since the 114th Congress began, the House has taken 37 actions to restrict abortion access. While I don't agree with this paranoid focus on women's private and legal medical decisions, it is the majority's right to set the agenda; but I cannot stand by while these provisions are slipped into an otherwise excellent bill through underhanded maneuvers that run contrary to our democratic process. When similar provisions were slipped into a human trafficking bill, we said no. Why aren't we saying no today?

I am a cosponsor of the original version of H.R. 6, but I cannot let the people's House become the people's House of smoke and mirrors.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), the chairman of the House Doctors Caucus.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today someone who, 45 years ago, graduated from medical school. My first pediatric rotation was at St. Jude Children's Hospital. At that time, a majority of all those children that I saw as a young medical student died of their disease. Today, almost 90 percent of those children live.

Back in the 1950s, we had a polio vaccine. It was developed with the help of government funding, and today that would be scored as a cost to the taxpayers. Does anyone think the prevention of polio was a cost to the taxpayers? It was one of the greatest miracles of the 20th century.

Just 4 short months ago, my wife died of stage 4 colon cancer. And I know right now that everyone in this Chamber who is listening and everyone who is outside watching this has had a

close family member or a friend or a relative who has experienced something similar.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now we as a nation got serious about curing the major diseases, not treating the disease, but curing the major diseases that are affecting this country and affecting us personally. I am more passionate about this bill and excited about passing the 21st Century Cures bill than anything I have voted on since I have been in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts, for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the rule and in strong support of the 21st Century Cures bill that was voted unanimously, in a bipartisan fashion, out of my Energy and Commerce Committee.

□ 1445

America is the world leader in medical research, and we have got to work to keep it that way. That has been at risk lately because of congressional budget battles. The resources that our researchers need to find the cures and treatments of the future have been at risk. Our commitment to medical research has eroded over the years, but this 21st Century Cures bill would put us now on a stronger path forward.

I have advocated for more NIH research dollars for many years to boost our patients back home suffering from the debilitating diseases. I have offered amendments in the Budget Committee to shift money from discretionary to mandatory because it is mandatory in America that we respond and we research the cures of tomorrow, such as precision medicine like they are doing at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida.

Now that we have mapped the human genome, we can find and provide precise cures and treatments to our neighbors and family members with cancer.

I am disappointed that the amount of money has been eroded. I am very disappointed that the Hyde rider was added at the last minute behind closed doors; it was not voted on in committee, but simply stated, this bill is too important not to pass it.

I would like to thank my colleague Chairman UPTON and my good friend DIANA DEGETTE from Colorado for leading the charge. We are firmly with you, and we are with the patients and the researchers in America that will benefit from this terrific piece of legislation.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 17 minutes re-

maining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds for the purpose of the introduction of my next speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is really a great privilege to recognize the next speaker on our side, the chairman emeritus of the Energy and Commerce Committee. In fact, the last reauthorization for the National Institutes of Health occurred under JOE BARTON's watch, one of the last things we did at the waning hours of the 109th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, he did provide additional funding to the NIH; he provided an increase of 5 percent a year for the lifetime of that reauthorization. Unfortunately, it was never appropriated to that level after the Democrats took charge in the 110th Congress.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), the chairman emeritus of the Energy and Commerce Committee, for his observations.

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

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Member from Texas for that generous introduction.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, I went to then-Majority Leader Eric Cantor and committee chairman FRED UPTON and asked permission to create a task force, a bipartisan task force—equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats from the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Appropriations Committee—to work with outside groups and experts to see if there were not some ideas that we could put forward in legislation to improve the ability to find and implement cures for all the various diseases that afflict our Nation.

Mr. UPTON and Mr. Cantor approved that task force. We had a task force of 24 members. We had an outside group that included several Nobel prize winners, leaders from Johns Hopkins and MD Anderson, former directors of NIH and FDA. That morphed in the beginning of this Congress to a task force that DIANA DEGETTE and Chairman UPTON led themselves. That has led to a bipartisan bill that, as has been pointed out, came out of committee 51-0.

That is an amazingly extraordinarily positive accomplishment to have total unanimity in support of this type of a bill. We haven't reauthorized NIH since 2006, and that lapsed in 2009. This bill does that. We have taken every innovative idea in the medical community that makes any sense at all and put it into this bill.

We are increasing the authorization for spending for NIH. We have the innovation fund, which is a mandatory program for 5 years. It puts a little under \$2 billion a year that is offset; it is paid for; it does go away at the end of 5 years, but for 5 years, it is specifically going to innovation research that is a fast track to find the cures that are most applicable to the marketplace today.

This bill is a revolutionary bill. We need to pass it, Mr. Speaker. There are lots of problems. There are things that are not in the bill that I wanted in the bill, but this is a huge step forward. It rarely happens that Congress can work together to do something that is totally for the benefit of the American people. This is one of those times.

We need to vote for the rule, and then we need to vote for the bill, and we will move forward, united, to find the cures for the 21st century for all Americans and, really, to some extent, for all the world.

I thank the gentleman for the time.

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

I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question. If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to allow for consideration of Leader PELOSI's resolution, which basically says that any State flag containing the Confederate battle flag would be prohibited from the House wing of the Capitol.

Given what the Republicans, our leadership, tried to do on the Interior Appropriations bill yesterday, I think this is especially timely. As I mentioned earlier, while South Carolina voted this week to take the Confederate flag down, Republicans in Congress appear ready to put it back up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend Mr. MCGOVERN for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I must tell you, my heart is heavy. I am saddened by what has happened here in America. I thought that we have come much farther—much farther—along.

Growing up in rural Alabama, attending school in Nashville, Tennessee, now living in Georgia, I have seen the signs that said White and Colored—White men, Colored men, White women, Colored women, White waiting, Colored waiting.

During the sixties, during the height of the civil rights movement, we broke those signs down. They are gone. The only place that we will see those signs today will be in a book, in a museum, or on a video. If a descendant of Jefferson Davis could admit the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of hate and division, why can't we do it here? Why can't we move to the 21st century?

Racism is a disease. We must free ourselves of the way of hate, the way of violence, the way of division. We are not there yet. We have not yet created a beloved community where we respect the dignity and the worth of every human being.

We need to bring down the flag. The scars and stains of racism are still deeply and very embedded in every corner of American society. I don't want to see our little children—whether they are Black, White, Latino, Asian American, or Native American—growing up

and seeing these signs of division, these signs of hate.

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

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

Mr. LEWIS. As a Nation and as a people, we can do better. We can lay down this heavy burden. It is too heavy to bear. Hate is too heavy a burden to bear. We need to not continue to plant these seeds in the minds of our people.

When I was marching across that bridge in Selma in 1965, I saw some of the law officers and sheriff deputies wearing on their helmet the Confederate flag. I don't want to go back, and as a country, we cannot go back.

We must go forward and create a community that recognizes all of us as human beings, as citizens, for we are one people, one Nation; we all live in the same House, the American House.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER).

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the chorus of Americans who are calling out for support and research and innovation to cure diseases that affect every family and neighborhood in America.

The rule that we have before us would allow us to debate the 21st Century Cures bill forwarded by the Energy and Commerce Committee on a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

What this bill would do would increase, by over \$8 billion, research over the next 5 years to be conducted by the National Institutes of Health. Each year, we spend over \$700 billion on care for seniors through Medicare; yet we spend just \$30 billion a year, roughly, annually, on curing or researching the cures for every disease that plagues our country: Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, heart disease, diabetes.

In all those diseases combined, we spend just \$30 billion a year on research; yet we spend trillions on health care. We know, each year, 600,000 people will die of cancer. We know, each year in the United States, 700,000 people will die of Alzheimer's. These are real people, real families that are in anguish over these and many other diseases.

It is not just a moral issue; it is an economic issue. By 2050, estimates are that our country will spend \$1.1 trillion annually to treat health care for people with Alzheimer's alone, over \$1 trillion annually; yet we spend just \$562 million a year researching a cure for Alzheimer's, a true definition of penny wise and pound foolish.

This 21st Century Cures bill increases our commitment to curing disease, as I said, by over \$8 billion over the next 5 years.

Each of us has a family member or a friend with a tragic story about one of these diseases. These diseases know no party affiliation; they don't know center of aisle versus the left or right side of the aisle. They know no State; they have no regional boundaries. They

don't know the difference between mandatory and discretionary spending.

To cure these diseases is a moral imperative for these families, but to cure these diseases is also an economic imperative. If we cure one of these diseases, our investment will pay for itself a thousand times over. The CBO can't score that; the CBO can't make any recognition of that. This is a savings bill.

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

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

Mr. YODER. I have a 20-month-old daughter, and this isn't just about curing the disease for our generation; it is about curing the disease for her generation and every generation to follow.

Supporting the 21st Century Cures bill bends the cost curve on entitlements; it saves our country from going into bankruptcy, and it helps us balance our budget. These investments are not just necessary for our moral imperative to save lives, but they are also an economic imperative.

All those things together means we ought to have a robust, large vote in this House to pass this rule and to ensure that the 21st Century Cures bill goes forward.

I strongly support it, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Southern strategy was and is a Republican strategy of gaining political support for its political candidates by appealing to regional and racial tensions in this country based on the history of slavery, the history of the Civil War, racism, and segregation. That is a history that is indefensible, and so is the Confederate battle flag which represents those attitudes.

I call upon my fellow colleagues in the Republican Party to denounce this Southern strategy once and for all and to do what it takes to affirm the tide of this country, which is to do away with that symbol of oppression and racial animist, the Confederate battle flag.

Let's remove that flag from our national cemeteries, from our Park Service, places of purchasing memorabilia.

□ 1500

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

We do have before us today a unique opportunity. We have an opportunity to lay the groundwork for the future. We have the way to lead in the 21st century in providing 21st century cures.

To be sure, we are providing additional funding to the National Institutes of Health and we are providing additional funding to the Food and Drug Administration, but we are also placing requirements upon those institutions.

We all know we have to do things faster, better, cheaper, smarter and

that we have to do more with less. That is what the 21st Century Cures bill lays before us, and that is why this rule is so crucial and critical today and why I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule and the underlying bill.

The bill provides for an increase of \$1.75 billion per year in the budget for the National Institutes of Health. I applaud all efforts to increase funding for the NIH.

I am a survivor of ovarian cancer, and I am alive today because of the grace of God and biomedical research. So I appreciate biomedical research.

Unfortunately, this increase is not nearly enough to restore the NIH's lost purchasing power. Since fiscal year 2010, the National Institutes of Health has seen its budget erode by about \$3.6 billion in real terms, an 11 percent cut. If we are serious about funding life-saving medical research, we must raise our level of ambition.

This bill also sets aside \$500 million of the increase to be spent in certain specified areas of research. I think that this is a wrong approach.

The people best placed to decide which scientific avenues are worth pursuing are scientists, not politicians. We should not substitute our judgment for theirs.

I am also concerned that the bill will lower standards for medical device approval at the Food and Drug Administration and create a new pathway for antibiotic approval that, in my view, involves less rigorous testing requirements. Again, I think that this is a wrong approach.

It is our duty to protect the public from potentially unsafe devices and drugs. We do not do that by reducing standards.

Finally, the majority is yet again using this bill as a vehicle for anti-choice Hyde amendment language. Since January, the majority and its counterpart in the other Chamber have sought to restrict access to abortion no fewer than 37 times.

The bottom line on this issue is that we need to trust women and that we need to trust the choices they make. We have to trust women. Politicians have no business meddling in those decisions.

For these reasons, I believe that we should reject this bill, and I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I would point out that once again reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health occurred in this Congress in the waning days of the 109th Congress in December of 2006.

Mr. BARTON reauthorized the NIH at a \$31 million base to increase by 5 percent per year. We were told at the time that that was not enough and, with biomedical inflation at 8.8 percent a year, that it was, in fact, a cut.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, what happened was then, of course, the Democrats took control of the House and the Senate the following year, and they never appropriated the NIH to that 5 percent figure.

Now, this is not about Republicans and Democrats. This is about finding cures for the 21st century. The gentlewoman is correct in that we do direct some of the research dollars within the NIH.

You will recall, when the stimulus bill passed in 2009, \$10 billion went into the NIH right then to be spent that year.

We ended up filling up and filing paperwork from leftover projects, but we got very few deliverables out of that. This directs that research into high-risk, high-reward areas. We need the deliverables from the NIH.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my thanks to FRED UPTON for recruiting me to help cosponsor this bill with him, and I give my thanks to all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together on finding cures from the lab into the clinics for so many diseases that we don't have any treatments for right now. This really is an extraordinary effort that we have made, and it really is Congress at its best.

I do want to mention that I was disappointed when, after the bill passed in the Energy and Commerce Committee 51-0, that in the manager's amendment the annual riders from the Labor-HHS bill were put into the bill. I think it is unnecessary, and I think that it distracts our attention from the important mission this bill brings.

I will be voting for the Lee amendment, but I would urge all of our colleagues, no matter how you vote on the amendments that are made in order in these rules, to please vote "yes" for the patients of America.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

This past weekend, in an op-ed piece that was published online, Mr. James Pinkerton wrote:

As Abraham Lincoln said a century and a half ago, the Federal Government should only be doing things that people can't do for themselves.

Medical cures are a great example of something people can't do for themselves at home. That is what we are about this afternoon, providing the rule to allow for the consideration for the cure of the 21st century.

It is an important rule, and the underlying bill is important. I urge all

Members to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from the great State of Massachusetts for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is an emotional time for many of us. This is an important bill. But we have just gone through an emotional time on this floor, again, raising up the ugliness of the rebel flag.

I stand again to try and educate both the public and our colleagues about the damage that this flag has done to so many, for under that flag many were killed in the name of slavery.

Interestingly, this is the 150th year of the elimination of slavery. I think about health care, and I spoke last evening about lupus, sickle cell anemia, and triple-negative breast cancer all falling discriminantly on minority populations. In life, there are still issues that face you because you are different.

I call upon this House to recognize that, although we have many issues to debate, when you pierce the heart of someone because you believe he is inferior or different—when you want to coddle and protect the rebel flag—I hope we will get to the point between now and next week, as I introduce H. Res. 342 as a privileged resolution to ban all signs of hate, that we will rise to be unified together and stand under the American flag.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman from Texas has 8½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Massachusetts has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I ask of the gentleman from Massachusetts if he has additional speakers?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Just I.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. BURGESS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to speak about the importance of our acting now to do the right thing in regard to the Confederate flag.

Many of you may not know, but this year marks 100 years of the viewing and the premiere of the film that really sparked the re-emergence of the Confederate flag, "The Birth of a Nation." We know that film was bigger than "Star Wars" and "Jaws" and any major blockbuster motion picture.

That is what "The Birth of a Nation" was. It revived the Confederate flag. It made the Confederate flag the symbol of hate that it is today. It actually helped the re-emergence of the second Ku Klux Klan in this country. We know

that that is what the Confederate flag ultimately stands for.

It doesn't have anything to do with the Civil War and with the battle, like Mr. CLYBURN had pointed out earlier, because that was a completely different flag. It has to do with segregation and keeping us in the past.

We need to be able to move past it, Mr. Speaker. I would ask that my Republican colleagues do the right thing and join us in moving forward and in letting the past be the past.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the author of the Cures legislation.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we launched this bipartisan effort about a year and a half ago, and with tomorrow's House vote, we mark a very important milestone in our quest for 21st century cures, one step closer to the finish line.

There have been so many individuals throughout our 18-month journey who have helped us get to where we are today: patients across the country, advocates, researchers, innovators, experts, academics, regulators, some of the Nation's brightest minds, even Nobel Prize winners. To all, we say thank you.

Thank you, too, to the hard-working staff, again, on both sides of the aisle, who took the meetings, who did the research, who drafted the language, and who sat at the negotiating table for countless hours to help us develop this incredible product: Gary, Joan, Alexa, Clay, Paul, Josh, Robert, John, Carly, Katie, Adrianna, Graham, Sean, Noelle, Macey, Mark, Tom, Bits, Marty, Tim, Jeff, and Tiffany.

And to the Democratic staff, the staff of our Members, thank you all.

Thanks to the House legislative counsel and the CBO for your efforts and dedication in working through many, many weekends.

Thank you to the Members of both parties, who really did bring their best ideas, who partnered with one another to make their cases, and who delivered so many of the policies that we welcome today because we listened.

I also want to thank Chairman HAL ROGERS and his staff. The Appropriations Committee has been a critical partner in this effort for the last number of months, working with us and developing the right approach to achieve our shared goal of helping patients in a fiscally responsible way.

I especially want to highlight my partner, DIANA DEGETTE, in her effort from day one. She came to my district in Michigan, and I have traveled to Colorado. We have been on a number of road trips for Cures across the country, and I look forward to the next journey down Pennsylvania Avenue.

I also want to thank Chairman PITTS, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. GREEN for their really strong partnership. We have made great strides, but our work continues, and we are not going to stop until the ink is dry.

I thank Chairman PETE SESSIONS, Dr. BURGESS, and members of the Rules Committee for making sure that this legislation has gotten to the floor in a timely fashion.

I also want to give a hearty thanks to a young boy named Max, the 6-year-old ambassador for Cures. Yes, although he is faced with the challenges of Noonan syndrome, he has been a little warrior in that effort.

He joined us when we had a 51-0 vote back on May 21 in the committee, and I am delighted that Max will be by our side tomorrow on the House floor for its final passage.

Helping Max and others like him is why we are here, and helping my friends Brooke and Brielle, which will be part of my general debate discussion, is why we are here.

With a resounding vote tomorrow, we will send a signal to the Senate loud and clear that the time for Cures 2015 is now.

I look forward to working with my Senate counterparts on both sides of the aisle to continue the momentum of getting this bill to the President's desk. We have a chance to do something big, and this is our time.

□ 1515

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, the 21st Century Cures bill is a good bill. I want to thank Mr. UPTON and Ms. DEGETTE for working in a bipartisan way to come up with this product. It invests in NIH. It invests in lifesaving medical research. It makes it more possible that we will find cures to diseases like cancers and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, diabetes, HIV, and so many other terrible diseases that afflict so many of our fellow citizens.

This is important stuff. Who knows, maybe we will even find a cure to the disease that resulted in so many in this House voting for the destructive sequestration initiative that, by the way, cut medical research and put off the day of some of these lifesaving cures. We need to do better than this, but this is an important start, an important step in the right direction, and I hope that my colleagues in a bipartisan way will support it.

Secondly, as I mentioned before, I want to urge my colleagues to vote against the previous question.

I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment I would offer in the RECORD if we defeat the previous question, Mr. Speaker.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. If we defeat the previous question, we will bring up again the Pelosi resolution that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle chose not to debate. The reason why this is important, the reason why we should do this is very simple: because it is the right thing to do. Every once

in awhile we ought to come together in this Chamber and do the right thing. The Confederate flag is a symbol of hate; it is a symbol of division; it is a symbol of so many things that we all abhor. The time has come to follow some of the other States in this country and here in Congress do something the American people can be proud of.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question. Vote "no" on the rule because it is restrictive.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous bill that will be before us today. This is analogous to the time back in the 1970s when the National Cancer Institute was authorized by Congress in the Nixon administration. This is an opportunity to take that leap forward and perhaps deliver some of those cures that so many of our constituents have waited for so long.

Mr. Speaker, we all value institutions and institutional knowledge and institutional learning, but, Mr. Speaker, we also acknowledge that there are times when we have got to be disruptive. There are times that you have to forget the past and move into the future, and this is one of those times. We are all familiar with the fact that, yeah, the neighborhood bookstore may be gone, but we can order stuff online from Amazon.

Disruptive technology is as important in medicine as it is anywhere else. This bill is paid for. This bill is offset. It sunsets in 5 years' time. But, as I was reminded by my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland, Dr. ANDY HARRIS, a few days ago, while this bill is offset, while we are paying as we go for the increases for the National Institutes of Health and the FDA, what if—what if—one of those moonshots succeeds?

In May of 2012, Glen Campbell came and played a concert at the Library of Congress. This is him and his daughter Ashley. They were on the stage. Glen Campbell went public with the knowledge that he has Alzheimer's disease. He struggled at several points during that concert. It was, in fact, amazing to watch him play his instrument. At times he couldn't remember the words to the song, and Ashley would help him.

This is a shot where they did "Dueling Banjos"—very, very accomplished and skilled instrumental work that they both did on their instruments that they were playing. What if? What if we were to deliver that moonshot and provide that cure that would have prevented Glen Campbell from falling into the recesses of Alzheimer's illness? What if that cure were within our grasp? What is worse is what if that cure is on a shelf or in a test tube somewhere and we just haven't quite gotten around to its evaluation? This is important stuff.

Glen Campbell narrated the soundtrack of my life as I was growing up,

from Delight, Arkansas, a gentleman of our generation who was so important to so many of us as we were growing up, and he shared with us there on the stage his story and his daughter's story. You can see his daughter Ashley looking at her dad. If we could preserve her ability to smile at her dad for a little longer, wouldn't that be worth some of the fighting that we do here?

This bill is offset. This bill is paid for.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for consideration of this critical bill, a bill that will transform and advance the discovery, development, and delivery of treatments and cures.

I applaud all Members who have worked on this thoughtful piece of legislation, along with Energy and Commerce staff on both sides of the aisle. All members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce were asked to bring their ideas to the table, and we worked to include as many as we possibly could.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all the great attorneys at the Legislative Counsel who worked around the clock to deliver us the legislative language. I want to thank Chairman UPTON, Representative DEGETTE, as well as Chairman PITTS and Ranking Members PALLONE and GREEN for their leadership throughout.

I want to thank all of the staff who have worked so hard over the past year; really, literally, all hands were on deck. There is not one staffer of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce that does not have their fingerprints all over this bill. I certainly want to thank J.P. Paluskiewicz, Danielle Steele, and Lauren Fleming from my office, who have put in that additional effort to help deliver this product.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation in front of us today. We do, unfortunately, have a lot of distractions, but let us not be distracted from providing the tools for the next generation of doctors, a generation that will have more ability to alleviate human suffering than any generation of doctors has ever known because of our actions here on the floor of the House today.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 350 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, it shall be in order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 355) raising a question of the privileges of the House if called up by Representative Pelosi of California or her designee. All points of order against the resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and the Majority Leader or his designee.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 355.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the *Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives*, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In *Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives*, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question on the resolution.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 question will be postponed.

RESILIENT FEDERAL FORESTS ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 2647.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 347 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. 2647.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1524

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. 2647) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING 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.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support and as an original cosponsor of

H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015.

Since the inception of the National Forest System in 1905, the fundamental mission of the Forest Service has been to manage our Federal forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. As a result, the Forest Service has played a critical role in rural America, partnering to produce timber, natural resources, and jobs, while sustaining the ecological health of the forests and surrounding watersheds.

National forests have been extremely successful in creating recreational and educational opportunities for millions of Americans. However, our forests are facing declining health and simply are not managed as well as they need to be due to numerous challenges that have grown over the past few decades.

Often unnecessary and prolonged planning processes limit the Service from effectively managing our forests. This also goes along with the constant litigation, or even the threat of litigation in some cases. Both of these situations keep boots in the office instead of in the forests and spend money on doing paperwork instead of work in the field.

The costs of suppressing and fighting wildfires has been a growing challenge for the Forest Service, with their fire costs increasing from 13 percent of the Forest Service budget in 1995 to approximately half of the annual budget today. This epidemic of declining health and catastrophic wildfires are in direct correlation to policies that have led to a dramatic decrease in managed acres. Timber harvests have drastically plummeted from almost 13 billion board feet in the late 1980s to only 3 billion board feet of timber in recent years. At the same time, the number of acres affected by the catastrophic wildfires has doubled from around 3 million acres during the second record timber harvest to 6 million acres now.

This bill reverses this cycle by ending the destructive fire borrowing problem that robs Peter to pay Paul, and it does so in a fiscally responsible manner, with the funds only made available for wildfire suppression. In my view, this legislation is the next step to build upon the groundwork laid by the 2014 farm bill and is an earnest attempt to give the Forest Service more authority and much-needed flexibility to deal with these challenges of process, funding, litigation, necessary timber harvesting, and much-needed management.

H.R. 2647 incentivizes and rewards collaborations with the private sector on management activities. It allows for State and third-party funding of projects. The bill reauthorizes the resource advisory committees, known as RACs, while returning county shares of forest receipts for long-term stewardship projects.

Perhaps most importantly, the bill provides commonsense categorical exclusions, or CEs, for certain Forest

Service projects. These CEs are routine and have known impacts and will expedite the planning process to get projects up and running.

To conclude, this is a thoughtful piece of legislation that will do much to help the Forest Service to better do its job. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation that will address some of the burdensome regulations that have arisen from legal challenges and help get our forests actively managed the way we need.

For some time now we have been concerned about efforts undertaken by extreme environmental groups to twist laws to their liking. The so-called sue and settle strategy has led to policy changes decided by activists and bureaucrats. These policy changes often ignore congressional intent and fail to take into account constituent input and real facts on the ground. Additionally, this means a less transparent and less accountable regulatory process. H.R. 2647 will simplify forest management activities, thereby reducing some of this bad behavior.

The bill also includes an important budgetary fix to help address the rising cost of wildfires. Just this year, the wildfires have burned hundreds of thousands of acres and caused millions of dollars of damage.

□ 1530

H.R. 2647 will allow access for our land management agencies to the resources they need to fight wildfires without having to rob their other accounts. The current practice of fire borrowing leads to taking away resources from productively managing our forests to keep them healthy and less prone to fire. This bill would end this practice and ensure that agencies have access to the needed resources to fight wildfire disasters all year.

Again, this is much-needed, bipartisan legislation that addresses many of the issues currently impacting forest management. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2647, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM).

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) for introducing this bill and recognize the hard work done by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees to bring this important bill to the floor.

For too long, failure to properly manage our national forests had led to increased tree mortality from wildfires, droughts, insects, and disease. The Resilient Federal Forests Act gives the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management the tools needed to reverse this trend.

This bill will allow critical forest health projects to move forward by streamlining regulations, will give parishes and counties greater flexibility in how they use forestry revenues, and will ensure Federal agencies have increased access to fund in order to fight and prevent wildfires.

These reforms will put more Americans to work through increased management activities and timber production. It will give money back to our local community for infrastructure and education and will make our forested communities safer by reducing their vulnerability to wildfires.

In my home State of Louisiana, the Kisatchie National Forest covers 604,000 acres, with 382,500 of those acres in my district alone. In all, forestry and the forest products industries accounts for well over 18,000 jobs and over \$1 billion of income in my district.

The people of Louisiana know how valuable well-managed forests are to the health of our State and our economy. I would imagine forested communities throughout the country know this as well.

It is time we start being proactive instead of reactive when it comes to managing our national forests. The Resilient Federal Forests Act will put us back on track to realize the full potential of our forest resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PETERSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), a member of the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015.

I represent northern Michigan, which has over 20 million acres of Federal, State, and private forest land. Our forests are a vital part of the economy in northern Michigan that generate over \$16.3 billion per year and creates more than 77,000 jobs. In addition to forestry, the outdoor recreation industry also contributes \$18 billion to Michigan's economy and over 190,000 jobs to our State.

Healthy forests are vital to our way of life in northern Michigan. Like most in my district, I grew up exploring these forests, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling. It is a way of life for so many, not only for those who live up north, but for the millions who visit the forests every year from all around the country.

Sadly, many of our Federal forests are in a state of disrepair these days; they are overgrown, and especially in the Western United States, they are consumed by wildfire.

The Forest Service, which is entrusted with managing 10 percent of the continental United States land base, has identified approximately 58 million acres as being at high risk for

catastrophic fire. Even worse, by conservative estimates, over 56 billion board feet of timber have simply burned away in wildfires on Forest Service lands over the last 10 years.

Over the past 10 years, over a billion dollars of timber rotted on the stump instead of being sold. Those revenues aren't available to the U.S. Treasury. The Forest Service couldn't use the funds to buy seedlings to replant our devastated national forests. We are literally allowing jobs for American families to burn away in our poorly managed Federal lands. Nothing about the current process is working.

H.R. 2647 takes some very simple steps to allow our forests to become healthier and better managed for the future. This bill would streamline timber harvesting on Federal forests in existing land use plans, while reducing the threat of frivolous lawsuits related to forest management.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOMACK). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BENISHEK. In addition, this legislation would allow States and Federal forests to react faster to catastrophic wildfire events, thereby reducing the future risk to public lands.

Finally, this legislation includes a number of collaborative processes for tribal, State, and private contracting, which will lead to healthier and better managed forests.

I understand that many of my friends here today may live in areas with a few forests or low risk of wildfire. I ask all my colleagues here today, especially those not in heavily forested areas, to listen to your friends from forested districts.

Support this bipartisan, common-sense legislation and help improve the health of our forests.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1735) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," agrees to a conference requested by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members to be the conferees on the part of the Senate: Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. REED (RI), Mr. NELSON, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KAINE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

RESILIENT FEDERAL FORESTS ACT OF 2015

The Committee resumed its sitting.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. I want to thank the chairmen—Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. BISHOP—for their leadership on this issue.

I stand here today in support of creating more jobs and improving the health of our Nation's forests through sustainable forest management.

H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, is a bipartisan bill that will address the growing economic and environmental threats to the catastrophic wildfires. This piece of legislation is hugely important for my district and the entire southeastern region of the United States.

Florida is home to a multitude of national forests, including the Apalachicola, Osceola, and Ocala, which span more than 1.2 million acres in north central Florida. These forests supply over 10,000 acres per year for timber production, creating jobs, lumber products, pellet mills for green energy, and paper products.

This land also allows for recreational activities like equestrian and motorcycle trails and hunting and fishing. In addition, they produce roughly 600 billion gallons of fresh water, and that is all in my home State.

Due to a lack of proper forest management, the risk of catastrophic wildfires has increased dramatically. These emergencies draw critical funding away from the Bureau of Land Management accounts intended to prevent wildfires, thus creating a chronic problem that is only getting worse.

This bill ends that inefficiency by allowing FEMA to transfer funds to the Forest Service when these disasters occur, ensuring activities like prescribed burns and other management techniques are adequately funded.

This bill improves management practices, helps prevent wildfires, and should be supported by every Member in this Chamber.

Again, I commend Chairmen CONAWAY, THOMPSON, and BISHOP.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA), chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chairman, first, let me thank the chairmen of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committees for working with our committee on title IX of the bill.

Title IX authorizes the President to declare a major disaster for wildfires on Federal lands and provide assistance to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture for extraordinary wildfire suppression costs in excess of the 10-year average. These provisions protect FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund and preserve FEMA's wildfire assistance that is currently available to State, local, and tribal governments through the Stafford Act.

Because this provision was not included in the reported bill, a legislative history document has been developed to articulate the congressional intent for title IX, as well as how it is expected to be implemented.

Mr. Chairman, I will insert this legislative history document into the RECORD.

(Chairman Bill Shuster, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, July 9, 2015)

H.R. 2647: RESILIENT FEDERAL FORESTS ACT OF 2015, TITLE IX—MAJOR DISASTER FOR WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LAND

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Definition of "Major Disaster": By bifurcating the definition of "Major Disaster" in the Stafford Act, the Committee preserves the existing definition, and the programs that flow therefrom, and adds an additional definition for "Major Disaster for Wildfire on Federal Land," for which a separate and distinct declaration, process and assistance have been established pursuant to the new Title VIII of the Stafford Act. "Major Disaster for Wildfire on Federal Land" meets the definition "disaster relief" pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Request for Declaration of a Major Disaster for Wildfire on Federal Land: There are four distinct requirements that must be met before the President may issue a declaration for a major disaster for wildfire on federal land.

(1) Each request must be made in writing by the Secretary making the request on behalf of that Department.

(2) The requesting Secretary must certify that in that current fiscal year, the Department's wildfire suppression operations account received no less than an amount equal to the 10-year average. This amount cannot include any carry over from previous years and must include any rescissions or reductions. Also, future 10-year averages must take into account the total amount expended on wildfire suppression, including appropriations and assistance provided under Title VIII of the Stafford Act.

(3) The requesting Secretary must certify that all funds available for wildfire suppression operations will be obligated within 30 days and there are wildfires on federal lands continuing to burn that will require firefighting beyond the resources currently available.

(4) The requesting Secretary must request a specific amount which is the estimate of funds needed to address the current wildfires on federal lands.

The Committee does not intend for the respective Secretary to have to make a request for each fire they anticipate will exceed the wildfire suppression operations appropriations. As the definition for "Major Disaster for Wildfire on Federal Lands" includes "wildfire or wildfires", it is intended that the respective Secretary's request will include all known fires that will require extraordinary resources beyond those remain-

ing in the wildfire suppression operations account of that specific federal land management agency. Each Secretary will make a request for the resources required by that particular department.

Assistance Available for a Major Disaster for Wildfire on Federal Land: The only assistance available for a declaration of a major disaster for wildfire on federal land is the transfer of available funds from a new account established for these purposes to the requesting Secretary in the amount requested.

The Committee intends for the funds appropriated into the new account established by the President for major disaster for wildfire on federal land assistance will be designated by Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The declaration and assistance available for a major disaster for wildfire on federal lands are based on the existing major disaster declaration process delegated by the President to be administered by the FEMA Administrator. The Committee expects the process for a major disaster for wildfire on federal land will be managed in a similar manner through a delegation of the President's authority to the FEMA Administrator. Further, the Committee expects that the account established by the President for a major disaster for wildfire on federal land will be a dedicated sub-account of FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. However, pursuant to the legislative language, none of these funds can be commingled or transferred between these accounts.

Once assistance is transferred to the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, it is not required that the assistance be used only for those wildfires identified in the request. The assistance may be used for wildfires that begin after the declaration or were not identified in the request. Funds transferred may be used for all wildfire suppression operations eligible activities. The Committee anticipates these will be no year funds, available until exhausted.

It is entirely foreseeable that a wildfire that begins on or severely impacts federal lands requiring assistance under Title VIII of the Stafford Act could continue to grow, impacting state, local, tribal governments and certain non-profit properties and infrastructure. The provision of assistance under Title VIII of the Stafford Act in no way impacts the ability of state, local and tribal governments and certain non-profits to apply for assistance under FEMA's other disaster programs, if eligible, including the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, an emergency declaration, or a traditional major disaster declaration.

Prohibition on Transfers: No longer can the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture borrow from non-fire suppression accounts to fund the extraordinary needs of wildfire suppression operations.

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Section 901. Wildfire on Federal Lands: This section defines a major disaster for wildfire on federal lands.

Section 902. Declaration of a Major Disaster for Wildfire on Federal Lands: This section establishes the procedure for requesting a declaration of a major disaster for wildfire on federal lands and provides for assistance.

Section 903. Prohibition on Transfers: This section prohibits the transfer of funds between wildfire suppression accounts and other accounts not used to cover the cost of wildfire suppression operations.

Mr. BARLETTA. After watching the floodwaters of Hurricane Irene and

Tropical Storm Lee destroy the homes and upset the lives of my constituents, my first priority has been to protect the programs that come to their aid, namely the disaster relief fund.

This is a program that helps families get back into their homes, businesses reopen their doors, and local municipalities clear the streets so that our communities can recover when the next big storm strikes.

I have seen the disaster relief fund provide assistance when it is needed most. Our constituents rely on Federal disaster assistance. It should not be jeopardized under any circumstances.

Again, let me thank Chairman BISHOP and Chairman CONAWAY for working with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, can I inquire as to how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) has 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding me this time.

This bill, Mr. Chairman, will streamline the Forest Service planning, allowing for more forest thinning, reducing wildfire damage, and creating much stronger Federal forests. More national forest thinning means fewer forest fires.

I served for 22 years on the Natural Resources Committee. Several years ago, I was told that there were 6 billion board feet of dead and dying trees in the national forests; yet we were cutting less than 3 billion board feet a year. This was leading to a tremendous buildup of fuel on the floor of these forests, leading to millions more acres being burned because we weren't cutting enough trees.

In the late eighties, we were harvesting 10 to 11 billion board feet a year. We had 3 to 6 million acres lost to forest fires each year at that time. Now, we are harvesting a little over 1 billion board feet a year, and the acreage lost to forest fires has gone way up: 10 million acres lost in 2006, 9 million in 2011, and on and on and on. It is a shame.

Allowing this renewable resource to be used, everything made with wood—houses, all types of wood products, everything else made from wood—would be cheaper. This would help lower-income people most of all.

If we allow more trees to be cut, thousands of jobs could be created not just for loggers, but also in construction and in businesses making wood products. This also would help lower-income people most of all.

We shouldn't just let these forests burn. We should use them to help people. If you want more forest fires, vote against this bill, but if you want to help preserve our national forests and make them healthier and help the economy in the process, then you should vote for this bill.

This is a very moderate response to what has become a big and fast growing problem. We should not give in to extremists and oppose this bill. This is good legislation, and I commend Chairman PETERSON, Chairman CONAWAY, and Chairman THOMPSON for bringing this very intelligent, sensible legislation to the floor.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER).

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to clear up some misconceptions about H.R. 2467 and take a little time to tell you what this bill really is and what it is not.

Contrary to a statement put out by the President and some of my colleagues on my side of the aisle, this is not a complete abrogation of environmental protections or NEPA process on our Federal lands.

This is a streamlined process for a very, very small portion of Federal forest land subject to catastrophic natural disasters and already subject to expensive collaborative, resource advisory committee, or wildfire protection plans—a very narrow subset of our Federal forests.

For the folks back East, I would like to remind them that, out West, forest land occupies a great chunk of our States.

□ 1545

Over half of my State of Oregon is Federal forestland. Most of that is managed by the Forest Service or the BLM.

Three-fourths of my State is distinctly rural, little access to this postrecession recovery. Frankly, indeed, these guys were in a recovery for the last 20, 30 years, when timber harvesting came to a screaming halt under our so-called forest plans. Their recovery, their prosperity, is irrevocably entwined with smarter, healthier forest policy that promotes resiliency, which this bill does, and sustainability, which this bill does.

This bill is narrowly crafted to build upon the growing trust, hopefully, between old environmental and timber adversaries by showing what can be done with good forest policy in a collaborative framework on our Federal forestlands.

Currently, dead, diseased, wildfire-subjected Federal forestland contributes millions of tons of carbon annually to our atmosphere. Rotting trees are carbon polluters. Burning forests are carbon polluters.

Our forests need to be cleaned up and made healthy again. If you care at all about climate change or the health of our Federal forests or, hopefully, the

health of rural communities around America, you should be for this narrowly crafted bill to collaboratively build a sustainable forest policy.

I would like to reiterate that this bill only pertains to a narrow set of projects and lands, including areas affected by or likely to be affected by these natural disasters.

This only deals with lands subject to collaborative processes or under these federally sanctioned resource advisory committees already in place or covered by community wildfire protection plans. In other words, these are areas that already have had extensive proactive management discussions on these lands with community partners across the environmental and timber resource spectrum. This is exactly where a streamlined NEPA process should be placed.

Contrary to information you have received, this is not eliminating environmental impact statements. It does permit a small exclusion of 5,000 to 15,000 acres for a narrow type of project.

The Forest Service is currently spending hundreds of millions of dollars on NEPA compliance, the single biggest factor in limiting the amount of work the agency can get done on the ground.

It also has an innovative approach to restoring forests after a wildfire. No permanent roads are allowed to be built, current stream buffers stay in place unless the regional forester has a compelling reason to change them, and reforestation is required with an eye to creating more successional habitat, something our environmental community has wanted for a long time.

You can't accelerate the process here. Where are you going to do it? Didn't we accelerate the process a little after Sandy or Katrina?

You know, some of our colleagues, some of my citizens, several of my constituents out west are feeling that there is a lack of fairness in our disaster policy.

It is common practice for radical groups to file a litany of alleged grievances on any forest project that is suggested, mostly just to drag out the process and delay good forest policy they disagree with, at great taxpayer expense. Most of these claims are purely procedural.

We must reform this legal gotcha game by forcing these groups to focus on legitimate, substantive claims of impropriety that they feel they can win on. That is fair, and that is what this bonding proposal actually does.

Folks, for people in rural Oregon and rural America, they are being left behind. The timber economy was the major economy for these forested regions for decades. They are not seeing large companies, high-tech manufacturing moving into their remote areas. These are communities that have depended on our renewable natural resources for their livelihood.

Our forests are a catastrophe waiting to happen. They are much less diverse

than they used to be. This drought is about the worst it has been out west in a long, long time. Our forests are tinderboxes waiting to burst aflame.

Let's begin to work collaboratively. Give local communities the tools they need and have to deal with and prevent these catastrophes, frankly, learn how to work together again to build healthier forests and healthier rural communities.

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

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe I have any additional speakers. I could yield time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania if he wishes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I have some additional speakers. That would be appreciated.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania to finish out.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota yields the balance of his time, which is 8 minutes, to the gentleman from Pennsylvania to control.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the ranking member for his generosity and his leadership on the important issue of agriculture, and certainly on this bill as well.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your work on this critical legislation.

The Resilient Federal Forest Act is key if the Forest Service is to have the flexibility it needs to actively manage our Nation's Federal timberland.

Now, I come from a State where forestry is critically important to our economy and our ecosystem. In fact, forestry is a \$13 billion industry in Alabama. Thankfully, my State does not have a serious issue with wildfires due to our active forest management. That said, it does not mean that my area isn't impacted by the wildfire crisis.

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are forced to spend so much money fighting wildfires that they have to take money away from other nonfire accounts that, ironically, help prevent wildfires, like thinning and controlled burns.

Mr. Chairman, this bill just makes sense. By simplifying the environmental process requirements and reducing burdensome regulations that hinder active forest management on Federal timberland, we can help reduce wildfires and protect our Nation's forests.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas and others for their work on this bill and the continued leadership on behalf of our Nation's foresters.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues in this House to support this legislation, and I call on the Senate to act on this bill right away.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), an Eagle Scout.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the members of the committee on both sides, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, for their great work on this legislation. This is really, really important.

My colleague from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER) spoke eloquently about what our State faces and our rural communities face, and that is why this Resilient Federal Forests Act is so important to beginning to be a game changer, to getting us back into active management of our Federal forestlands, to reducing the threat of wildfire, the cost of wildfire, the destruction of wildfire, and the incredible pollution from wildfire.

As we speak here today on the House floor, brave firefighters are still trying to contain the Corner Creek fire, which has already burned nearly 29,000 acres of forestland near Dayville, Oregon, in my district—29,000 acres already burned. And unfortunately, this fire season in the West has only just begun.

Among the many strong provisions in this bill are streamlining planning, reducing frivolous lawsuits, and speeding up the pace of forest management. Several in particular are helpful to our great State of Oregon.

For national forests in eastern Oregon, this legislation repeals the prohibition on harvesting trees over 21 inches in diameter. Now, there is no real ecological reason for this. It was a temporary measure put in place 20-some years ago, nearly. It remains today. It didn't make sense then, it doesn't make sense now, and it will be repealed.

This flawed one-size-fits-all rule illustrates, I think, just how broken the Federal forest management has become. So it greatly limits the flexibility forest managers have to do what is right for the health and ecosystem of the forests to make them more resilient, more fire tolerant.

This bill also includes legislation I wrote with my colleagues from Oregon, Representatives DeFazio and KURT SCHRADER, pertaining to Oregon's unique O&C Lands. It will cut costs, increase timber harvests and revenue to local counties.

The BLM is also directed to revise their flawed management plan proposals to consider the clear statutory mandate to manage these lands for sustainable timber production and revenue to the counties.

Finally, one look at the fires around the West makes clear that the status quo simply is not working for our forests, for our communities, or for the environment. We need to do better. This Resilient Federal Forests Act will do that. It will bring better and healthier forests and healthier communities.

I thank the committee for taking up this good piece of legislation and encourage my colleagues to approve it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Chairman, as a fifth generation Montanan, I grew up in timber country. Our mills and train yards were in full swing, and visitors from around the world flocked to see Glacier Park. Revenues from the timber industry were reinvested in the community, and conservation efforts of the Forest Service helped our timber harvest.

Building a strong tourist economy and a strong timber economy are not mutually exclusive. That is why I support—strongly support—the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015. It does what it should do. It encourages local organizations to work together on collaborative projects that revitalize the economy. But not only that, it revitalizes our forests.

Think about it. As we debate this bill today, there are two wildfires in my home State of Montana, just a few miles from where I grew up. And as of today, more than 3.9 million acres across our Nation have burned in wildfires this year alone. That is larger than the entire State of Connecticut.

We are on track for more than double, if conditions don't improve. Just last week, the Forest Service, whom I visited, said we are in the perfect storm. In the words of the former Chief of the Forest Service, Chief Bosworth, we don't have a fire problem as much as we have a land management problem. That is why this bill is so important.

Last week, when traveling across my district, I toured the site of the Glacier Rim fire. This fire is burning the same ground that burned in 2003. I was told by people on the ground that the reason why this fire is burning is the Forest Service was not able to conduct a salvage operation for fear of lawsuits, among other reasons, and those lawsuits left standing timber which cannot be addressed by crews, which only can be addressed by helicopters, and that is a \$1 million project. And habitat, it is a member, a part of the core grizzly habitat. It has not burned once; it has burned twice in 15 years.

So we need more scientists in the woods and less lawyers, and I urge my colleagues to join me in a bipartisan effort to support this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI).

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleagues from Pennsylvania and Utah and their committee work on this.

Management reduces catastrophic wildfire. In the high desert rangelands of Nevada, as well as the conifer forests of such mountain ranges as the Sierra Nevada around Lake Tahoe, the Ruby Mountains around Elko, or the Toiyabes around Austin, Nevada, we have a 100-year resource there. Once it burns, it is 100 years before it comes back by the time you take into account those moisture regimens and everything affiliated with that. And then

when you have years-long processes after it burns to get permission just to go after that, this is great legislation.

I want to thank my colleague from the Razorback State for his work on it and the other folks that have helped him.

One of the reasons that this is so important to our State is, in the last 20 years, just on BLM land, we have burned between 6 and 7 million acres. And guess what. We are dealing with a thing called the sage-grouse listing, where they talk about loss and fragmentation of habitat. It is nobody's fault, mostly lightning-caused fires 40 miles from the end of the nearest dirt road—6 or 7 million acres to catastrophic wildland fire.

More management, more restoration, thinning of fuels, and also the ability to recognize that the funding for this is something that needs to be a FEMA-related thing rather than just through the normal budget process are all great ideas.

I want to thank my colleagues for their help. On behalf of the people of the Silver State, thank you very much.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all my colleagues, Ranking Member PETERSON, who all spoke on this very important bill.

H.R. 2647 is a commonsense, bipartisan solution to start fixing a broken system.

Right now, miles of red tape and constant litigation, usually from groups that refuse to come to the table, are preventing our forests from receiving the active management they desperately need. This leads to more catastrophic wildfires and more money diverted from other priorities to fight fires.

This legislation will aid in reversing this cycle. It gives the agencies more flexibility to manage our Federal lands, which protects wildlife habitat and surrounding watersheds, spurs growth in the rural economy, and saves time and saves money.

I want to thank Mr. WESTERMAN for his leadership on this, Chairman CONAWAY, Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member PETERSON.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1600

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity of being here, talking about this significant bill that is going to increase and improve our status quo.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), to begin our portion of this debate, who is the chief sponsor of this particular bill, who has a personal background, actually, having earned a degree in forestry even from the State of Arkansas.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act. This bi-

partisan legislation will give the Forest Service tools it needs to better manage our national forests.

As a professional forester, I see that our forests are in decline and lack resiliency.

President Teddy Roosevelt, who worked alongside a fellow Yale forester, Gifford Pinchot, to create the U.S. Forest Service, are the two I would credit as the fathers of our national forest.

Roosevelt said, "The Nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value."

We have problems with our current forest policy that is leaving one of our most treasured natural resources less resilient, decreased, and impaired in value.

It is not only our forests that suffer. Without forests that are healthy, we have poor water quality, poor air quality, less wildlife habitat, less biodiversity. My bill aims to fix these problems, and it aims to fix them through proactive and sound management.

First, our forests are living and dynamic, but we have a problem of delayed decisionmaking or, even worse, no decisionmaking at all. This bill incentivizes collaboration and speeds up the implementation of collaborative projects while safeguarding strong and timely environmental reviews.

We have a problem of not salvaging timber destroyed in catastrophic events, which makes the forest more dangerous, increases future wildfire problems, and makes it difficult for reforestation. This bill sets up requirements for salvage and reforestation. The Forest Service would have to implement greater reforestation in response to catastrophic events.

Typically, less than 3 percent of an area is reforested after a catastrophic event. This is unacceptable. My bill requires 75 percent reforestation within 5 years.

We have a problem in our rural communities that not only depend on our forests for their sustenance, but also provide emergency services, education, and support for the forests and residents who live near the forest.

As our forests are decreased and impaired in value, our forest communities immediately suffer and suffer even more in the future.

My bill gives counties flexibility in spending Secure Rural Schools funding and puts 25 percent of stewardship contracts into the county treasury for our schools and other public services.

There are other policy problems this legislation solves, but none are more important than problems caused by having to spend too much of our Forest Service budget for reactive fire suppression rather than on proactive sound management and fire prevention.

This bill ends the destructive practice of fire borrowing in a fiscally responsible manner. It creates a sub-account under the Stafford Act specifically for fighting wildfire.

I would like to thank Chairmen BISHOP, CONAWAY, and SHUSTER for their assistance with this critical bipartisan bill. Our national forests desperately need scientific management to become resilient again.

In the words of Roosevelt, I call on us to behave well, to treat our forest resources as assets that we will turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value.

I look forward to advancing this bill today and call on the Senate to act promptly to ease the burdens of the summer fire season.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Massachusetts is recognized for 15 minutes.

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

Our national forests are a public good that are tasked to provide multiple benefits to the American people. These include clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, open space, as well as robust recreation and timber economies that provide jobs and partner with Federal land managers to improve forest health.

Everyone agrees that we must increase the pace of restoration work to limit the impacts of catastrophic wildfires and to improve the long-term health of our forests.

H.R. 2647 does contain some new thinking and potentially useful concepts that, if done right, could help the Forest Service achieve its long-term goal of healthy, sustainable forests.

For example, the bill provides incentives for collaboration, which has been identified as a priority by witnesses from both sides of the aisle.

It also proposes some creative ways to finance forest restoration projects developed through collaboration.

H.R. 2647 also offers a potential solution to the devastating impact of fire borrowing, the practice of transferring funds away from forest restoration projects for use in fighting wildfires.

Throughout the debate over forest policy and this particular bill, Democrats, including myself, have urged the majority to deal with how we pay for the largest and most catastrophic wildfires, which represent only 1 percent of wildfires, but consume 30 percent of the entire agency's firefighting budget.

I am glad that the majority acknowledges the urgent need to address the fact that over 50 percent of the Forest Service budget goes to fighting wildfires, squeezing out funds needed for all other critical Forest Service programs, most especially those that focus on forest health.

However, these helpful provisions do not offset the many serious concerns that I still have with this legislation, which was developed without any input from Natural Resources Committee Democrats.

In fact, when the Federal Lands Subcommittee held its hearing, the bill was still in draft form. This process even left the Forest Service without

the opportunity to provide adequate or meaningful testimony.

Instead of working together on a bipartisan basis to improve the health of our national forests, about which we all care, this bill irresponsibly chips away at the environmental safeguards of the National Environmental Policy Act and places tremendous burdens on American citizens seeking to participate in the public review process of Forest Service projects.

For example, H.R. 2647 would “categorically exclude” or exempt a wide range of timber and restoration projects from critical environmental analysis and public review. This means that thousands of acres of sensitive ecosystems would be much more vulnerable to degradation and damage.

The changes to the judicial review process raise serious constitutional concerns, eroding some of the bedrock principles of the American legal system that protect the basic rights of citizens to participate in the Federal decisionmaking process and to hold their government accountable.

If this legislation were to become law, a citizen challenging a Federal decision would be required to post a bond equal to the government’s cost, expenses, and attorneys’ fees.

If plaintiffs lose, the government is paid out of that bond. But if plaintiffs win—and by win, I mean a court has to rule in favor of plaintiffs on all causes of action—plaintiffs simply have their bond returned and are precluded from getting an award of attorneys’ fees.

As our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee can attest, this provision flies directly in the face of American legal precedent.

Public lands, including our national forests, belong to all Americans. They are a public good. Bedrock environmental laws, like the National Environmental Policy Act, makes sure that the public voice is heard and that critical habitats are protected not only for species that rely on our national forests and grasslands, but also for American citizens who depend on these lands for their drinking water and economic livelihoods or simply to enjoy their treasured beauty.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I have been working on forest policy for my entire tenure in Congress. I have some of the most productive and fabulous forest lands in the entire Federal system, both Forest Service and BLM lands, under a unique O&C management.

But here we are again headed into a very, very potentially bad fire season, June record heat, no precipitation. We had very little snowpack last winter,

and the heavy fuels are already as dry as they get.

We have seen this before. The fires will break out. BLM and Forest Service can’t stop fighting the fires. So they will borrow from other accounts, including fuel reduction to protect forest values and communities, forest health, and a myriad of other programs.

This happens year after year after year. It is time to end that, and this bill takes that first step in ending that practice of fire borrowing.

And that is of tremendous benefit to the resource agencies, the resources themselves, and our preparedness and capability of fighting fires. That alone gives this bill tremendous merit.

It deals with some other long-standing issues in Oregon. We adopted something called temporary eastside screens back in 1993, I believe, saying you couldn’t cut any tree over 21 inches in diameter.

It makes no biological sense, and it makes no sense to the premier forest scientists in the world, Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson.

You have nonnative fir trees that are growing there, because of repression of fire for the last 100 years, that are 100 years old. They are over 21 inches.

But they are growing in stands of ponderosas that are 200 years old, and they are going to kill the ponderosa stands, the native trees.

But the Forest Service can’t go in and deal with that issue. With this legislation they finally can.

On our unique O&C lands, there is a provision of the Northwest Forest Plan called Survey and Manage, literally crawling around on the forest floor, looking for slugs, snails, calling for owls, and doing all these things 3 years in a row.

This, again, is not necessary, according to the premier scientists, and is incredibly expensive and time-consuming on the part of the Bureau of Land Management.

In fact, the Bureau of Land Management’s new plans—each plan, no matter what the output level, would do away with that practice. So this bill does away with that practice, saving the BLM resources and moving ahead with better management.

There are a number of other issues that relate to these O&C lands. I want to thank Chairman BISHOP and Chairman McCLINTOCK for working with myself, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. WALDEN in order to address these issues, extending the comment period, developing new management options.

BLM is refusing, despite the Oregon Delegation’s bipartisan request to extend the comment period on these critical management plans. So that itself is also great merit.

There are provisions in the bill that I don’t like and don’t support.

We will be given an opportunity with the Polis amendment to deal with the bonding issue and the cost recovery issue, which I don’t think belongs in this bill.

I have concerns about the magnitude of the CEs for fire recovery and salvage. But, on balance, the other parts of this bill are important to the point where the bill should receive support from people that care about the future of our forests.

Mr. Chair, I have been working on forestry issues for a long time—nearly 30 years. I represent a district with some of the most productive public timberlands in the entire world. I also represent a district that cares deeply—passionately—about the environment and our incredible national forests.

For 30 years I have been trying to find a middle ground on national forest policy—a balanced approach. I believe that having a healthy timber industry, good paying jobs in rural communities, and permanent protection for our nation’s most iconic resources—like old growth trees and pristine rivers—are not and should not be mutually exclusive.

Do I think the bill before the House today is a perfect bill? Absolutely not. But when you are working on a contentious, complex, and often emotional issue like national forest policy—there is no such thing as a “perfect bill.”

The truth is our national forests are burning up at an alarming rate. They are dying from disease and bugs. Our land management agencies don’t have the financial resources or tools to deal with existing threats let alone emerging threats, like climate change. The Federal Government spends billions of dollars every year to fight fires on public lands, rather than investing those dollars in forest health and resiliency to reduce wildfire risks.

Our rural and forested communities continue to suffer from double digit unemployment. Even the mills that have retrofitted to process small diameter logs are struggling to make it. And rural counties dependent on timber receipts are failing to keep violent criminals in jail, sheriff deputies on our roads, and kids and teachers in the classroom.

So, again, no. I don’t think this is a perfect bill. But, Congress needs to do something to change the status quo for our forests and rural communities. We need to have this conversation and work together to find middle ground.

WILDFIRE FUNDING

And there are some good provisions in this bill. One of the most important provisions attempts to end “fire borrowing”—a top priority of mine when I was Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee and a remaining priority of mine as Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that has jurisdiction over FEMA.

Right now, when federal land managers exhaust congressionally appropriated dollars to fight fires, the agencies have to borrow money from other accounts. Often times those accounts fund the very activities—like thinning overstocked plantations, reducing hazardous fuels, or completing work in the Wildland Urban Interface—that can actually help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires! That’s a terrible way to do business.

Catastrophic wildfires should be treated like other natural disasters and we should stop robbing Peter to pay Paul. The wildfire funding language in this bill—while not perfect—moves us in the right direction.

EASTSIDE SCREENS

This bill also includes provisions that will improve forest management in the Pacific Northwest. The bill would remove the unscientific

and arbitrary “Eastside Screens” that prohibit the Forest Service from cutting any tree in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington that is larger than 21 inches in diameter.

Supporters of the Eastside Screens forget that the 21 inch rule was intended to provide interim protection for larger, older trees until scientifically based standards for old growth were established. Well, guess what? After more than two decades those standards have still not been established, handcuffing the Forest Service from carrying out common sense forest projects.

Today, even if there is a non-native, 22-inch diameter Douglas fir tree that is outcompeting and putting at risk a native, 200 year-old stand of ponderosa pine, you can’t cut that fir. That would violate the Eastside Screens.

That doesn’t make any sense. Yes, we need protection for old growth forests and I was the first to pass permanent, legislative protection for old growth in Western Oregon out of the House last year. But, those protections should be scientific and implementable.

O&C LANDS

The same goes for standards established more than 20 years ago, known as Survey and Manage, that literally has land management personnel on their hands and knees on the forest floor looking for liverworts, fungi, slugs, snails, mosses, and 300 other types of flora and fauna before any forest activity can take place. I am all for robust analysis and considering the impacts of human activity on rare and special species. But we also need to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and aware of the consequences of over-analysis, lengthy delays, and not taking action.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) agrees with me. That’s why all of the Resource Management Plan alternatives for Western Oregon would eliminate Survey and Manage.

Unfortunately, the BLM still has some work to do on the Resource Management Plans for the statutorily unique O&C Lands. Despite requests from most of the Oregon Congressional Delegation to extend the public comment period to analyze thousands of pages of documentation for the alternatives, the BLM decided not to award an extension.

I want to thank Chairman BISHOP and Chairman MCCLINTOCK for working with me, Rep. WALDEN, and Rep. SCHRADER to include language that would direct the BLM to consider additional alternatives for the O&C Lands—ranging from a sustained yield alternative to a carbon storage alternative—and to extend the public comment period by 180 days. These Resource Management Plans will govern management on the O&C Lands for years to come—perhaps decades—and we must get them right. Taking time to analyze new alternatives and giving the public more time to review and comment is absolutely crucial.

I also want to thank the respective Chairmen for incorporating the Public Domain lands within the O&C land base. These lands in Western Oregon are already managed in the same manner. Reclassifying the Public Domain lands as O&C Lands will improve management efficiency, provide clarity to the BLM, and create additional revenues for the O&C Counties.

But, as I mentioned, this bill isn’t perfect. In fact, it includes a number of troubling provisions that should be completely eliminated or substantially modified before being signed into law.

PROVISIONS OF CONCERN

For example, the bill would allow categorical exclusions (CEs) for salvage logging projects up to 5,000 acres in size. That’s 20 times larger than the current 250-acre size limitation for salvage logging CEs adopted by the Bush Administration. Unfortunately, the Committee adopted an amendment during markup that eliminated key restrictions on the construction of temporary roads within the salvage project area. These provisions are a non-starter.

The bill allows CEs for projects intended to create early successional habitat. I worked with the pre-eminent scientists in the world on pilot projects in Oregon with similar management goals. But for these projects to work and for there to be social buy-in, there need to be strong sideboards for such projects, like green tree retention requirements and old growth protection.

Language has been added that could exempt the application of herbicides from a full environmental impact statement when used to “improve, remove, or reduce the risk of wildfire.” I understand the Forest Service uses herbicides in limited circumstances to address noxious weeds and other threats through manual application. But such application should remain extremely limited, publicly transparent, and restricted to manual application instead of aerial application. There should be no ambiguity in this language and its intent, nor should it expand herbicide application on public lands.

This bill would make it harder for a person with a legitimate grievance against a federal land management agency to sue by requiring that person to post a bond covering the anticipated costs, expenses, and attorneys’ fees of the government to defend the lawsuit. I understand you want to limit frivolous lawsuits or lawsuits from parties that don’t meaningfully engage in the public process. But this isn’t the way to do it. I will be voting for an amendment later today to strike the entire section.

Mr. Chair, this bill has some important, balanced provisions. It also has some controversial, unnecessary provisions. We know that this bill, in its current form, will not be signed by the president. But I want to keep this conversation moving forward and I want to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, House and Senate, to do something meaningful for our rural communities and national forests. I will support this bill today with the understanding that this legislation still needs work, significant improvement, and further compromise.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, who has helped shepherd this bill through the committee process.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, excess timber comes out of the forest one way or another. It is either carried out or its burned out, but it comes out.

Years ago, when we carried it out, we had healthy forests and a thriving economy. We managed our national forests according to well-established and time-tested forest management practices that prevented vegetation and wildlife from overgrowing the ability of the land to support it.

Revenues from the sale of excess timber provided for prosperous local economies and a steady stream of revenues to the Treasury which could, in turn, be used to further improve the public lands.

But 40 years ago, in the name of saving the environment, we consigned our national forests to a policy of benign neglect. And the results are all around us today, not only the impoverished mountain communities, but an utterly devastated environment.

□ 1615

Our forests are now dangerously overgrown. Trees that once had room to grow and thrive now fight for their lives in competition with other trees from the same ground. In this distressed condition, they fall victim to pestilence, disease, and catastrophic wildfire. My goodness, we can’t even salvage dead timber anymore.

This legislation is the first step back towards sound, scientific management of our national forests. It streamlines fire and disease prevention programs. It expedites restoration of fire-damaged lands. It protects forest managers from frivolous lawsuits, and it does so without requiring new regulations, rules, planning, or mapping.

Mr. Chairman, the management of our public lands is the responsibility of Congress. The bromides of the environmental left have proven disastrous to the health of our forests, the preservation of our wildlife, and the welfare of our mountain communities.

This bill begins to reverse that damage and to usher in a new era of healthy and resilient forests and an economic renaissance for our mountain towns.

Ms. TSONGAS. I yield 4 minutes to my colleague from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2647, the so-called Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015.

Before I address the many concerns with the underlying bill, I must commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They have finally taken a step toward addressing the 600-pound gorilla, that is, the enormous cost and impact of fire borrowing under the Forest Service budget.

I offered an amendment at a committee markup that would have required Congress to address the issue of fire borrowing before this bill could take effect, and we have been calling on House Republicans to address the issue for years. My amendment was rejected, but I am glad it encouraged the sponsors of this legislation to address the cost of wildfires.

The newly added title IX is not a perfect solution, however. By amending the Stafford Act to include wildfires under the definition of natural disasters, this section creates a mechanism to address the very disastrous practice of fire borrowing.

There is a small hitch, nevertheless. Congress would still have to fund this

new disaster relief fund, similar to the process for funding recovery from Superstorm Sandy, which did not go smoothly, to say the least. While this might be a positive step, it does not make H.R. 2647 a good bill.

With regard to title IX, the additional disaster relief fund, hopefully the majority will not rob Peter to pay Paul within the Forest budget in order to fund this disaster relief fund or leave title IX just as an empty hollow and useless gesture that never gets funded.

In the name of forest resiliency and health, H.R. 2647 undermines the NEPA process, discourages collaboration, distorts the intent of the Secure Rural Schools program, creates an extraordinary burden on citizens' access to the courts, and transforms the judicial review process.

This bill, quite frankly, is not about forest health. It is about increasing the numbers of trees removed from the forest.

The White House just communicated its strenuous opposition to H.R. 2647, and let me quote from that communication:

The administration strongly opposes H.R. 2647. The most important step Congress can take to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and management of our national forests and the Department of the Interior lands is to fix the fire suppression funding and provide additional capacity for the Forest Service and Department of the Interior to manage the Nation's forests and other public lands. H.R. 2647 falls short of fixing the fire budget problem and contains other provisions that will undermine collaborative forest restoration, environmental safeguards, and public participation across the National Forest System and public lands.

Categorical inclusions that are part of title I are not the product of thoughtful consideration of the legislation. Instead, they pave the way for up to 8 square miles of clear cuts of old-growth trees with little or no environmental review.

Title II reduces to 3 months the time for environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for reforestation or salvage operations following a large-scale fire. The Forest Service testified that this time limit is unrealistic, encouraging snap judgments that can have horrible long-term consequences.

Title III strips away access to the courts that other speakers will speak to as well. You know, think about the group that would dominate the collaborative decisionmaking without any judicial review.

The bill also eliminates the Equal Access to Justice Act for successful litigants and forces them to do a prebond, a one-sided bond requirement to limit, if not eliminate, citizen activism and public participation in a problem that they can help solve rather looking at this as a threat.

I urge a "no" vote on the legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, 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. 2647) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON H.R. 2995, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-194) on the bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

RESILIENT FEDERAL FORESTS ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 347 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2647.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1622

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, 12½ minutes remained in general debate.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) has 9 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), a former member of our committee, but someone whose district clearly knows the significance and impact of forestlands and how they should be maintained.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, the challenge that we face in the West is very obvious. Overgrown forests, bark beetle devastation, threat to our watersheds, threat to habitat, threat to public property that sensible people have long called for a solution to be able to have rendered.

I would like to be able to applaud the hard work of Chairman BISHOP, the committee, and particularly the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) in putting commonsense pieces of legislation forward in H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act.

The concept of being proactive rather than being reactive, putting the health of our forests, protection of our watersheds, habitat for wildlife, and saving private property while bringing some control back to our States and our communities is long overdue.

Forward-looking and innovative legislation like the Resilient Federal Forests Act speaks to the very heart of responsible forest management. This is a piece of legislation, which is long overdue. We have seen the impact in pilot projects of healthy forests, the opportunity to be able to get the forests again in a healthy state, creating abundant ground cover and forage for our animals and protecting those watersheds.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that I would like to encourage my colleagues to be able to support.

Ms. TSONGAS. I yield 2½ minutes to my colleague from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, impartial justice and access to the courts is a right guaranteed to every citizen in this country.

Across the street from this Chamber, Lady Justice sits blindfolded on the steps of the Supreme Court so we can all be reminded that justice should be blind. Today, we are debating yet another Republican bill restricting access to the courts to only those with deep pockets.

H.R. 2647 continues the alarming trend of Republican-sponsored legislation that proposes to limit the average American's access to the courts so politicians that line the pockets of politicians with campaign contributions can continue to profit.

H.R. 2647 requires that a citizen post a bond prior to challenging the United States Government's forest management activities. This bond must cover all the defendant's anticipated cost, expenses, and attorney's fees to be paid if the defendant prevails. In the rare occasion plaintiffs are successful, they will only be able to recover the amount posted in the bond and only if they win exactly on all counts. The government, however, does not have to cover any of the plaintiff's costs.

Requiring the posting of a bond that could be as costly as tens of thousands of dollars undermines citizen access to the courts when a party believes the government failed to follow the law.

The individual consumer, nonprofit organizations, small business, or public interest groups do not have the financial ability to challenge large corporations or, more often, the Federal Government which citizens believe is harming their communities or environment. By allowing citizens to recover their reasonable legal fees when they file suit and win in court, you encourage Americans to participate in public discourse and to hold the government accountable.

Rollbacks to judicial review and imposition of attorney's fees upon plaintiffs, along with legislative interference with key judicial powers contemplated in H.R. 2647, cripple the ability of those concerned with environmental protection to seek representation and redress in the courts.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. May I inquire as to how much time I have left?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Massachusetts has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I want to close by reiterating that, instead of working together on a bipartisan basis to improve the health of our national forests, this bill irresponsibly chips away at the environmental safeguards of the National Environmental Policy Act and places tremendous burdens, as we have just heard, on American citizens seeking to participate in the public review process of Forest Service programs.

I am glad that the majority acknowledges the urgent need to address fire borrowing, but we still have concerns with this proposal and it in no way offsets the many other serious problems with this legislation developed without any input from committee Democrats or meaningful testimony from the Forest Service.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I appreciate the opportunity to present this bill. I also thank all the many people who have worked from three different committees on this: Chairman SHUSTER of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman CONAWAY of the Agriculture Committee, as well as those who work on the Natural Resources Committee. I am very grateful for the Democrats, Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. DEFazio, who have spoken here already in defense of this bill, and for their help and assistance in this.

As the former Chief of the Forest Service said, we don't have a fire problem in our Nation's forests. We have a land management problem, and it

needs to be addressed quickly. That is exactly what the Westerman bill does. It addresses that problem. The status quo, flat out, is not working.

The Forest Service has recommended or recognized that we have at least 58 million acres that are in dire need of assistance right now but can easily be burned in this next fire season.

□ 1630

That is bigger than my home State of Utah, which is still the 11th largest State in the Nation.

If you add the higher-end estimates, then you add more acreage into that, which means you would add the State of Utah and Michigan. One-third of the entire forests we have are in danger of being destroyed if we do not do something immediately.

The Forest Service right now can only address the problem in 3 million acres; 58 is the minimum. That simply means it would take them over 20 years to address the problem. That is more than my lifetime is left here to try and solve this problem.

I realize that I was probably born at a greater distance from the apocalypse than most of the people here; but at the same time, in my lifetime, you can't solve the problem if we keep on with the status quo. That is why this bill is essential, and that is why I appreciate all the speakers who have gone on today saying why this is the perfect first step.

What is so good about it is, as soon as the President signs this thing, the Forest Service can immediately implement everything. These are practices and processes that they have at their disposal. They are ready to move forward with it. All we have to do is give them the tools to immediately do that.

Now, we realize some of the issues that are there. Funding is a significant issue. Funding alone will not solve our problem, but we have addressed that; and I appreciate, once again, Chairman SHUSTER and subcommittee Chairman BARLETTA, who have come up with—from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—come up with a good funding mechanism so that we can address that issue and move us forward.

That, by itself, does not solve our problems. We have a land management issue at the same time. We have a problem with litigation, which basically stops the efforts of the Forest Service to do their job in their tracks.

As soon as they become sued, they have to stop moving forward on their program; they have to spend money to defend themselves in a lawsuit, or they have to try and go through efforts to try and cover themselves so they don't get sued in the first place. It does not work.

We have heard a lot of comments about the inability of being able to sue, as a poor private citizen doesn't have the right to sue if we pass our bill. That is ridiculous.

This only deals with areas that have been collaboratively worked on—that

means where citizens actually got together and came up with a plan of action on their forest and, as they move forward to that, some special interests groups with a whole lot of deep pockets on their side stops them in their tracks by a lawsuit.

Those are the kinds of groups that are going to have to put up the bond. Those are the kind of groups who can no longer say: We are going to sue you on 25 different issues. We realize only three of them are going to be realistic, but we want you to take the time and effort to spend your Federal moneys to try and defend all those 25.

What we are saying is: Look, if you are going to sue on something, sue on something that is realistic. Don't put the entire world on there, and make sure that you are willing to cede on those particular issues, in those particular areas.

We also have in title I in there that simply says: You can still sue, but you can't get an injunction to stop our work while we go through frivolous lawsuit after frivolous lawsuit.

In the last two administrations, not counting this one, but two prior administrations, we have over 11,000 lawsuits that took place simply to stop the Forest Service from going forward. That has to be addressed. It has to be addressed. The Forest Service recognizes that, and that is why former Forest Service employees—as well as the current ones—realize, if we don't have some kind of litigation reform, we will not solve our problems with forest health.

We also have to give them the tools so they can move quickly on what they need to do. Categorical exclusion is not something that is evil; it is actually something that is essential to move forward. They recognize that they need that tool. That is why I said, as soon as this bill is signed by the President, they can implement what they already know to do.

What we are asking them is to do an environmental review, but you don't have to do review after review after review. If you have done the review the first time, it is sufficient, and they have the wisdom and the ability to do that. Will that destroy our forests? Heavens, no.

What this will do is have the potential of actually saving our forests, being able to allow the Federal forest land to be as resilient, to be as well managed as the State and tribal forest lands are because, in State and tribal forest lands, they don't have to deal with a lot of the issues that stop them from actually solving their problems, but we do on the Federal forest system, unless we move forward.

That is why I appreciate all those who have spoken so far on the need of moving forward on this particular bill. We are in the beginning of a fire season that could be catastrophic. We have witnessed the results of wildfires in the past. We need to do something now, and we have to move forward.

This is a bill that is common sense. It was wonderful to have our hearings, listening to the group of people who are experts in this area, being excited about the opportunity of having the tools the Forest Service needs to do their job, having the funding the Forest Service needs to do their job, and also have the protection from frivolous lawsuits the Forest Service needs to do their job. We must give our Forest Service personnel the tools they need to be successful.

If we don't pass this bill because we want something perfect from on high to come down—first, if we don't pass this bill, we are going to have a devastating situation coming in our forest lands and in our Nation this coming year.

This is an essential step forward. Is it perfect? No. There is a whole lot more that we need to do, and we will still look forward to those issues; we will move forward on these issues, but what this does is move us forward in a significant way.

Does this bill destroy our bedrock environmental laws? Of course not—the last time I heard people talking about bedrock was talking about Wilma and Fred and Barney. I am sorry; those laws didn't save their pet dinosaurs back in those days, either.

We are not going to change anything; we are not going to move forward; we are not going to destroy what we have gained in the past, but what we are going to do is allow the Forest Service to do their job, something they are stopped from doing now because of procedural practices, because of litigation, because of lack of funding. All three of those are addressed in this particular piece of legislation.

It is a great piece of legislation, and it needs to go forward. I urge everyone in here to realize how we must make steps to move forward and pass this bill and get it over to the Senate and onto the President's desk so our Forest Service can do their jobs.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chair, I rise to discuss Title IX of H.R. 2647, the "Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015."

Each year, several hundred small wildfires occur within the State of Indiana. Most of these fires are extinguished by our local fire departments. While the Hoosier State does not experience the devastating effects of wildfires that the West does, I understand and support the need to ensure that wildfires on Federal lands are treated similar to other major disasters so that they have access to funds outside the discretionary budget caps. It is important that the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service, which manages the Hoosier National Forest in southern Indiana, have access to sufficient funding to suppress wildfires on Federal lands whenever they occur.

Earlier this year, the Committee held a hearing and received testimony that made clear

that wildfire funding is an issue that needs to be addressed. As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, which has jurisdiction over the Robert T. Stafford Act Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), I think it is appropriate to amend the Stafford Act to ensure similar treatment for wildfires on Federal lands.

Some may have concerns that amending the Stafford Act will afford the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service with access to programs and funds intended for other disasters. I agree that these agencies should not be eligible for other Stafford Act assistance programs nor should these agencies have access to funds provided to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for other types of major disasters. But I am confident that the Stafford Act may be amended to treat wildfires on Federal lands as a major disaster without affecting other programs and funding. It is simply a matter of establishing a dedicated funding stream specifically for wildfires on Federal lands to ensure that these agencies have access to funds outside the discretionary budget caps. It is my understanding that this is the intent of Title IX.

I appreciate Ranking Member DEFAZIO's interest and dedication to this issue. Moreover, I thank Chairman SHUSTER for trying to address this matter.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express support for the Resilient National Forests Act, and to thank Rep. BRUCE WESTERMAN of Arkansas for his work on this important issue.

Last summer my home state of Washington faced the largest wildfire in state history, burning hundreds of thousands of acres.

The amount of damage was unprecedented, but not entirely unexpected.

Decades of over-regulation and frivolous lawsuits have hindered forest management, and we've all paid the price.

In Eastern Washington, the Colville National Forest has been the economic engine for Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties—providing jobs, energy, and recreational opportunities. Yet, mills have closed, jobs lost, and of the 945,410 million acres in the Colville National Forest, more than 300,000 are bug infested. This is unacceptable.

Currently, between one-quarter and one-third of all acres of national forest are at risk of catastrophic wildfire and only 2–3 percent are being treated each year. Dead, diseased, and ready-to-ignite timber is just sitting there, rotting away while the U.S. Forest Service and affected communities are powerless to remove it.

As we speak, there are fires burning across the Northwest—in Eastern Washington near my hometown in Stevens County, in the Blue Mountains in Asotin County, and nearby in Central Washington and Northern Idaho.

We have a responsibility to enact legislation that ensures wildfire fighting is properly funded and reduces the risk of future fires.

The Resilient National Forests Act is bipartisan, collaborative, and will produce the best possible outcome for all involved parties.

With this legislation, the Forest Service will have the tools they need to quickly remove

dead trees and to effectively manage the forests in Eastern Washington, and across the country.

Mr. Chair, I ask this body join me in voting to keep our promise and preserve America's great resources for generations to come and call for the Senate to follow suit.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

In lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Natural Resources, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–21, modified by the amendment printed in part B of House Report 114–192. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 2647

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 "Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—EXPEDITED ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS TO EXPEDITE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Analysis of only two alternatives (action versus no action) in proposed collaborative forest management activities.

Sec. 102. Categorical exclusion to expedite certain critical response actions.

Sec. 103. Categorical exclusion to expedite salvage operations in response to catastrophic events.

Sec. 104. Categorical exclusion to meet forest plan goals for early successional forests.

Sec. 105. Clarification of existing categorical exclusion authority related to insect and disease infestation.

Sec. 106. Categorical exclusion to improve, restore, and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Sec. 107. Compliance with forest plan.

TITLE II—SALVAGE AND REFORESTATION IN RESPONSE TO CATASTROPHIC EVENTS

Sec. 201. Expedited salvage operations and reforestation activities following large-scale catastrophic events.

Sec. 202. Compliance with forest plan.

Sec. 203. Prohibition on restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, and injunctions pending appeal.

Sec. 204. Exclusion of certain lands.

TITLE III—COLLABORATIVE PROJECT LITIGATION REQUIREMENT

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Bond requirement as part of legal challenge of certain forest management activities.

TITLE IV—SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Sec. 401. Use of reserved funds for title II projects on Federal land and certain non-Federal land.

Sec. 402. Resource advisory committees.

Sec. 403. Program for title II self-sustaining resource advisory committee projects.

Sec. 404. Additional authorized use of reserved funds for title III county projects.

TITLE V—STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING

Sec. 501. Cancellation ceilings for stewardship end result contracting projects.

Sec. 502. Excess offset value.

Sec. 503. Payment of portion of stewardship project revenues to county in which stewardship project occurs.

Sec. 504. Submission of existing annual report.

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 601. Definitions.

Sec. 602. Availability of stewardship project revenues and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund to cover forest management activity planning costs.

Sec. 603. State-supported planning of forest management activities.

TITLE VII—TRIBAL FORESTRY PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTION

Sec. 701. Protection of tribal forest assets through use of stewardship end result contracting and other authorities.

Sec. 702. Management of Indian forest land authorized to include related National Forest System lands and public lands.

TITLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS FOREST MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

Sec. 801. Balancing short- and long-term effects of forest management activities in considering injunctive relief.

Sec. 802. Conditions on Forest Service road decommissioning.

Sec. 803. Prohibition on application of Eastside Screens requirements on National Forest System lands.

Sec. 804. Use of site-specific forest plan amendments for certain projects and activities.

Sec. 805. Knutson-Vandenberg Act modifications.

Sec. 806. Exclusion of certain National Forest System lands and public lands.

TITLE IX—MAJOR DISASTER FOR WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LAND

Sec. 901. Wildfire on Federal lands.

Sec. 902. Declaration of a major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands.

Sec. 903. Prohibition on transfers.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In titles I through VIII:

(1) **CATASTROPHIC EVENT.**—The term “catastrophic event” means any natural disaster (such as hurricane, tornado, windstorm, snow or ice storm, rain storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, drought, or insect or disease outbreak) or any fire, flood, or explosion, regardless of cause.

(2) **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.**—The term “categorical exclusion” refers to an exception to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) for a project or activity relating to the management of National Forest System lands or public lands.

(3) **COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.**—The term “collaborative process” refers to a process relating to the management of National Forest System lands or public lands by which a project or activity is developed and implemented by the Secretary concerned through collaboration with interested persons, as described in section 603(b)(1)(C) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(b)(1)(C)).

(4) **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN.**—The term “community wildfire protection plan” has the meaning given that term in section 101(3) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(3)).

(5) **COOS BAY WAGON ROAD GRANT LANDS.**—The term “Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands” means the lands reconveyed to the United States pursuant to the first section of the Act of February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179).

(6) **FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.**—The term “forest management activity” means a project or activity carried out by the Secretary concerned on National Forest System lands or public lands in concert with the forest plan covering the lands.

(7) **FOREST PLAN.**—The term “forest plan” means—

(A) a land use plan prepared by the Bureau of Land Management for public lands pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712); or

(B) a land and resource management plan prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the National Forest System pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(8) **LARGE-SCALE CATASTROPHIC EVENT.**—The term “large-scale catastrophic event” means a catastrophic event that adversely impacts at least 5,000 acres of reasonably contiguous National Forest System lands or public lands.

(9) **NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.**—The term “National Forest System” has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(10) **OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LANDS.**—The term “Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands” means the following lands:

(A) All lands in the State of Oregon revested in the United States under the Act of June 9, 1916 (39 Stat. 218), that are administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, pursuant to the first section of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a).

(B) All lands in that State obtained by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the land exchanges authorized and directed by section 2 of the Act of June 24, 1954 (43 U.S.C. 1181h).

(C) All lands in that State acquired by the United States at any time and made subject to the provisions of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181f).

(11) **PUBLIC LANDS.**—The term “public lands” has the meaning given that term in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)), except that the term includes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands.

(12) **REFORESTATION ACTIVITY.**—The term “reforestation activity” means a project or activity carried out by the Secretary concerned whose primary purpose is the reforestation of impacted lands following a large-scale catastrophic event. The term includes planting, evaluating and enhancing natural regeneration, clearing competing vegetation, and other activities related to reestablishment of forest species on the fire-impacted lands.

(13) **RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The term “resource advisory committee” has the meaning given that term in section 201(3) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121(3)).

(14) **SALVAGE OPERATION.**—The term “salvage operation” means a forest management activity undertaken in response to a catastrophic event whose primary purpose—

(A) is to prevent wildfire as a result of the catastrophic event, or, if the catastrophic event was wildfire, to prevent a re-burn of the fire-impacted area;

(B) is to provide an opportunity for utilization of forest materials damaged as a result of the catastrophic event; or

(C) is to provide a funding source for reforestation and other restoration activities for the National Forest System lands or public lands impacted by the catastrophic event.

(15) **SECRETARY CONCERNED.**—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands.

TITLE I—EXPEDITED ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS TO EXPEDITE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. ANALYSIS OF ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES (ACTION VERSUS NO ACTION) IN PROPOSED COLLABORATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.**—This section shall apply whenever the Secretary concerned prepares an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement pursuant to section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)) for a forest management activity that—

(1) is developed through a collaborative process;

(2) is proposed by a resource advisory committee; or

(3) is covered by a community wildfire protection plan.

(b) **CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES.**—In an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement described in subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall study, develop, and describe only the following two alternatives:

(1) The forest management activity, as proposed pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a).

(2) The alternative of no action.

(c) **ELEMENTS OF NON-ACTION ALTERNATIVE.**—In the case of the alternative of no action, the Secretary concerned shall evaluate—

(1) the effect of no action on—

(A) forest health;

(B) habitat diversity;

(C) wildfire potential; and

(D) insect and disease potential; and

(2) the implications of a resulting decline in forest health, loss of habitat diversity, wildfire, or insect or disease infestation, given fire and insect and disease historic cycles, on—

(A) domestic water costs;

(B) wildlife habitat loss; and

(C) other economic and social factors.

SEC. 102. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TO EXPEDITE CERTAIN CRITICAL RESPONSE ACTIONS.

(a) **AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.**—A categorical exclusion is available to

the Secretary concerned to develop and carry out a forest management activity on National Forest System lands or public lands when the primary purpose of the forest management activity is—

- (1) to address an insect or disease infestation;
- (2) to reduce hazardous fuel loads;
- (3) to protect a municipal water source;
- (4) to maintain, enhance, or modify critical habitat to protect it from catastrophic disturbances;

- (5) to increase water yield; or
- (6) any combination of the purposes specified in paragraphs (1) through (5).

(b) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a forest management activity described in paragraph (2), a forest management activity covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) may not contain harvest units exceeding a total of 5,000 acres.

(2) LARGER AREAS AUTHORIZED.—A forest management activity covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) may not contain harvest units exceeding a total of 15,000 acres if the forest management activity—

(A) is developed through a collaborative process;

(B) is proposed by a resource advisory committee; or

(C) is covered by a community wildfire protection plan.

SEC. 103. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TO EXPEDITE SALVAGE OPERATIONS IN RESPONSE TO CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—A categorical exclusion is available to the Secretary concerned to develop and carry out a salvage operation as part of the restoration of National Forest System lands or public lands following a catastrophic event.

(b) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A salvage operation covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) may not contain harvest units exceeding a total of 5,000 acres.

(2) HARVEST AREA.—In addition to the limitation imposed by paragraph (1), the harvest units covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) may not exceed one-third of the area impacted by the catastrophic event.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) ROAD BUILDING.—A salvage operation covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) may not include any new permanent roads. Temporary roads constructed as part of the salvage operation shall be retired before the end of the fifth fiscal year beginning after the completion of the salvage operation.

(2) STREAM BUFFERS.—A salvage operation covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) shall comply with the standards and guidelines for stream buffers contained in the applicable forest plan unless waived by the Regional Forester, in the case of National Forest System lands, or the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, in the case of public lands.

(3) REFORESTATION PLAN.—A reforestation plan shall be developed under section 3 of the Act of June 9, 1930 (commonly known as the Knutson-Vandenberg Act; 16 U.S.C. 576b), as part of a salvage operation covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a).

SEC. 104. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TO MEET FOREST PLAN GOALS FOR EARLY SUCCESSIONAL FORESTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—A categorical exclusion is available to the Secretary concerned to develop and carry out a forest management activity on National Forest System lands or public lands when the primary purpose of the forest management activity is to modify, improve, enhance, or create early successional forests for wildlife habitat improvement and other purposes, consistent with the applicable forest plan.

(b) PROJECT GOALS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall de-

sign a forest management activity under this section to meet early successional forest goals in such a manner so as to maximize production and regeneration of priority species, as identified in the forest plan and consistent with the capability of the activity site.

(c) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—A forest management activity covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) may not contain harvest units exceeding a total of 5,000 acres.

SEC. 105. CLARIFICATION OF EXISTING CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION AUTHORITY RELATED TO INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATION.

Section 603(c)(2)(B) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III” and inserting “Fire Regime I, Fire Regime II, Fire Regime III, or Fire Regime IV”.

SEC. 106. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TO IMPROVE, RESTORE, AND REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—A categorical exclusion is available to the Secretary concerned to carry out a forest management activity described in subsection (c) on National Forest System Lands or public lands when the primary purpose of the activity is to improve, restore, or reduce the risk of wildfire on those lands.

(b) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—A forest management activity covered by the categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a) may not exceed 5,000 acres.

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The following activities may be carried out using a categorical exclusion granted by subsection (a):

(1) Removal of juniper trees, medusahead rye, conifer trees, piñon pine trees, cheatgrass, and other noxious or invasive weeds specified on Federal or State noxious weeds lists through late-season livestock grazing, targeted livestock grazing, prescribed burns, and mechanical treatments.

(2) Performance of hazardous fuels management.

(3) Creation of fuel and fire breaks.

(4) Modification of existing fences in order to distribute livestock and help improve wildlife habitat.

(5) Installation of erosion control devices.

(6) Construction of new and maintenance of permanent infrastructure, including stock ponds, water catchments, and water spring boxes used to benefit livestock and improve wildlife habitat.

(7) Performance of soil treatments, native and non-native seeding, and planting of and transplanting sagebrush, grass, forb, shrub, and other species.

(8) Use of herbicides, so long as the Secretary concerned determines that the activity is otherwise conducted consistently with agency procedures, including any forest plan applicable to the area covered by the activity.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT.—The term “hazardous fuels management” means any vegetation management activities that reduce the risk of wildfire.

(2) LATE-SEASON GRAZING.—The term “late-season grazing” means grazing activities that occur after both the invasive species and native perennial species have completed their current-year annual growth cycle until new plant growth begins to appear in the following year.

(3) TARGETED LIVESTOCK GRAZING.—The term “targeted livestock grazing” means grazing used for purposes of hazardous fuel reduction.

SEC. 107. COMPLIANCE WITH FOREST PLAN.

A forest management activity covered by a categorical exclusion granted by this title shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the forest plan applicable to the National Forest System land or public lands covered by the forest management activity.

TITLE II—SALVAGE AND REFORESTATION IN RESPONSE TO CATASTROPHIC EVENTS

SEC. 201. EXPEDITED SALVAGE OPERATIONS AND REFORESTATION ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING LARGE-SCALE CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.

(a) EXPEDITED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any environmental assessment prepared by the Secretary concerned pursuant to section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)) for a salvage operation or reforestation activity proposed to be conducted on National Forest System lands or public lands adversely impacted by a large-scale catastrophic event shall be completed within three months after the conclusion of the catastrophic event.

(b) EXPEDITED IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLETION.—In the case of reforestation activities conducted on National Forest System lands or public lands adversely impacted by a large-scale catastrophic event, the Secretary concerned shall achieve reforestation of at least 75 percent of the impacted lands during the five-year period following the conclusion of the catastrophic event.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF KNUTSON-VANDEMBERG FUNDS.—Amounts in the special fund established pursuant to section 3 of the Act of June 9, 1930 (commonly known as the Knutson-Vandenberg Act; 16 U.S.C. 576b) shall be available to the Secretary of Agriculture for reforestation activities authorized by this title.

(d) TIMELINE FOR PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of a salvage operation or reforestation activity proposed to be conducted on National Forest System lands or public lands adversely impacted by a large-scale catastrophic event, the Secretary concerned shall allow 30 days for public scoping and comment, 15 days for filing an objection, and 15 days for the agency response to the filing of an objection. Upon completion of this process and expiration of the period specified in subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall implement the project immediately.

SEC. 202. COMPLIANCE WITH FOREST PLAN.

A salvage operation or reforestation activity authorized by this title shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the forest plan applicable to the National Forest System lands or public lands covered by the salvage operation or reforestation activity.

SEC. 203. PROHIBITION ON RESTRAINING ORDERS, PRELIMINARY INJUNCTIONS, AND INJUNCTIONS PENDING APPEAL.

No restraining order, preliminary injunction, or injunction pending appeal shall be issued by any court of the United States with respect to any decision to prepare or conduct a salvage operation or reforestation activity in response to a large-scale catastrophic event. Section 705 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to any challenge to the salvage operation or reforestation activity.

SEC. 204. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LANDS.

In applying this title, the Secretary concerned may not carry out salvage operations or reforestation activities on National Forest System lands or public lands—

(1) that are included in the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) that are located within an inventoried roadless area unless the reforestation activity is consistent with the forest plan; or

(3) on which timber harvesting for any purpose is prohibited by statute.

TITLE III—COLLABORATIVE PROJECT LITIGATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COSTS.—The term “costs” refers to the fees and costs described in section 1920 of title 28, United States Code.

(2) **EXPENSES.**—The term “expenses” includes the expenditures incurred by the staff of the Secretary concerned in preparing for and responding to a legal challenge to a collaborative forest management activity and in participating in litigation that challenges the forest management activity, including such staff time as may be used to prepare the administrative record, exhibits, declarations, and affidavits in connection with the litigation.

SEC. 302. BOND REQUIREMENT AS PART OF LEGAL CHALLENGE OF CERTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **BOND REQUIRED.**—In the case of a forest management activity developed through a collaborative process or proposed by a resource advisory committee, any plaintiff or plaintiffs challenging the forest management activity shall be required to post a bond or other security equal to the anticipated costs, expenses, and attorneys fees of the Secretary concerned as defendant, as reasonably estimated by the Secretary concerned. All proceedings in the action shall be stayed until the required bond or security is provided.

(b) **RECOVERY OF LITIGATION COSTS, EXPENSES, AND ATTORNEYS FEES.**—

(1) **MOTION FOR PAYMENT.**—If the Secretary concerned prevails in an action challenging a forest management activity described in subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall submit to the court a motion for payment, from the bond or other security posted under subsection (a) in such action, of the reasonable costs, expenses, and attorneys fees incurred by the Secretary concerned.

(2) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT RECOVERED.**—The amount of costs, expenses, and attorneys fees recovered by the Secretary concerned under paragraph (1) as a result of prevailing in an action challenging the forest management activity may not exceed the amount of the bond or other security posted under subsection (a) in such action.

(3) **RETURN OF REMAINDER.**—Any funds remaining from the bond or other security posted under subsection (a) after the payment of costs, expenses, and attorneys fees under paragraph (1) shall be returned to the plaintiff or plaintiffs that posted the bond or security in the action.

(c) **RETURN OF BOND TO PREVAILING PLAINTIFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the plaintiff ultimately prevails on the merits in every action brought by the plaintiff challenging a forest management activity described in subsection (a), the court shall return to the plaintiff any bond or security provided by the plaintiff under subsection (a), plus interest from the date the bond or security was provided.

(2) **ULTIMATELY PREVAILS ON THE MERITS.**—In this subsection, the phrase “ultimately prevails on the merits” means, in a final enforceable judgment on the merits, a court rules in favor of the plaintiff on every cause of action in every action brought by the plaintiff challenging the forest management activity.

(d) **EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT.**—If a challenge to a forest management activity described in subsection (a) for which a bond or other security was provided by the plaintiff under such subsection is resolved by settlement between the Secretary concerned and the plaintiff, the settlement agreement shall provide for sharing the costs, expenses, and attorneys fees incurred by the parties.

(e) **LIMITATION ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS.**—Notwithstanding section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, no award may be made under section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, and no amounts may be obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund of the United States Treasury to pay any fees or other expenses under such sections to any plaintiff related to an action challenging a forest management activity described in subsection (a).

TITLE IV—SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AMENDMENTS

SEC. 401. USE OF RESERVED FUNDS FOR TITLE II PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND AND CERTAIN NON-FEDERAL LAND.

(a) **REPEAL OF MERCHANTABLE TIMBER CONTRACTING PILOT PROGRAM.**—Section 204(e) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7124(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT FUNDS.**—Section 204 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7124) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(f) **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary concerned shall ensure that at least 50 percent of the project funds reserved by a participating county under section 102(d) shall be available only for projects that—

“(A) include the sale of timber or other forest products, reduce fire risks, or improve water supplies; and

“(B) implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality.

“(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The requirement in paragraph (1) shall apply only to project funds reserved by a participating county whose boundaries include Federal land that the Secretary concerned determines has been subject to a timber or other forest products program within 5 fiscal years before the fiscal year in which the funds are reserved.”.

SEC. 402. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) **RECOGNITION OF RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—Section 205(a)(4) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(a)(4)) is amended by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2020”.

(b) **TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES.**—Section 205(d) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Each” and inserting “Except during the period specified in paragraph (6), each”; and

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

“(6) **TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEMBERS.**—

“(A) **TEMPORARY REDUCTION.**—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this paragraph and ending on September 30, 2020, a resource advisory committee established under this section may be comprised of 9 or more members, of which—

“(i) at least 3 shall be representative of interests described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2);

“(ii) at least 3 shall be representative of interests described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2); and

“(iii) at least 3 shall be representative of interests described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2).

“(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—In appointing members of a resource advisory committee from the 3 categories described in paragraph (2), as provided in subparagraph (A), the Secretary concerned shall ensure balanced and broad representation in each category. In the case of a vacancy on a resource advisory committee, the vacancy shall be filled within 90 days after the date on which the vacancy occurred. Appointments to a new resource advisory committee shall be made within 90 days after the date on which the decision to form the new resource advisory committee was made.

“(C) **CHARTER.**—A charter for a resource advisory committee with 15 members that was filed on or before the date of the enactment of this paragraph shall be considered to be filed for a resource advisory committee described in this

paragraph. The charter of a resource advisory committee shall be reapproved before the expiration of the existing charter of the resource advisory committee. In the case of a new resource advisory committee, the charter of the resource advisory committee shall be approved within 90 days after the date on which the decision to form the new resource advisory committee was made.”.

(c) **CONFORMING CHANGE TO PROJECT APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 205(e)(3) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(e)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “In the case of a resource advisory committee consisting of fewer than 15 members, as authorized by subsection (d)(6), a project may be proposed to the Secretary concerned upon approval by a majority of the members of the committee, including at least 1 member from each of the 3 categories described in subsection (d)(2).”.

(d) **EXPANDING LOCAL PARTICIPATION ON COMMITTEES.**—Section 205(d) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, consistent with the requirements of paragraph (4)”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(4) **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.**—The members of a resource advisory committee shall reside within the county or counties in which the committee has jurisdiction or an adjacent county.”.

SEC. 403. PROGRAM FOR TITLE II SELF-SUSTAINING RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROJECTS.

(a) **SELF-SUSTAINING RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROJECTS.**—Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 209. PROGRAM FOR SELF-SUSTAINING RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROJECTS.

“(a) **RAC PROGRAM.**—The Chief of the Forest Service shall conduct a program (to be known as the ‘self-sustaining resource advisory committee program’ or ‘RAC program’) under which 10 resource advisory committees will propose projects authorized by subsection (c) to be carried out using project funds reserved by a participating county under section 102(d).

“(b) **SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—The selection of resource advisory committees to participate in the RAC program is in the sole discretion of the Chief of the Forest Service, except that, consistent with section 205(d)(6), a selected resource advisory committee must have a minimum of 6 members.

“(c) **AUTHORIZED PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding the project purposes specified in sections 202(b), 203(c), and 204(a)(5), projects under the RAC program are intended to—

“(1) accomplish forest management objectives or support community development; and

“(2) generate receipts.

“(d) **DEPOSIT AND AVAILABILITY OF REVENUES.**—Any revenue generated by a project conducted under the RAC program, including any interest accrued from the revenues, shall be—

“(1) deposited in the special account in the Treasury established under section 102(d)(2)(A); and

“(2) available, in such amounts as may be provided in advance in appropriation Acts, for additional projects under the RAC program.

“(e) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority to initiate a project under the RAC program shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

“(2) **DEPOSITS IN TREASURY.**—Any funds available for projects under the RAC program and not obligated by September 30, 2021, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States.”.

(b) EXCEPTION TO GENERAL RULE REGARDING TREATMENT OF RECEIPTS.—Section 403(b) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7153(b)) is amended by striking “All revenues” and inserting “Except as provided in section 209, all revenues”.

SEC. 404. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USE OF RESERVED FUNDS FOR TITLE III COUNTY PROJECTS.

Section 302(a) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7142(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “and law enforcement patrols” after “including firefighting”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) to cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency services described in paragraph (2); and”.

SEC. 405. TREATMENT AS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.

Section 102 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) TREATMENT AS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.—None of the funds made available to a beneficiary county or other political subdivision of a State under this Act shall be used in lieu of or to otherwise offset State funding sources for local schools, facilities, or educational purposes.”.

TITLE V—STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING

SEC. 501. CANCELLATION CEILINGS FOR STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING PROJECTS.

(a) CANCELLATION CEILINGS.—Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection (h):

“(h) CANCELLATION CEILINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief and the Director may obligate funds to cover any potential cancellation or termination costs for an agreement or contract under subsection (b) in stages that are economically or programmatically viable.

“(2) ADVANCE NOTICE TO CONGRESS OF CANCELLATION CEILING IN EXCESS OF \$25,000,000.—Not later than 30 days before entering into a multiyear agreement or contract under subsection (b) that includes a cancellation ceiling in excess of \$25,000,000, but does not include proposed funding for the costs of cancelling the agreement or contract up to such cancellation ceiling, the Chief or the Director, as the case may be, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a written notice that includes—

“(A) the cancellation ceiling amounts proposed for each program year in the agreement or contract;

“(B) the reasons why such cancellation ceiling amounts were selected;

“(C) the extent to which the costs of contract cancellation are not included in the budget for the agreement or contract; and

“(D) an assessment of the financial risk of not including budgeting for the costs of agreement or contract cancellation.

“(3) TRANSMITTAL OF NOTICE TO OMB.—Not later than 14 days after the date on which written notice is provided under paragraph (2) with respect to an agreement or contract under subsection (b), the Chief or the Director, as the case

may be, shall transmit a copy of the notice to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.”.

(b) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Section 604(d)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(d)(5)) is amended by striking “, the Chief may” and inserting “and section 2(a)(1) of the Act of July 31, 1947 (commonly known as the Materials Act of 1947; 30 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)), the Chief and the Director may”.

SEC. 502. EXCESS OFFSET VALUE.

Section 604(g)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(g)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

“(A) use the excess to satisfy any outstanding liabilities for cancelled agreements or contracts; or

“(B) if there are no outstanding liabilities under subparagraph (A), apply the excess to other authorized stewardship projects.”.

SEC. 503. PAYMENT OF PORTION OF STEWARDSHIP PROJECT REVENUES TO COUNTY IN WHICH STEWARDSHIP PROJECT OCCURS.

Section 604(e) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “subject to paragraph (3)(A),” before “shall”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “services received by the Chief or the Director” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “services and in-kind resources received by the Chief or the Director under a stewardship contract project conducted under this section shall not be considered monies received from the National Forest System or the public lands, but any payments made by the contractor to the Chief or Director under the project shall be considered monies received from the National Forest System or the public lands.”.

SEC. 504. SUBMISSION OF EXISTING ANNUAL REPORT.

Subsection (j) of section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c), as redesignated by section 501(a)(1), is amended by striking “report to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives” and inserting “submit to the congressional committees specified in subsection (h)(2) a report”.

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 601. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a State or political subdivision of a State containing National Forest System lands or public lands;

(B) a publicly chartered utility serving one or more States or a political subdivision thereof;

(C) a rural electric company; and

(D) any other entity determined by the Secretary concerned to be appropriate for participation in the Fund.

(2) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the State-Supported Forest Management Fund established by section 603.

SEC. 602. AVAILABILITY OF STEWARDSHIP PROJECT REVENUES AND COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FUND TO COVER FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY PLANNING COSTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF STEWARDSHIP PROJECT REVENUES.—Section 604(e)(2)(B) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(e)(2)(B)), as amended by section 503, is further amended by striking “appropriation at the project site from which the monies are collected or at another project site.” and inserting the following: “appropriation—

“(i) at the project site from which the monies are collected or at another project site; and

“(ii) to cover not more than 25 percent of the cost of planning additional stewardship contracting projects.”.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FUND.—Section 4003(f)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(f)(1)) is amended by striking “carrying out and” and inserting “planning, carrying out, and”.

SEC. 603. STATE-SUPPORTED PLANNING OF FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) STATE-SUPPORTED FOREST MANAGEMENT FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the “State-Supported Forest Management Fund”, to cover the cost of planning (especially related to compliance with section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))), carrying out, and monitoring certain forest management activities on National Forest System lands or public lands.

(b) CONTENTS.—The State-Supported Forest Management Fund shall consist of such amounts as may be—

(1) contributed by an eligible entity for deposit in the Fund;

(2) appropriated to the Fund; or

(3) generated by forest management activities carried out using amounts in the Fund.

(c) GEOGRAPHICAL AND USE LIMITATIONS.—In making a contribution under subsection (b)(1), an eligible entity may—

(1) specify the National Forest System lands or public lands for which the contribution may be expended; and

(2) limit the types of forest management activities for which the contribution may be expended.

(d) AUTHORIZED FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In such amounts as may be provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Secretary concerned may use the Fund to plan, carry out, and monitor a forest management activity that—

(1) is developed through a collaborative process;

(2) is proposed by a resource advisory committee; or

(3) is covered by a community wildfire protection plan.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION METHODS.—A forest management activity carried out using amounts in the Fund may be carried out using a contract or agreement under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c), the good neighbor authority provided by section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), a contract under section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a), or other authority available to the Secretary concerned, but revenues generated by the forest management activity shall be used to reimburse the Fund for planning costs covered using amounts in the Fund.

(f) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—

(1) REVENUE SHARING.—Subject to subsection (e), revenues generated by a forest management activity carried out using amounts from the Fund shall be considered monies received from the National Forest System.

(2) KNUTSON-VANDERBERG ACT.—The Act of June 9, 1930 (commonly known as the Knutson-Vanderberg Act; 16 U.S.C. 576 et seq.), shall apply to any forest management activity carried out using amounts in the Fund.

(g) TERMINATION OF FUND.—

(1) TERMINATION.—The Fund shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—Upon the termination of the Fund pursuant to paragraph (1) or pursuant to any other provision of law, unobligated contributions remaining in the Fund shall be returned to the eligible entity that made the contribution.

TITLE VII—TRIBAL FORESTRY PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTION

SEC. 701. PROTECTION OF TRIBAL FOREST ASSETS THROUGH USE OF STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING AND OTHER AUTHORITIES.

(a) **PROMPT CONSIDERATION OF TRIBAL REQUESTS.**—Section 2(b) of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than 120 days after the date on which an Indian tribe submits to the Secretary” and inserting “In response to the submission by an Indian tribe of”; and

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

“(4) **TIME PERIODS FOR CONSIDERATION.**—

“(A) **INITIAL RESPONSE.**—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a tribal request under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide an initial response to the Indian tribe regarding—

“(i) whether the request may meet the selection criteria described in subsection (c); and

“(ii) the likelihood of the Secretary entering into an agreement or contract with the Indian tribe under paragraph (2) for activities described in paragraph (3).

“(B) **NOTICE OF DENIAL.**—Notice under subsection (d) of the denial of a tribal request under paragraph (1) shall be provided not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary received the request.

“(C) **COMPLETION.**—Not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary receives a tribal request under paragraph (1), other than a tribal request denied under subsection (d), the Secretary shall—

“(i) complete all environmental reviews necessary in connection with the agreement or contract and proposed activities under the agreement or contract; and

“(ii) enter into the agreement or contract with the Indian tribe under paragraph (2).”.

(b) **CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—Section 2 of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a) is amended—

(1) in subsections (b)(1) and (f)(1), by striking “section 347 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 2104 note; Public Law 105–277) (as amended by section 323 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003 (117 Stat. 275))” and inserting “section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e)”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may” and inserting “paragraphs (1) and (4)(B) of subsection (b), the Secretary shall”.

SEC. 702. MANAGEMENT OF INDIAN FOREST LAND AUTHORIZED TO INCLUDE RELATED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS AND PUBLIC LANDS.

Section 305 of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3104) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **INCLUSION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND AND PUBLIC LAND.**—

“(1) **AUTHORITY.**—At the request of an Indian tribe, the Secretary concerned may treat Federal forest land as Indian forest land for purposes of planning and conducting forest land management activities under this section if the Federal forest land is located within, or mostly within, a geographic area that presents a feature or involves circumstances principally relevant to that Indian tribe, such as Federal forest land ceded to the United States by treaty, Federal forest land within the boundaries of a current or former reservation, or Federal forest land adjudicated to be tribal homelands.

“(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—As part of the agreement to treat Federal forest land as Indian forest land under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned and the Indian tribe making the request shall—

“(A) provide for continued public access applicable to the Federal forest land prior to the agreement, except that the Secretary concerned may limit or prohibit such access as needed;

“(B) continue sharing revenue generated by the Federal forest land with State and local governments either—

“(i) on the terms applicable to the Federal forest land prior to the agreement, including, where applicable, 25-percent payments or 50 percent payments; or

“(ii) at the option of the Indian tribe, on terms agreed upon by the Indian tribe, the Secretary concerned, and State and county governments participating in a revenue sharing agreement for the Federal forest land;

“(C) comply with applicable prohibitions on the export of unprocessed logs harvested from the Federal forest land;

“(D) recognize all right-of-way agreements in place on Federal forest land prior to commencement of tribal management activities; and

“(E) ensure that all commercial timber removed from the Federal forest land is sold on a competitive bid basis.

“(3) **LIMITATION.**—Treating Federal forest land as Indian forest land for purposes of planning and conducting management activities pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not be construed to designate the Federal forest land as Indian forest lands for any other purpose.

“(4) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **FEDERAL FOREST LAND.**—The term ‘Federal forest land’ means—

“(i) National Forest System lands; and

“(ii) public lands (as defined in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e))), including Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands reconveyed to the United States pursuant to the first section of the Act of February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179), and Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands.

“(B) **SECRETARY CONCERNED.**—The term ‘Secretary concerned’ means—

“(i) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to the Federal forest land referred to in subparagraph (A)(i); and

“(ii) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to the Federal forest land referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii).”.

TITLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS FOREST MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. BALANCING SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN CONSIDERING INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.

As part of its weighing the equities while considering any request for an injunction that applies to any agency action as part of a forest management activity under titles I through VIII, the court reviewing the agency action shall balance the impact to the ecosystem likely affected by the forest management activity of—

(1) the short- and long-term effects of undertaking the agency action; against

(2) the short- and long-term effects of not undertaking the action.

SEC. 802. CONDITIONS ON FOREST SERVICE ROAD DECOMMISSIONING.

(a) **CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED COUNTY.**—Whenever any Forest Service defined maintenance level one or two system road within a designated high fire prone area of a unit of the National Forest System is considered for decommissioning, the Forest Supervisor of that unit of the National Forest System shall—

(1) consult with the government of the county containing the road regarding the merits and possible consequences of decommissioning the road; and

(2) solicit possible alternatives to decommissioning the road.

(b) **REGIONAL FORESTER APPROVAL.**—A Forest Service road described in subsection (a) may not be decommissioned without the advance approval of the Regional Forester.

SEC. 803. PROHIBITION ON APPLICATION OF EASTSIDE SCREENS REQUIREMENTS ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.

On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may not apply to National Forest System lands any of the amendments to forest plans adopted in the Decision Notice for the Revised Continuation of Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales (commonly known as the Eastside Screens requirements), including all preceding or associated versions of these amendments.

SEC. 804. USE OF SITE-SPECIFIC FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

If the Secretary concerned determines that, in order to conduct a project or carry out an activity implementing a forest plan, an amendment to the forest plan is required, the Secretary concerned shall execute such amendment as a non-significant plan amendment through the record of decision or decision notice for the project or activity.

SEC. 805. KNUTSON-VANDEMBERG ACT MODIFICATIONS.

(a) **DEPOSITS OF FUNDS FROM NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER PURCHASERS REQUIRED.**—Section 3(a) of the Act of June 9, 1930 (commonly known as the Knutson-Vandenberg Act; 16 U.S.C. 576b(a)), is amended by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “any purchaser” and inserting the following: “The Secretary of Agriculture shall require each purchaser”.

(b) **CONDITIONS ON USE OF DEPOSITS.**—Section 3 of the Act of June 9, 1930 (commonly known as the Knutson-Vandenberg Act; 16 U.S.C. 576b), is amended—

(1) by striking “Such deposits” and inserting the following:

“(b) Amounts deposited under subsection (a)”; (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting before subsection (d), as so redesignated, the following new subsection (c):

“(c)(1) Amounts in the special fund established pursuant to this section—

“(A) shall be used exclusively to implement activities authorized by subsection (a); and

“(B) may be used anywhere within the Forest Service Region from which the original deposits were collected.

“(2) The Secretary of Agriculture may not deduct overhead costs from the funds collected under subsection (a), except as needed to fund personnel of the responsible Ranger District for the planning and implementation of the activities authorized by subsection (a).”.

SEC. 806. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS AND PUBLIC LANDS.

Unless specifically provided by a provision of titles I through VIII, the authorities provided by such titles do not apply with respect to any National Forest System lands or public lands—

(1) that are included in the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) that are located within an inventoried roadless area unless the forest management activity to be carried out under such authority is consistent with the forest plan applicable to the area; or

(3) on which timber harvesting for any purpose is prohibited by statute.

SEC. 807. APPLICATION OF NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN SURVEY AND MANAGE MITIGATION MEASURE STANDARD AND GUIDELINES.

The Northwest Forest Plan Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standard and Guidelines shall not apply to any National Forest System lands or public lands.

SEC. 808. MANAGEMENT OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS IN WESTERN OREGON.

(a) **GENERAL RULE.**—All of the public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management

in the Salem District, Eugene District, Roseburg District, Coos Bay District, Medford District and the Klamath Resource Area of the Lakeview District in the State of Oregon shall hereafter be managed pursuant to title I of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a through 1181e). Except as provided in subsection (b), all of the revenue produced from such land shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States in the Oregon and California land-grant fund and be subject to the provisions of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181f).

(b) CERTAIN LANDS EXCLUDED.—Subsection (a) does not apply to any revenue that is required to be deposited in the Coos Bay Wagon Road grant fund pursuant to sections 1 through 4 of the Act of May 24, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 1181–f through f–4).

SEC. 809. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.

(a) ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS AND ALTERNATIVES.—To develop a full range of reasonable alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and consider in detail a reference analysis and two additional alternatives as part of the revisions of the resource management plans for the Bureau of Land Management's Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Medford Districts and the Klamath Resource Area of the Lakeview District.

(b) REFERENCE ANALYSIS.—The reference analysis required by subsection (a) shall measure and assume the harvest of the annual growth net of natural mortality for all forested land in the planning area in order to determine the maximum sustained yield capacity of the forested land base and to establish a baseline by which the Secretary of the Interior shall measure incremental effects on the sustained yield capacity and environmental impacts from management prescriptions in all other alternatives.

(c) ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVES.—

(1) CARBON SEQUESTRATION ALTERNATIVE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall develop and consider an additional alternative with the goal of maximizing the total carbon benefits from forest storage and wood product storage. To the extent practicable, the analysis shall consider—

(A) the future risks to forest carbon from wildfires, insects, and disease;

(B) the amount of carbon stored in products or in landfills;

(C) the life cycle benefits of harvested wood products compared to non-renewable products; and

(D) the energy produced from wood residues.

(2) SUSTAINED YIELD ALTERNATIVE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall develop and consider an additional alternative that produces the greater of 500 million board feet or the annual net growth on the acres classified as timberland, excluding any congressionally reserved areas. The projected harvest levels, as nearly as practicable, shall be distributed among the Districts referred to in subsection (a) in the same proportion as the maximum yield capacity of each such District bears to maximum yield capacity of the planning area as a whole.

(d) ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall publish the reference analysis and additional alternatives and analyze their environmental and economic consequences in a supplemental draft environmental impact statement. The draft environmental impact statement and supplemental draft environmental impact statement shall be made available for public comment for a period of not less than 180 days. The Secretary shall respond to any comments received before making a final decision between all alternatives.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall affect the obligation of the Secretary of the Interior to manage the timberlands as required by the Act of August 28, 1937 (50 Stat. 874; 43 U.S.C. 1181a–1181j).

TITLE IX—MAJOR DISASTER FOR WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LAND

SEC. 901. WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LANDS.

Section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2)” and all that follows through “means” and inserting the following:

“(2) MAJOR DISASTER.—

“(A) MAJOR DISASTER.—The term ‘major disaster’ means”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) MAJOR DISASTER FOR WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LANDS.—The term ‘major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands’ means any wildfire or wildfires, which in the determination of the President under section 802 warrants assistance under section 803 to supplement the efforts and resources of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture—

“(i) on Federal lands; or

“(ii) on non-Federal lands pursuant to a fire protection agreement or cooperative agreement.”.

SEC. 902. DECLARATION OF A MAJOR DISASTER FOR WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LANDS.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE VIII—MAJOR DISASTER FOR WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LAND

“SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.

“As used in this title—

“(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ‘Federal land’ means—

“(A) any land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; and

“(B) any land under the jurisdiction of the United States Forest Service.

“(2) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—The term ‘Federal land management agencies’ means—

“(A) the Bureau of Land Management;

“(B) the National Park Service;

“(C) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

“(D) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

“(E) the United States Forest Service.

“(3) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS.—The term ‘wildfire suppression operations’ means the emergency and unpredictable aspects of wildland firefighting, including support, response, emergency stabilization activities, and other emergency management activities of wildland firefighting on Federal lands (or on non-Federal lands pursuant to a fire protection agreement or cooperative agreement) by the Federal land management agencies covered by the wildfire suppression subactivity of the Wildland Fire Management account or the FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund account of the Federal land management agencies.

“SEC. 802. PROCEDURE FOR DECLARATION OF A MAJOR DISASTER FOR WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LANDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may submit a request to the President consistent with the requirements of this title for a declaration by the President that a major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands exists.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A request for a declaration by the President that a major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands exists shall—

“(1) be made in writing by the respective Secretary;

“(2) certify that the amount appropriated in the current fiscal year for wildfire suppression operations of the Federal land management agencies under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary, net of any concurrently enacted rescissions of wildfire suppression funds, increases the total unobligated balance of amounts available for wildfire suppression by an amount equal to or greater than the average total costs incurred by the Federal land management agen-

cies per year for wildfire suppression operations, including the suppression costs in excess of appropriated amounts, over the previous ten fiscal years;

“(3) certify that the amount available for wildfire suppression operations of the Federal land management agencies under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary will be obligated not later than 30 days after such Secretary notifies the President that wildfire suppression funds will be exhausted to fund ongoing and anticipated wildfire suppression operations related to the wildfire on which the request for the declaration of a major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands pursuant to this title is based; and

“(4) specify the amount required in the current fiscal year to fund wildfire suppression operations related to the wildfire on which the request for the declaration of a major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands pursuant to this title is based.

“(c) DECLARATION.—Based on the request of the respective Secretary under this title, the President may declare that a major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands exists.

“SEC. 803. WILDFIRE ON FEDERAL LANDS ASSISTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In a major disaster for wildfire on Federal lands, the President may transfer funds, only from the account established pursuant to subsection (b), to the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct wildfire suppression operations on Federal lands (and non-Federal lands pursuant to a fire protection agreement or cooperative agreement).

“(b) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS ACCOUNT.—The President shall establish a specific account for the assistance available pursuant to a declaration under section 802. Such account may only be used to fund assistance pursuant to this title.

“(c) LIMITATION.—

“(1) LIMITATION OF TRANSFER.—The assistance available pursuant to a declaration under section 802 is limited to the transfer of the amount requested pursuant to section 802(b)(4). The assistance available for transfer shall not exceed the amount contained in the wildfire suppression operations account established pursuant to subsection (b).

“(2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Funds under this section shall be transferred from the wildfire suppression operations account to the wildfire suppression subactivity of the Wildland Fire Management Account.

“(d) PROHIBITION OF OTHER TRANSFERS.—Except as provided in this section, no funds may be transferred to or from the account established pursuant to subsection (b) to or from any other fund or account.

“(e) REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS ON NON-FEDERAL LAND.—If amounts transferred under subsection (c) are used to conduct wildfire suppression operations on non-Federal land, the respective Secretary shall—

“(1) secure reimbursement for the cost of such wildfire suppression operations conducted on the non-Federal land; and

“(2) transfer the amounts received as reimbursement to the wildfire suppression operations account established pursuant to subsection (b).

“(f) ANNUAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year for which assistance is received pursuant to this section, the respective Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture, Appropriations, the Budget, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropriations, the Budget, Energy and Natural Resources, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and Indian Affairs of the Senate, and make available to the public, a report that includes the following:

“(1) *The risk-based factors that influenced management decisions regarding wildfire suppression operations of the Federal land management agencies under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned.*

“(2) *Specific discussion of a statistically significant sample of large fires, in which each fire is analyzed for cost drivers, effectiveness of risk management techniques, resulting positive or negative impacts of fire on the landscape, impact of investments in preparedness, suggested corrective actions, and such other factors as the respective Secretary considers appropriate.*

“(3) *Total expenditures for wildfire suppression operations of the Federal land management agencies under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary, broken out by fire sizes, cost, regional location, and such other factors as the such Secretary considers appropriate.*

“(4) *Lessons learned.*

“(5) *Such other matters as the respective Secretary considers appropriate.*

“(g) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—*Nothing in this title shall limit the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, Indian tribe, or a State from receiving assistance through a declaration made by the President under this Act when the criteria for such declaration have been met.”.*

SEC. 903. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFERS.

No funds may be transferred to or from the Federal land management agencies' wildfire suppression operations accounts referred to in section 801(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to or from any account or subactivity of the Federal land management agencies, as defined in section 801(2) of such Act, that is not used to cover the cost of wildfire suppression operations.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part C of House Report 114-192. Each such 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 MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 114-192.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 203.

Strike title III.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 347, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would strike a harmful and politically driven provision on the underlying bill that has the effect of limiting stakeholder input and curbing equal access to justice, a core constitutional principle in our Republic, and effectively removes an important check we have on arbitrary actions by Presidents and administrations.

Absent my language, the underlying bill would hand President Obama a blank slate in determining how we run our Western lands. My bill will restore that balance and allow civil society stakeholders and local residents to be able to challenge illegal Federal actions.

While I respect and appreciate the impetus for many parts of this bill and support them, particularly those aimed at incentivizing collaborative development management plans and fixing the flawed funding structure for wildfire response—very, very important in my district—the provision that I am striking in my amendment is truly a poison pill for many on my side of the aisle who care deeply about equal access to justice and many on the other side of the aisle who don't want to hand President Obama an unchecked control over Federal lands.

In districts like mine, which are made up of 62 percent Federal land, the Forest Service owns huge amounts of open space that we use, enjoy, is a driver of our tourism economy; we recreate as hikers, skiers, hunters, bikers; it is used commercially by loggers, utility providers, and many, many other groups.

I can attest to the fact that these groups, these stakeholders that I mentioned whose livelihood and enjoyment depend on these lands, are extremely valuable when it comes to providing practical, varied input into managing our Federal lands.

This bill, however, would discourage and limit the depth and diversity of public input by expediting the development of forest management plans while removing the legal venues that exist for protest after a management plan has been implemented, meaning not only does the provision, like the one I am trying to strike, cripple the transparency and effectiveness by limiting the form of expertise we have in planning our Federal lands, it also has the potential to repeal some critical rights, like the right to protest and legal recourse for potential wrongdoing.

The provisions I move to strike would effectively eliminate the ability of citizens, nonprofits, local residents, independent advocacy organizations, and others to file lawsuits against potentially illegal or improper forest management tools that the executive branch is using.

By creating a harmful bonding requirement, which would really exclude judicial access for everybody—except the very wealthiest corporations and people—and a prejudicial fee-shifting requirement that enables the government to act with impunity at the clear expense of the plaintiff, we really break down the core principle of equal access to justice, which is our right.

By prohibiting the courts from issuing any restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, or injunctions pending repeal in cases of postdisaster operations after broadly defined events, we are only compounding the damage.

Again, Mr. Chairman, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle's move to block the court's ability to make sound, thoughtful, and transparent decisions if the executive branch acts illegally really will come at the expense of our local stakeholders for those of us who live in and around Federal land.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to realize there is nothing, absolutely nothing in the base bill that prohibits any individual or group from filing a lawsuit.

What it does do is discourage frivolous lawsuits.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) to expand on that.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Chairman, I stand in opposition to the amendment. We have to reward collaboration and working together.

What this bill does not do is discourage NEPA. What it does do, though, is it brings people together to work together. That is what I was sent to Washington, D.C., to do; and that is what all of us were sent to do, is work together and move the ball up the field. It does not prevent anyone from filing a lawsuit.

What it does do, however, on frivolous lawsuits—and the numbers are clear. Between 1989 and 2008, over 1,125 lawsuits were submitted. Almost in every case, those lawsuits ended up costing the Forest Service that we are so concerned about the money they are spending—number one is forest fires; number two is litigation.

We want the same thing. We want more scientists, less lawyers in the woods, and healthy forests once again to be part of our country; yet what happens is the collaborative effort—and we made the definition of collaborative very vague so everyone can participate, everybody—it does not prevent anyone from suing.

What it does do is, if you are not going to be involved in the collaborative effort, if you are not going to spend the time and the resources, then you have to post a bond, and that bond only covers what the Forest Service would have to defend. We could have made it a lot aggressive, and we didn't.

Mr. Chairman, I stand in opposition.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to inquire as to how much time remains on both sides.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Utah has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. POLIS.

As my colleague stated, title III would require anyone who challenges a

project on forest land in the Federal court system to put up a bond covering all litigation expenses of the government. Plaintiffs would only get their bond back if they prevailed on all their claim.

Further, it would not allow litigants to recover attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act. While my colleagues across the aisle have said it doesn't prevent anyone from coming forward, we do know that the impact would be that it would prevent any plaintiffs, except those large companies with deep pockets, from bringing lawsuits against these projects, essentially keeping out the average American citizen from having their voice heard.

I strongly support this amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK).

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Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, Eric Hoffer once said that every great cause becomes a movement, which becomes a business, which becomes a racket. That is what has happened with environmental litigation.

Through many hearings, we have discovered that most of the groups litigating collaborative projects sue just to raise money or to defeat necessary projects through delay. That is their right. No one begrudges them it.

But that does not include frivolous litigation designed solely to run out the clock on salvage projects or to nullify by delay the painstaking work of collaborative groups which often, in good faith, spend endless hours and considerable resources in negotiating a plan that is fair to all.

I oppose this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have many of my constituents who are living in holdings on Federal lands. What happens if Federal land management policy changes their rights-of-way and makes it harder to access where they live? Where are they supposed to come up with the hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars that it would take to bond under this scenario to figure out whether what the Federal Government did was legal or not?

That is why we need to fix this, Mr. Chairman. And I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to defend the constitutional rights of families who live in and around Federal land.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chance to actually hear from the gentleman from California as well as from the gentleman from Montana.

You see, what happens and what has failed to be discussed here is this section only applies to whether it has been a collaborative process.

So real people, citizens, will spend years working together to develop a collaborative project. And then too frequently outside fringe groups that

don't live in the area, but that do have big pockets, wait for those projects to be announced.

Then they start to litigate, which has a chilling effect on any kind of collaborative work, and it makes the hundreds of hours that those citizens worked to come up with their projects simply moot.

That has happened in California. I have been there to see those projects that were stopped by frivolous lawsuits. It is the same thing that happens in Montana and in northern Idaho. In that particular district, of all of those lawsuits he mentioned, over 70 percent of those were stopped because of frivolous lawsuits.

Now, we are not stopping anyone from suing. What we are saying is you put up a bond if you are serious about it and you don't use this as a way of simply stopping a process that has been worked out by the citizens and the Forest Service at the same time. That is what this means, and that is what is going to be taken away.

That is why this is so essential and why this part has to be part of this bill. It has to move forward or our Forest Service does not have the tools it needs to preserve our forests and to protect our people and to protect our landscape.

This amendment cannot pass. It would destroy every effort of the Forest Service to actually move forward into the future. We oppose it. We oppose it vigorously and in all due respect.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. TIPTON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part C of House Report 114-192.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, after line 21, insert the following new section:

SEC. 505. FIRE LIABILITY PROVISION.

Section 604(d) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) MODIFICATION.—Upon the request of the contractor, a contract or agreement under this section awarded before February 7, 2014, shall be modified by the Chief or Director to include the fire liability provisions described in paragraph (7).”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 347, the gentleman

from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, Congress has previously authorized fire liability provisions for stewardship contracts. My amendment simply provides the same fire liability provisions for long-term stewardship contracts awarded by the Forest Service prior to February 7, 2014.

These contracts have valid concerns over their potential liability, and it is prohibitively expensive to obtain liability insurance to cover the costs of large forest fires.

The amendment provides these contractors with the same protections as all Federal timber sales and integrated resource timber purchasers and other integrated resource stewardship contracts that they already have. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment, which would change the parameters of contracts that have already been awarded through a competitive bidding process.

Stewardship end result contracting is a critical tool used to achieve land management goals across our national forests and grasslands.

In addition to making the authority for stewardship contracting permanent, last year's farm bill directed the Forest Service to make the first liability provisions in integrated resource timber contracts equal to liability provisions typically found in timber sale contracts. Earlier this year the Forest Service issued rulemaking carrying out this directive.

This was a commonsense change, and I agree with the sponsors of this amendment that this is a worthwhile change. However, their amendment would retroactively extend the updated liability requirement to contracts that were awarded before the farm bill was signed into law.

The Forest Service would, therefore, have to modify existing contracts, which is not only a burden for the agency and the contract awardees, but it is unfair to companies that did not participate in the competitive bidding process because of their understanding of the fire liability requirements.

Congress should not change contracts that have already been awarded through the competitive bidding process. For that reason, I oppose the adoption of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, we are talking about fairness. We just had an amendment that was presented by my

colleague from Colorado that talked about fairness, and I think Chairman BISHOP spoke very eloquently in regards to allowing that process to be able to work through the private sector.

Yet, when we are talking about forest health, Mr. Chairman, wouldn't it be an appropriate thing to make sure that we have a level playing field when it comes to liability?

If we want to be able to get in and actually protect those forests, to be able to protect those watersheds, to be able to protect endangered species and the other wildlife in the forests, let's make sure that we have a process to be able to do that so that that liability is not going to become a liability to something that I believe we all share as common ground, and that is the health of our forests.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part C of House Report 114-192.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 44, after line 15, insert the following:
SEC. 703. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may carry out demonstration projects by which federally recognized Indian tribes or tribal organizations may contract to perform administrative, management, and other functions of programs of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et seq.) through contracts entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 347, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment that allows the Forest Service to establish a pilot program to execute contracts with tribes under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, known as 638 contracts. 638 contracts allow tribes to manage and implement Federal programs in Indian Country.

When I was the New Mexico Secretary of Health, I witnessed how successful and beneficial these contracts could be in efficiently delivering services to tribes and their members. Through these contracts, tribes oper-

ate hospitals, health clinics, mental health facilities, and a variety of other community health services.

Having tribes manage and operate programs in their communities not only recognizes tribal self-determination and self-governance, but it also helps ensure that tribal needs are being met through traditionally and culturally appropriate methods.

Although several agencies have the authority to execute 638 contracts, such as the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services, the Forest Service does not currently have this authority. Several tribes have expressed to me that they would like to see the Forest Service have the authority.

Many of the pueblos in New Mexico have land in tribal forests that are adjacent to national forests, and we know that wildfires and pests can quickly affect entire regions, regardless of who owns the land.

In fact, the Las Conchas wildland fire, which is one of the largest wildfires in New Mexico's history, started on June 26, 2011, in the Santa Fe National Forest. It burned more than 156,000 acres in New Mexico, including land belonging to the Pueblos of Santa Clara, Ohkay Owingeh, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Jemez, Cochiti, and Kewa.

It is imperative that the Forest Service and tribes actively work together to co-manage forests. I urge Members to support my amendment, which will improve the Forest Service's ability to partner with tribes in order to work on projects that impact tribal lands and forests.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I may not be in opposition to this particular bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the gentlewoman from New Mexico, as this bill works its way through the process of ultimately being signed and implemented, if she would be willing to work with us to make sure this contracting authority in the future has no unintended consequences.

I yield to the gentlewoman for a response.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, absolutely. I appreciate that offer. Thank you.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. I want to thank the ranking member from the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee for bringing this amendment forward.

This amendment obviously allows the Forest Service to create a pilot program that would execute contracts with tribes to perform administrative, management, and other functions of the program for the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004.

Allowing the Forest Service to execute contracts would recognize the government-to-government relationship that tribes have with the Federal Government, and it would be in line with the intent of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of working with tribes as partners.

I certainly would encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to particularly thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) for yielding and for introducing this important amendment.

Mr. Chairman, there is an old saying that I know you have all heard, which is that the shadows of those who live on their land are the best protectors and the best stewards of that land.

My wife and I have had the good fortune to plant over 100,000 trees on our land, with the help of the kids, and I want you to know they are doing well.

I am supportive of this amendment because I think it is high time that the American Indians and the Alaska Natives, who are the first stewards of our lands, be allowed to better exercise their sovereignty and their self-determination in caring for the forests they have called home for untold centuries.

We already have 638 contracts that allow the tribes to manage Federal lands in Indian Country. This amendment simply adds a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to that list.

By approving this measure, we help create jobs, protect our forests all across Indian Country, and we all become better stewards of our Nation's great resources.

I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important amendment.

I want to again particularly thank Ms. LUJAN GRISHAM for her leadership on this important issue. I thank the chairman of the committee for his support of it as well. And I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah has 4 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from New Mexico has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment as it goes along with the collaborative efforts we are trying to include

in the bill with tribal and State governments.

I just want to thank the gentlewoman for proposing this amendment, and I rise in full support of it.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1700

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. KILMER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part C of House Report 114–192.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 807. LANDSCAPE-SCALE FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall develop and implement at least one landscape-scale forest restoration project that includes, as a defined purpose of the project, the generation of material that will be used to promote advanced wood products. The project shall be developed through a collaborative process.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 347, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, before I speak to this amendment, I actually wanted to start by expressing my appreciation to the chairman for his work on this important legislation.

I grew up in Port Angeles, Washington. I saw firsthand how a downturn in the timber industry impacted our region's economy and the livelihood of families who lived there. Those experiences were a major influence in my decision to pursue a career in economic development and now in public service. It is a big reason I have been working on harvest issues that impact the region that I represent.

On the Olympic National Forest, I have been proud to help stand up a collaborative, bringing together a group of stakeholders from all across the spectrum to figure out how we can make real progress to rebuild the trust that we need to restore our forests and to promote harvest levels and to support our local communities.

We have begun to see some successes come out of that. I am sure committed to working to help take actions that lead to better outcomes for our forests and for the local economies that rely on them as an important asset.

I think the bill that is before us today is an honest effort to address the real challenges that are facing our Federal forests. Importantly, the underlying bill includes language that would make real progress toward ending the harmful practice of fire borrowing.

Now, I have got some concerns about this bill that are going to keep me from supporting it today, but I am very hopeful that this is just a first step in a process that leads to compromise legislation that we can send on to the President and get signed into law to help our forests and to help our communities. I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of that process.

Mr. Chair, the amendment that I have offered today is focused on an initiative that would support innovative wood products, including cross-laminated timber. CLT products offer increased use of responsibly harvested wood that could mean more jobs in rural areas of Washington State and all other States.

These are renewable resources, rather than steel or concrete, that would make our buildings greener. These new wood products are strong and fire resistant and may actually be safer in an earthquake than nonwood alternatives.

We can change the way our Nation constructs buildings by utilizing these new sturdy wood products. More importantly, we can lead the way on a global timber revolution that can bring lower costs, environmentally friendly building materials to market, providing more job opportunities in rural America.

My amendment is pretty simple. It would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a significant forest restoration project with the goal of generating the kind of material we can use for these advanced wood products. I would urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I actually rise in support of this amendment as chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry of the Committee on Agriculture.

It is consistent with the U.S. Forest Service's recognition of the important role that advanced wood products can play, particularly in building construction. New and innovative technologies are yielding building products that are greener, stronger, fire resistant, and even safer in response to earthquakes than nonwood alternatives.

The bottom line is, when it comes to good, healthy forest management, it is just not some of the barriers we are dealing with today in terms of har-

vesting; it is also about driving the market and increasing the value.

It is a three-legged stool for healthy forests. I am very pleased with the underlying bill. I think that is helping on step one. I think this amendment helps us in terms of pushing the market value and the value of timber, and it is certainly consistent with many of the steps that we took within the farm bill in terms of research for advanced wood products.

I just am very pleased to support this amendment.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment. While it does nothing to address our underlying concerns with the bill, the promotion of advanced wood products is an important priority, and I commend my colleague from Washington, Mr. KILMER, for taking on this issue.

The amendment directs the Forest Service to establish a pilot project to promote the production of advanced wood products. Production of these products, like cross-laminated timber, or CLT, is a growing market with many practical applications. Growing this market here in the United States is an important economic development opportunity, and I thank Mr. KILMER for his efforts in promoting this opportunity.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the concept of this amendment. The gentleman brings out a very important fact that we do need forest products to be able to utilize the resources coming off our forests in order to do healthy management.

There are many forest products that can be made from smaller diameter materials that are already out there. We have the science behind it. A landscapewide collaborative project that uses these lower value products would be a good thing to do.

I do challenge the gentleman to support the whole bill so that we could put this into practice, should it be passed, because it would be of benefit to the bill and to healthy forests across the country if such projects were implemented.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I have no other speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, as we finish the last amendment to this very good bill, the gentleman from Washington full well knows how devastating it could be to his community if we do not pass this particular bill and wildfires actually attack his constituents and his area.

That is why it is extremely important—as we take this last opportunity to speak towards this bill and this particular amendment—to recognize that this is a bipartisan bill, bipartisan sponsorship, passed by a bipartisan

vote in our committee, passed in a bipartisan vote in the Committee on Agriculture.

This is a good bill that will move us forward, and it is essential to move forward. I appreciate all the support we have had from both sides of the aisle moving this particular piece of legislation forward. I urge support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 114-192 offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 247, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 427]

AYES—181

Adams	Deutch	Larson (CT)
Aguilar	Dingell	Lawrence
Amash	Doggett	Lee
Ashford	Doyle, Michael	Levin
Bass	F.	Lewis
Beatty	Duckworth	Lieu, Ted
Becerra	Edwards	Lipinski
Bera	Ellison	Loebsack
Beyer	Engel	Lowenthal
Bishop (GA)	Eshoo	Lowe
Blumenauer	Esty	Lujan Grisham
Bonamici	Farr	(NM)
Boyle, Brendan	Fattah	Lujan, Ben Ray
F.	Foster	(NM)
Brady (PA)	Frankel (FL)	Lynch
Brown (FL)	Fudge	Maloney,
Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Carolyn
Bustos	Gallego	Maloney, Sean
Butterfield	Garamendi	Matsui
Capps	Graham	McCollum
Capuano	Grayson	McDermott
Cárdenas	Green, Al	McGovern
Carney	Grijalva	McNerney
Carson (IN)	Gutiérrez	Meeks
Cartwright	Hahn	Meng
Castor (FL)	Hastings	Moore
Castro (TX)	Heck (WA)	Moulton
Chu, Judy	Higgins	Murphy (FL)
Ciçilline	Himes	Nadler
Clark (MA)	Hinojosa	Napolitano
Clarke (NY)	Honda	Neal
Clay	Hoyer	Nolan
Cleaver	Huffman	Norcross
Clyburn	Israel	O'Rourke
Cohen	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Connolly	Jeffries	Pascarell
Conyers	Johnson (GA)	Pelosi
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter
Courtney	Kaptur	Pingree
Crowley	Keating	Pocan
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Polis
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Price (NC)
Davis, Danny	Kildee	Quigley
DeFazio	Kilmer	Rangel
DeGette	Kind	Rice (NY)
Delaney	Kirkpatrick	Richmond
DeLauro	Kuster	Roybal-Allard
DelBene	Langevin	Ruiz
DeSaulnier	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger

Rush	Sires
Ryan (OH)	Slaughter
Sánchez, Linda	Smith (WA)
T.	Speier
Sanchez, Loretta	Swalwell (CA)
Sarbanes	Takai
Schakowsky	Takano
Schiff	Thompson (CA)
Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)
Scott, David	Titus
Serrano	Tonko
Sewell (AL)	Torres
Sherman	Tsongas
Sinema	Van Hollen

NOES—247

Abraham	Griffith
Aderholt	Grothman
Allen	Guinta
Amodei	Guthrie
Babin	Hanna
Barletta	Hardy
Barr	Harper
Barton	Harris
Benishek	Hartzler
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler
Black	Hice, Jody B.
Blackburn	Hill
Blum	Holding
Bost	Hudson
Boustany	Huelskamp
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)
Brat	Hultgren
Bridenstine	Hunter
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)
Buchanan	Issa
Buck	Jenkins (KS)
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)
Burgess	Johnson (OH)
Byrne	Johnson, Sam
Calvert	Jolly
Carter (GA)	Jones
Carter (TX)	Jordan
Chabot	Joyce
Chaffetz	Katko
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (MS)
Coffman	Kelly (PA)
Cole	King (IA)
Collins (GA)	King (NY)
Collins (NY)	Kinzinger (IL)
Comstock	Kline
Conaway	Knight
Cook	Labrador
Costa	LaMalfa
Costello (PA)	Lamborn
Cramer	Lance
Crawford	Latta
Crenshaw	LoBiondo
Culberson	Long
Curbelo (FL)	Loudermilk
Davis, Rodney	Love
Denham	Lucas
Dent	Luetkemeyer
Desantis	Lummis
DeJarlais	MacArthur
Diaz-Balart	Marchant
Dold	Marino
Donovan	Massie
Duffy	McCarthy
Duncan (SC)	McCauley
Duncan (TN)	McClintock
Ellmers (NC)	McHenry
Emmer (MN)	McKinley
Farenthold	McMorris
Fincher	Rodgers
Fitzpatrick	McSally
Fleischmann	Meadows
Fleming	Meehan
Flores	Messer
Forbes	Mica
Fortenberry	Miller (FL)
Fox	Miller (MI)
Franks (AZ)	Moolenaar
Frelinghuysen	Mooney (WV)
Garrett	Mullin
Gibbs	Mulvaney
Gibson	Murphy (PA)
Gohmert	Neugebauer
Goodlatte	Newhouse
Gosar	Noem
Gowdy	Nugent
Granger	Nunes
Graves (GA)	Olson
Graves (LA)	Palazzo
Graves (MO)	Palmer
Green, Gene	Paulsen

Vargas	NOT VOTING—5
Veasey	
Vela	Cuellar
Velázquez	Loggren
Velázquez	Payne
Swalwell (CA)	Peters
Takai	
Takano	
Thompson (CA)	
Thompson (MS)	
Titus	
Tonko	
Torres	
Tsongas	
Van Hollen	

NOT VOTING—5

Cuellar	Payne	Roe (TN)
Loggren	Peters	

□ 1736

Messrs. CONAWAY, AMODEI, PAULSEN, MEEHAN, BRADY of TEXAS, and WALKER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. HECK of Washington, GALLEGO, BUTTERFIELD, NADLER, CLAY, and ASHFORD changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 427, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, 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. 2647) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 347, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

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

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

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

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on ordering the previous question on House

Resolution 350, and adoption of House Resolution 350, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 262, noes 167, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 428]

AYES—262

Abraham	Graves (LA)	Paulsen
Aderholt	Graves (MO)	Pearce
Allen	Griffith	Perlmutter
Amash	Grothman	Perry
Amodei	Guinta	Peterson
Ashford	Guthrie	Pittenger
Babin	Hanna	Pitts
Barletta	Hardy	Poe (TX)
Barr	Harper	Poliquin
Barton	Harris	Pompeo
Benishek	Hartzler	Posey
Bera	Heck (NV)	Price, Tom
Bilirakis	Hensarling	Ratliffe
Bishop (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Reichert
Bishop (UT)	Hill	Renacci
Black	Hinojosa	Ribble
Blackburn	Holding	Rice (SC)
Blum	Hudson	Rigell
Bost	Huelskamp	Roby
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (AL)
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Rogers (KY)
Brat	Hunter	Rohrabacher
Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Rokita
Brooks (AL)	Hurt (VA)	Rooney (FL)
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Ros-Lehtinen
Buchanan	Jenkins (KS)	Roskam
Buck	Jenkins (WV)	Ross
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Rothfus
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Rouzer
Byrne	Jolly	Royce
Calvert	Jones	Russell
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Ryan (WI)
Carter (TX)	Joyce	Salmon
Chabot	Katko	Sanford
Chaffetz	Kelly (MS)	Scalise
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Schrader
Coffman	King (IA)	Schweikert
Cole	King (NY)	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Kinzinger (IL)	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Kirkpatrick	Sessions
Comstock	Kline	Sewell (AL)
Conaway	Knight	Shimkus
Cook	Kuster	Shuster
Costa	Labrador	Simpson
Costello (PA)	LaMalfa	Sinema
Cramer	Lamborn	Smith (MO)
Crawford	Lance	Smith (NE)
Crenshaw	Latta	Smith (NJ)
Cuellar	LoBiondo	Smith (TX)
Culberson	Long	Smith (TX)
Curbelo (FL)	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Davis, Rodney	Love	Stewart
DeFazio	Lucas	Stivers
Denham	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman
Dent	Lummis	Thompson (PA)
DeSantis	MacArthur	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Marchant	Tiberi
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Tipton
Dold	Massie	Titus
Donovan	McCarthy	Trott
Duffy	McCaul	Turner
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Upton
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Valadao
Ellmers (NC)	McKinley	Wagner
Emmer (MN)	McMorris	Walberg
Farenthold	Rodgers	Walden
Fincher	McSally	Walker
Fitzpatrick	Meadows	Walorski
Fleischmann	Meehan	Walters, Mimi
Fleming	Messer	Walz
Flores	Mica	Weber (TX)
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Wenstrup
Foxx	Moolenaar	Westerman
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Westmoreland
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Williams
Garamendi	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)
Garrett	Murphy (PA)	Wittman
Gibbs	Neugebauer	Womack
Gibson	Newhouse	Woodall
Gohmert	Noem	Yoder
Goodlatte	Nolan	Yoho
Gosar	Nugent	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Nunes	Young (IA)
Graham	Olson	Young (IN)
Granger	Palazzo	Zeldin
Graves (GA)	Palmer	Zinke

NOES—167

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)
Aguilar	Fudge	Nadler
Bass	Gabbard	Napolitano
Beatty	Gallego	Neal
Becerra	Grayson	Norcross
Beyer	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Pallone
Bonamici	Grijalva	Pascrell
Boyle, Brendan F.	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
Brady (PA)	Hahn	Pingree
Brown (FL)	Hastings	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)	Polis
Bustos	Higgins	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Himes	Quigley
Capps	Honda	Rangel
Capuano	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Huffman	Richmond
Carney	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Cartwright	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Kaptur	Sanchez, Linda T.
Cicilline	Keating	Sanchez, Loretta T.
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Clay	Kildeer	Schiff
Cleaver	Kilmer	Schiff
Clyburn	Kind	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Langevin	Scott, David
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cooper	Lawrence	Sires
Courtney	Lee	Slaughter
Crowley	Levin	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Lewis	Speier
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lipinski	Takai
DeGette	Loebsack	Takano
Delaney	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	Lowe	Thompson (MS)
DeBene	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Tonko
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Torres
Deutch	Lynch	Tsongas
Dingell	Maloney	Van Hollen
Doggett	Carolyn	Vargas
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean	Veasey
Duckworth	Matsui	Vela
Edwards	McCollum	Velázquez
Ellison	McDermott	Wasserman
Engel	McGovern	Schultz
Eshoo	McNerney	Waters, Maxine
Esty	Meeks	Watson Coleman
Farr	Meng	Welch
Fattah	Moore	Whitfield
Foster	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Lofgren	Peters	Yarmuth
Payne	Roe (TN)	

NOT VOTING—4

□ 1745

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resiliency to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 350) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and

delivery of 21st century cures and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 185, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 429]

YEAS—242

Abraham	Griffith	Palmer
Aderholt	Grothman	Paulsen
Allen	Guinta	Pearce
Amash	Guthrie	Perry
Amodei	Hanna	Pittenger
Babin	Hardy	Pitts
Barletta	Harper	Poe (TX)
Barr	Harris	Poliquin
Barton	Hartzler	Pompeo
Benishek	Heck (NV)	Posey
Bilirakis	Hensarling	Price, Tom
Bishop (MI)	Herrera Beutler	Ratliffe
Bishop (UT)	Hice, Jody B.	Reed
Black	Hill	Reichert
Blackburn	Holding	Renacci
Blum	Hudson	Ribble
Bost	Huelskamp	Rice (SC)
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Rigell
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Roby
Brat	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Hurt (VA)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rokita
Buck	Jenkins (KS)	Rooney (FL)
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)	Ros-Lehtinen
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Calvert	Jolly	Rothfus
Carter (GA)	Jones	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Jordan	Royce
Chabot	Joyce	Russell
Chaffetz	Katko	Ryan (WI)
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Salmon
Coffman	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Cole	King (IA)	Scalise
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Schweikert
Collins (NY)	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Comstock	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Knight	Sessions
Cook	Labrador	Shimkus
Costello (PA)	LaMalfa	Shuster
Cramer	Lamborn	Simpson
Crawford	Lance	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	Latta	Smith (NE)
Culberson	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Curbelo (FL)	Long	Smith (TX)
Davis, Rodney	Loudermilk	Stefanik
DeFazio	Love	Stewart
Denham	Lucas	Stivers
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman
DeSantis	Lummis	Thompson (PA)
DesJarlais	MacArthur	Thornberry
Dold	Marchant	Tiberi
Donovan	Marino	Tipton
Duffy	Massie	Trott
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy	Turner
Duncan (TN)	McCaul	Upton
Ellmers (NC)	McClintock	Valadao
Emmer (MN)	McHenry	Wagner
Farenthold	McKinley	Walberg
Fincher	McMorris	Walden
Fitzpatrick	Rodgers	Walker
Fleischmann	McSally	Walorski
Fleming	Meadows	Walters, Mimi
Flores	Meehan	Weber (TX)
Forbes	Messer	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	Mica	Wenstrup
Foxx	Miller (FL)	Westerman
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Frelinghuysen	Moolenaar	Whitfield
Garrett	Mooney (WV)	Williams
Gibbs	Mullin	Wilson (SC)
Gibson	Mulvaney	Wittman
Gohmert	Murphy (PA)	Womack
Goodlatte	Neugebauer	Woodall
Gosar	Newhouse	Yoder
Gowdy	Noem	Young (AK)
Granger	Nugent	Young (IA)
Graves (GA)	Nunes	Young (IN)
Graves (LA)	Olson	Zeldin
Graves (MO)	Palazzo	Zinke

NAYS—185

Adams Frankel (FL) Nadler
 Aguilar Fudge Napolitano
 Ashford Gabbard Neal
 Bass Gallego Nolan
 Beatty Garamendi Norcross
 Becerra Graham O'Rourke
 Bera Grayson Pallone
 Beyer Green, Al Pascrell
 Bishop (GA) Green, Gene Pelosi
 Blumenauer Grijalva Perlmutter
 Bonamici Gutiérrez Peterson
 Boyle, Brendan Hahn Pingree
 F. Hastings Pocan
 Brady (PA) Heck (WA) Polis
 Brown (FL) Higgins Price (NC)
 Brownley (CA) Himes Quigley
 Bustos Hinojosa Rangel
 Butterfield Honda Rice (NY)
 Capps Hoyer Richmond
 Capuano Huffman Roybal-Allard
 Cárdenas Israel Ruiz
 Carney Jackson Lee Ruppertsberger
 Carson (IN) Jeffries Rush
 Cartwright Johnson (GA) Ryan (OH)
 Castor (FL) Johnson, E. B. Sánchez, Linda
 Castro (TX) Kaptur T.
 Chu, Judy Keating Sanchez, Loretta
 Cicilline Kelly (IL) Sarbanes
 Clark (MA) Kennedy Schakowsky
 Clarke (NY) Kildee Schiff
 Clay Kilmer Schrader
 Cleaver Kind Scott (VA)
 Clyburn Kirkpatrick Scott, David
 Cohen Kuster Serrano
 Connolly Langevin Sewell (AL)
 Conyers Sherman Sherman
 Cooper Larson (CT) Sinema
 Costa Lawrence Sires
 Courtney Lee Slaughter
 Crowley Levin Smith (WA)
 Cuellar Lewis Speier
 Cummings Lieu, Ted Swalwell (CA)
 Davis (CA) Lipinski Takai
 Davis, Danny Loeb sack Takano
 DeFazio Lowenthal Thompson (CA)
 DeGette Lowey Thompson (MS)
 Delaney Lujan Grisham Titus
 DeLauro (NM) Tonko
 DelBene Luján, Ben Ray Torres
 DeSaulnier (NM) Tsongas
 Deutch Lynch Van Hollen
 Dingell Maloney, Vargas
 Doggett Carolyn Veasey
 Doyle, Michael Maloney, Sean Vela
 F. Matsui Velázquez
 Duckworth McCollum Visclosky
 Edwards McDermott Walz
 Ellison McGovern Wasserman
 Engel McNeerney Schultz
 Eshoo Meeks Waters, Maxine
 Esty Meng Watson Coleman
 Farr Moore Welch
 Fattah Moulton Wilson (FL)
 Foster Murphy (FL) Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Diaz-Balart Payne Roe (TN)
 Lofgren Peters Yoho

□ 1753

So the previous question was ordered.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
 question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I de-
 mand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a
 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 244, noes 183,
 not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 430]

AYES—244

Abraham Allen Babin
 Aderholt Amash Barletta

Barr Hanna
 Barton Hardy
 Benishek Harper
 Bilirakis Harris
 Bishop (MI) Hartzler
 Bishop (UT) Heck (NV)
 Black Hensarling
 Blackburn Herrera Beutler
 Blum Hice, Jody B.
 Bost Hill
 Boustany Holding
 Brady (TX) Hudson
 Brat Huelskamp
 Bridenstine Huizenga (MI)
 Brooks (AL) Hultgren
 Brooks (IN) Hunter
 Buchanan Hurd (TX)
 Buck Hurt (VA)
 Bucshon Issa
 Burgess Jenkins (KS)
 Byrne Jenkins (WV)
 Calvert Johnson (OH)
 Carter (GA) Johnson, Sam
 Carter (TX) Jolly
 Chabot Jones
 Chaffetz Jordan
 Clawson (FL) Joyce
 Coffman Katko
 Cole Kelly (MS)
 Collins (GA) Kelly (PA)
 Collins (NY) King (IA)
 Comstock King (NY)
 Conaway Kinzinger (IL)
 Cook Kline
 Cooper Knight
 Costello (PA) Labrador
 Cramer LaMalfa
 Crawford Lamborn
 Crenshaw Lance
 Culberson Latta
 Curbelo (FL) LoBiondo
 Davis, Rodney Long
 Denham Loudermilk
 Dent Love
 DeSantis Lucas
 DesJarlais Luetkemeyer
 Diaz-Balart Lummis
 Dold MacArthur
 Donovan Marchant
 Duffy Marino
 Duncan (SC) Massie
 Duncan (TN) McCarthy
 Ellmers (NC) McCaul
 Emmer (MN) McClintock
 Farenthold McHenry
 Fincher McKinley
 Fitzpatrick McMorris
 Fleischmann Rodgers
 Fleming McSally
 Flores Meadows
 Forbes Meehan
 Fortenberry Messer
 Foyx Mica
 Franks (AZ) Miller (FL)
 Frelinghuysen Miller (MI)
 Garrett Moolenaar
 Gibbs Mooney (WV)
 Gibson Mullin
 Gohmert Mulvaney
 Goodlatte Murphy (PA)
 Gosar Neugebauer
 Gowdy Newhouse
 Granger Noem
 Graves (GA) Nugent
 Graves (LA) Nunes
 Graves (MO) Olson
 Griffith Palazzo
 Grothman Palmer
 Guinta Paulsen
 Guthrie Pearce

NOES—183

Butterfield Connolly
 Capps Conyers
 Capuano Costa
 Cárdenas Courtney
 Cárdenas Carney
 Carson (IN) Carson (IN)
 Cartwright Cartwright (FL)
 Beyer Castro (TX)
 Bishop (GA) Chu, Judy
 Blumenauer Cicilline
 Bonamici Clark (MA)
 Boyle, Brendan Clarke (NY)
 F. Clay
 Brady (PA) Cleaver
 Brown (FL) Clyburn
 Brownley (CA) Cohen
 Bustos

Perry
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Poliquin
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price, Tom
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney (FL)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Rouzer
 Royce
 Russell
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Stefanik
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Massie
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McSally
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV)
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Newhouse
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Palmer
 Paulsen
 Pearce

Doggett
 Doyle, Michael
 F.
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Graham
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hastings
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Honda
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin

Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 Loeb sack
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lynch
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Moore
 Moulton
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Nolan
 Norcross
 O'Rourke
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peterson
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Rice (NY)

NOT VOTING—6

Amodio
 Lofgren
 Payne
 Peters
 Roe (TN)
 Walden

□ 1801

So the resolution was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
 the table.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unan-
 imous consent that all Members have 5
 legislative days to revise and extend
 their remarks and include extraneous
 material on H.R. 6.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
 objection to the request of the gen-
 tleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
 ant to House Resolution 350 and rule
 XVIII, the Chair declares the House in
 the Committee of the Whole House on
 the state of the Union for the consider-
 ation of the bill, H.R. 6.

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

□ 1803

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. 6) to ac-
 celerate the discovery, development,
 and delivery of 21st century cures, and

for other purposes, with Mr. HARDY of Nevada 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 Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I include the Committee on Energy and Commerce exchange of letters with the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, July 9, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 6, the "21st Century Cures Act," which your Committee ordered reported on May 21, 2015.

H.R. 6 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will not seek a sequential referral. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,

Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 6, the "21st Century Cures Act."

I appreciate your willingness to forgo seeking a sequential referral on H.R. 6 in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration. I agree that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I am writing with respect to H.R. 6, the "21st Century Cures

Act." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 6 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 6 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

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

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2015.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN RYAN: Thank you for your letter with respect to H.R. 6, the "21st Century Cures Act." I appreciate your willingness to waive consideration of H.R. 6 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 6 at this time, the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that the Committee may address any remaining issues that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. Further, I understand that the Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and I will support such a request.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the distinguished chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chairman, I want to first commend Chairman UPTON, Ranking Member PALLONE, Congresswoman DEGETTE, and Ranking Member GENE GREEN of Texas for their outstanding support and leadership on this.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, which will help advance the discovery, development, and delivery of new treatments and cures for patients and will foster private sector innovation here in the United States.

I have a whole list of people I would like to thank. I will provide that for the RECORD. I especially want to thank legislative counsel for their tireless efforts, the healthcare staff of the Congressional Budget Office, and the out-

standing team on Energy and Commerce. They have been fantastic, working 24/7.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 6 was reported from Energy and Commerce Committee by a vote of 51-0 and advances conservative and fiscal and regulatory reforms. Every dollar of advanced appropriations in the bill, which will sunset at the end of FY 2020, is offset by other permanent reforms, including billions of dollars in mandatory entitlement savings in Medicare and Medicaid.

This is no ordinary spending, like the kind we usually see in entitlement spending such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and ObamaCare. This mandatory spending is for 5 years only, and then it sunsets. This mandatory spending is fully paid for with mandatory spending cuts elsewhere that will not stop in 5 years, but are permanent reforms resulting in real savings. By comparison, the Ryan-Murray budget deal for healthcare savings yielded much less.

This innovative hybrid approach allows us to cut mandatory spending and use the savings to fund what would otherwise be a discretionary project, but in this case, it is a 5-year dedicated spending on medical research.

The Congressional Budget Office determined that H.R. 6 will reduce the deficit by \$500 million over the first 10 years and at least \$7 billion over the second decade. The funds provided to the NIH and FDA will be subject to explicit review and reprogramming through the annual appropriations process. Congress can review the dedicated funding and allocate it for specific initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, by modernizing clinical trials, eliminating duplicative administrative requirements, and perhaps, most importantly, making FDA less bureaucratic by advancing the voice and needs of patients in the drug and device approval process, H.R. 6 will make lasting, positive changes to the entire ecosystem of Cures. Over 250 patient groups have enthusiastically said "yes" and endorsed this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to think of the patients and vote "aye" in support of H.R. 6.

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

Mr. Chairman, today the House is considering H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, legislation that will further encourage biomedical innovation and the development of new treatments and cures that will benefit millions.

More importantly, this legislation will ensure that our country remains on the forefront of medical innovation while maintaining the gold standard for approvals of medical products.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation is the product of numerous forums that occurred in Washington and around the Nation that heard directly from patients and advocacy groups about what innovations could make a difference in curing diseases.

It is a truly bipartisan initiative of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I want to thank Chairman UPTON; Health Subcommittee chairman Mr. PITTS; Ranking Member GREEN; and our sponsor on the Democratic side, Representative DIANA DEGETTE, for working together on this bill.

The legislation includes a number of policy proposals that are meant to advance the work that NIH and FDA are already doing to encourage innovation in medicine, and I want to highlight some of those.

First, it promotes and supports the best biomedical workforce in the world while also increasing the diversity of that workforce by requiring the NIH to ensure participation of scientists from underrepresented communities.

Second, it encourages the development of precision medicine and next generation treatments.

Third, it provides FDA with additional tools to make the drug approval process more efficient, such as streamlined data review and the use of biomarkers in clinical experience to ensure that new treatments can reach patients in a timely manner.

Fourth, it modernizes clinical trials and supports the inclusion of diverse populations in clinical research through the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Fifth, it facilitates the development of important antimicrobials and treatment for rare diseases and clarifies the regulatory pathway for software for medical applications at FDA.

Finally—although not finally—there are many, many more positive developments in this bill, but I do want to mention last, ensuring interoperability of our health system which will lead to better access to health information, coordinated care, and improved outcomes.

Most importantly, Mr. Chairman, 21st Century Cures also provides mandatory funding to both NIH and FDA to carry out the activities in this legislation, funding that is critically needed if Congress wants NIH and FDA to fund innovative ways to cure diseases.

However, I am concerned that the very goal this legislation set out to achieve to encourage biomedical innovation and the development of new treatments and cures is undermined somewhat by a reduction in funding for NIH from \$10 billion to \$8.75 billion.

This funding level, the larger one, the \$10 billion over 5 years in the original bill, enjoyed the unanimous support from the members of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the 230 Members of the House who were co-sponsors of H.R. 6.

If Congress is truly committed to advancing and encouraging biomedical innovation, we must ensure that the Federal Government agencies we entrust with facilitating that goal have the resources to do so, and I hope that, at some point, as we move further, we can go back to the \$10 billion.

I would also urge my colleagues to reject any attempts to make the crit-

ical funding included in the legislation for NIH and FDA discretionary. The NIH ensures the innovation fund was created to be a resource to both NIH, FDA, universities, and researchers, including those just beginning their careers.

Any efforts to make this funding discretionary threatens the commitment made in 21st Century Cures to encourage innovation.

I also want to express, Mr. Chairman, my disappointment over the inclusion of controversial policy riders on what was otherwise a strong bipartisan bill. This inclusion, added to the bill after unanimous passage out of the Energy and Commerce Committee, is a political distraction from the discussion we should be having on the underlying policy.

I hope that, tomorrow, my colleagues will join me in supporting Congresswoman LEE's amendment which will strike those troubling riders from the legislation.

Despite these concerns, I remain totally supportive of the 21st Century Cures Act, as I believe it does take significant steps towards enhancing how we discover and develop innovative new medical treatments in the United States.

Once again, I take great pride in the fact that we were able to do this on a bipartisan basis in our committee and report the bill out unanimously.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge a "yes" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the vice chair of the full committee, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, America really is at its best when we are facing challenges, and so many of the challenges that we face today are in the area of health care and healthcare delivery.

Right now, we know we have over 10,000 identified diseases. We only have cures for 500 of those. This is why we need to work to focus the NIH and the FDA on a cures strategy and do this through the legislation that is before us today. Indeed, it is bipartisan, and it carries different components of bipartisan legislation.

One is the SOFTWARE Act that Representative GREEN and I have worked on. Mr. Chairman, getting bureaucracy out of the way and allowing innovation is the goal of the SOFTWARE Act. It would codify the manner in which the FDA approaches health IT, including the wonderful apps that we use to help make us healthy.

The FDA is the agency charged with ensuring the safety and efficacy of drugs and medical devices, but data is not a drug or a device, and it makes no sense to regulate it as such. That is why we bring forward the SOFTWARE Act. We support the bill and encourage others to support it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. GENE GREEN), who is the ranking member of our Health Subcommittee.

□ 1815

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan landmark legislation, H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

Dozens of roundtables and hearings, thousands of responses from stakeholders, and countless hours went into crafting this bill. This legislation is the product of months of bipartisan collaboration with the administration and stakeholders. As a result, H.R. 6 is supported by more than 370 patient groups, physician groups, and research institutions across the country.

The investments and provisions in this bill will accelerate the development of new tools and treatments for the fight against diseases, which have a great cost to our economy and an even greater toll on the patients and families that suffer from them.

After more than a decade of cuts and stagnant budgets, the National Institutes of Health will receive \$8.75 billion, and it will not increase the deficit. This influx of investment will be put toward solving today's complex scientific problems and discovering the next generation of medical breakthroughs.

In addition to this much-needed funding for medical research, there are so many provisions in this package worthy of support. The 21st Century Cures Act will deliver hope and new treatments to Americans.

While some of the provisions are technical in nature, their real-world impact is not abstract. Patients and families deserve to have their elected officials respond to their needs, and that is what this bill does.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON, Congresswoman DEGETTE, Ranking Member PALLONE, and Chairman PITTS for their leadership, vision, and determination to speed the medical progress. This is an example of what our constituents want us to do: legislate and solve problems.

It was a privilege to be involved in this landmark effort, and I want to thank the staffs, legislative counsel, and the countless stakeholders who worked tirelessly to craft a bill that lives up to the promises of the 21st Century Cures initiative.

I strongly support H.R. 6 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER).

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak about the importance of tomorrow's vote on the 21st Century Cures initiative. This takes the necessary steps forward so that we can deliver safe, effective treatments much more efficiently and creatively across America. This legislation would give NIH, along with the FDA, much-needed additional research dollars.

Specifically, imagine how a significant increase in funding could speed up

treatments and cures for such debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's and ALS. This legislation gives researchers a fighting chance in the hope of finding a cure for so many diseases and disorders. Investing in research today will pay dividends long into the future and will significantly reduce costs of treatment.

Give families hope. Vote "yes" on 21st Century Cures.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I would ask my chairman to proceed with another Republican because the gentleman seems to have more people.

Mr. UPTON. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I am here on the Democrat side, congratulating them for great work on 21st Century Cures.

I was involved in a couple pieces of the legislation that were added, one on antibiotic resistance and a lot on medical devices, because we need to reform the process. The bureaucracy is tough.

So, in streamlining these procedures, we are not questioning or addressing or harming individual safety, but what we are doing is making sure these devices get to where they need it in the quickest possible time.

This is just a small part of the great work of my friends on this side—I hope you don't mind me being over here—and the majority side in that it is a tribute to what we can do when we work together. I am proud to be part of this team.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), the Democratic sponsor of the bill who has worked so hard to bring us to this day with this bill on the floor.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, my father-in-law, Lino Lipinsky de Orlov Senior, was a true renaissance man. During World War II, he was a member of the Italian resistance, whose family sheltered Jews and Allied soldiers in their apartment. An artist by training, he made his way to this country with letters of introduction and became a world-renowned etcher and museum curator.

Most importantly, Lino Senior was a wonderful person. Kind to all and beloved by his family and friends, he reveled in life's small pleasures, creating whimsical drawings for his loved one's birthday cards and recounting tales of Italian youth, from idyllic summers on Capri to his escapades in the Resistance.

So, Mr. Chairman, it was more than a tragedy when in 1988, we lost Lino Senior to ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a debilitating disease that weakens and atrophies muscles, leaving those with the disease the inability to perform even the most mundane tasks, much less the ability to create great art.

Last week, at Craig Rehabilitation Hospital in Denver, I met a young man stricken with ALS who was already confined to a wheelchair. He was there

to support our bill, the 21st Century Cures. But what struck me was, in the 25-plus years since we lost Lino Senior, there has been no cure. There has been no real treatment for patients who receive this diagnosis.

ALS has been well known and thoroughly evaluated for a long time—after all, it gets its nickname from one of the most popular athletes of the 1920s—but we have made virtually no progress in finding a cure. This is not for lack of trying.

The ALS community is incredibly active. Plenty of us in this Chamber and people all around the country took part in the ice bucket challenge last year. I thank FRED UPTON for a lot of things, but maybe the thing I should thank FRED for the most was giving me the opportunity to take the ice bucket challenge last year.

Thanks so much, FRED.

There is real hope, however, though, for ALS and for thousands of diseases for which we lack treatments and cures. Thanks to the mapping of the human genome and technological advances like electronic health records, researchers are poised to discover new breakthroughs that promise dramatic improvements for patients.

The bill before us today, 21st Century Cures, will ensure that the great promise of these developments is harnessed by our Nation's premiere research facilities, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration.

21st Century Cures is a comprehensive bill which will encourage the development of new treatments and cures. It starts by making a major investment in research with the creation of a 5-year, \$8.75 billion innovation fund at the NIH. We create this fund to give the leaders the chance to plan strategically and to give longer term support to promising research projects. Ultimately, these investments will help produce new discoveries in the lab.

Cures then helps to take those discoveries and turn them into treatments for patients. We begin by modernizing clinical trials, including new efforts to ensure diverse populations participate in these research projects.

We allow centralized approval for clinical trials and adaptive trial designs to eliminate wasteful duplication of effort.

We include the patient perspective into every facet of discovering, developing, and delivering treatments, so that a conceptual breakthrough can be applied in practical ways.

We encourage new disease registries to pool information and help researchers drill into the data to find the unique and sometimes subtle needs of patient populations.

We help new scientists begin their careers in research so that great minds can tackle our biomedical challenges, and we will unlock the potential of modern technologies by facilitating safe data sharing and using digital medicine. We include many of the pro-

posals in President Obama's precision medicine initiative as part of this.

With this bill, Mr. Chairman, we are going to make sure that in the 21st century, the pace of breakthroughs, treatments, and cures accelerates to meet the challenges of our time. A healthier world is coming, and I look forward to getting there as fast as we all can.

You know, we couldn't have done this without this team, and I want to take my minute to thank so many people who have helped with this. Ranking Member PALLONE's staff: Jeff, Tiffany, Kim, Arielle, Rachel, Eric, Waverly; Ranking Member GREEN's staff: Kristen; Chairman UPTON's staff: Gary, Clay, John, Paul, Carly, Katie, Adrianna, Robert, Josh, Joan, Bits, Mark, Sean, Noelle, Tom, Leighton—they are the majority; they have a lot more staff than we do—Chairman PITTS' staff: Heidi; Representative BURGESS' staff: JP and Daniel; my unbelievable and intrepid staff: Rachel, Elizabeth, Matt, Eleanor, Diana Gambrel, Cole; my wonderful chief of staff who has been with me for 19 years; leg counsel.

Most of all, I want to thank my partner and compatriot, FRED UPTON. You have been fabulous, and I look forward to taking this over the finish line with you.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), a member of the Appropriations Committee and a very valuable member as we put this package together.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, curing disease and suffering is something that even this Congress can agree on on both sides of the aisle. This is obvious from tonight's debate.

Preventative measures are important, but there are still diseases that we don't understand how to prevent, much less treat. And the purpose of the cure and innovation fund is, in fact, to accelerate the discovery.

Before I came here, I did research on diseases. Is there anyone in the country who doesn't believe that we will cure diseases like Alzheimer's or ALS? It is only a matter of time and the investments that we place in it. As the gentlewoman from Colorado stated, we have a lot of the pieces in place in order to create these tremendous new discoveries, and this bill gets us on the path.

There is going to be a lot of talk about cost on the floor, but the cost of these diseases is not just measured in dollars. The cost is measured in families in ways that you can't measure in dollars.

Any family who treated a member with Alzheimer's disease, for instance, understands exactly what I mean by that.

Now, a lot of those costs are huge. Alzheimer's alone, for instance, is hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid expenses over the next 10 years. If we can cure it, we can save those.

Mr. Chairman, it is time to invest in those cures. We simply can't afford not to.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I lost my father April 14 of this year to Alzheimer's. It is a terrible disease. I watched how it affected him. I know that there are millions of Americans and American families that are dealing with Alzheimer's.

The 21st Century Cures Act will focus some resources so we can find a cure for Alzheimer's and we can find a cure for these diseases that are costing American taxpayers so much money.

I want to applaud the chairman, and I want to urge everyone to get behind the 21st Century Cures Act so we can find a cure for diseases like Alzheimer's in memory of my father, John Duncan.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), who is the ranking member of our Energy Subcommittee.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, and I want to thank Chairman UPTON, Ranking Member PALLONE, Ranking Member GREEN, and Ranking Member DEGETTE for their tireless work and commitment to this issue.

Mr. Chairman, this landmark piece of legislation will help modernize and personalize health care, encourage greater innovation, support research, and streamline the healthcare system to deliver better, faster cures to more and more patients.

Mr. Chairman, we might live in different regions, we might live in different times, we might be of different nationalities, we might even be of different faiths, but when it comes to the overall health of our Nation, we can surely put aside our differences and do the right thing for the American people.

I want to highlight two provisions of my bill, H.R. 2468, the Minority Inclusion in Clinical Trials Act of 2015, that were included in the 21st Century Cures Act.

The first provision will require the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to include, within its strategic plan for biomedical research, ways to increase representation of underrepresented communities in clinical trials.

□ 1830

The second will ensure that it remains a priority at NIH to increase the inclusion rates of traditionally underrepresented communities within the future biomedical workforce.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman such time as he may consume.

Mr. RUSH. Simply put, Mr. Chairman, these provisions addressed per-

sistent systemic and widespread disparities in health outcomes for minority communities.

As you know, many diseases, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, lupus, osteoporosis, asthma, sickle cell, and kidney diseases have been studied at length and still afflict minority populations in disturbing numbers and at disturbing rates.

Minorities are disproportionately underrepresented in clinical trials. There are many reasons attributed to this disproportionality, such as a lack of funding.

The chief culprit is that research professionals tend to work toward solutions for the cure of diseases to which they have personal connections and have personal experiences.

Mr. Chairman, I am so glad that the 21st Century Cures Act does address some of these critical issues. I rise in support of the 21st Century Cures Act, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of H.R. 6.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the 21st Century Cures Act.

This bill represents meaningful reform for patients with rare or chronic conditions. I would like to highlight one provision I am so proud of, the OPEN Act.

There are 1 in 10 Americans who suffer from a rare disease. That is 10 percent of the country. Over 95 percent of these diseases have no treatments.

Patients like Candace and Laura from the Tampa Bay Area need FDA-approved safe and effective treatments. Laura has no treatment options, and Candace did her own research and took a medication off label and is now in remission.

The OPEN Act will incentivize major market drugs and combination drug products to be repurposed to treat rare diseases and put them on label.

The 30 million Americans with rare diseases need your "yes" vote. Vote for this bill. Vote for patients.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, this is the way Congress should work, in a bipartisan capacity. In my 5 years on the committee, this is the most significant piece of legislation to be voted out of the committee unanimously.

To those of us who are listening on C-SPAN this evening, this is what the American people demand of Congress, bipartisan cooperation.

This bill will save countless lives not only in this country, but across the globe. I am so pleased it includes language coauthored by Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO of California and me ex-

empting future Food and Drug Administration user fees from sequestration.

I urge an extremely positive vote tomorrow. I hope that all of our colleagues will support this to indicate to the Senate of the United States that it should move forward as well so that the legislation can reach the desk of the President of the United States.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), a member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of 21st Century Cures, an initiative that gives hope to patients and families who have battled or who will battle one of the 10,000 diseases with no known cures, like my good friend and mayor of Jasper, Indiana, Terry Seitz, who lost his wife and the mother of their two daughters, Ann Seitz, to ALS 5 years ago on Thanksgiving Day, the family's favorite holiday.

As Mayor Seitz put it, 21st Century Cures gives patients and their families the opportunity for hope and the ability to cope. These two things mean the world to those fighting a rare disease who face so much uncertainty about what the future may hold. 21st Century Cures turns hopelessness into hope.

Mr. Chairman, we have a real opportunity today to improve the lives of these patients across the country, and we need to seize it.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS), a member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to shed light on why the nonpartisan 21st Century Cures Act is important for patients everywhere.

As a nurse and as part of our team working on this effort over the last year, I can relay that the 21st Century Cures Act is important because of people like my constituent back home, Ellie Helton.

Ellie was a beautiful, courageous constituent of mine. She loved peanut butter cups, the color pink, and most of all her family and her friends. At about this time last year Ellie suffered from a ruptured brain aneurysm that took her life at the tender age of 14.

The 21st Century Cures Act legislation creates an accelerated process by which we discover and develop cures and treatments for patients like Ellie. This legislation is fully offset and will reduce the deficit by more than \$500 million over the first decade.

Mr. Chairman, I am so proud to be a Member of Congress who is working on this legislation with all of my colleagues, and I am so proud of our chairman, FRED UPTON, for the work that he has done. This is an incredible effort, and I am so proud to be a part of it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), who is also a healthcare professional.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak on behalf of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, and I salute the bipartisan authors of this bill.

I am a cosponsor of this legislation. I am proud of the many hours of work that members of the Energy and Commerce Committee have put in to find common ground. This is a real achievement. 21st Century Cures is a good bill. It has come a long way, but I lend my support with some reservations.

Despite bipartisan agreement in committee to provide robust funding for the research initiatives and policies in this bill, the bill before us shorts the NIH by over \$1 billion, and these funds are the very ones that are critical for cures.

It is important that we provide the necessary support that the NIH requires to continue to be the gold standard in research and development.

While we all agree that it is important to speed up research and clinical trials to get treatments to those in need, I want to reiterate my concerns that this focus on speed should not undercut the work that so many have done for years, including many of us here in Congress, to improve diversity in research and clinical trials.

While this bill does include my provision to encourage the inclusion of children and the elderly in clinical trials, more needs to be done to ensure that women and minorities are included as well. This is an effort I led during the FDA reauthorization, and it is one that must not be undercut by the Cures effort.

Finally, I must express my disappointment that once again the House majority has decided to add language to the bill that politicizes the bipartisan effort and attacks women's personal decisionmaking.

It is a distraction from the important work that we are trying to do here, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the amendment to strip it.

The 21st Century Cures initiative is such an important bipartisan effort to strengthen our medical research and treatment development. It could be stronger, and I stand willing to work with my colleagues to do just that.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG).

Mr. LONG. Mr. Chairman, what an accomplishment it is to have this historic legislation on the House floor.

I want to congratulate the chairman and my Energy and Commerce Committee colleagues for their hard work. We are much closer to moving American medical innovation into the 21st century. Part of that is to keep up with the ability to communicate in a modern way with patients.

As the chairman knows, I have worked very closely with him and his staff during this past year to draft language to update the Food and Drug Administration's oversight of healthcare information on the Internet, especially on social media.

Millions of people use the Internet to find critical health information on treatments and other health topics. Unfortunately, current FDA regulations do not help communicate accurate, meaningful information online about healthcare solutions, such as prescription drugs and medical devices.

There is enormous potential to improve American lives if we can get the FDA to write workable rules and guidance to communicate information where people's attention is focused.

After all, the FDA itself regularly turns to the Internet to announce its activities and inform the public, presumably in a safe and informative way.

I have legislation to do this, and I hope to continue working with the chairman to modernize healthcare communications and, thus, help improve the lives of all Americans.

I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman on the 21st Century Cures to make sure this monumental bill ultimately meets the President's pen and is signed into law.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in favor of H.R. 6.

By encouraging innovation and providing more resources for groundbreaking research, we can provide a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

America has a rich history of scientific discovery, from putting a man on the Moon to finding a cure for polio. With the right focus, we can do the same in finding cures for devastating diseases, like cancer and Alzheimer's.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON for his commitment to making Alzheimer's one of the neurological diseases on which the CDC will collect data. 21st Century Cures will improve the lives of all Americans by bringing research from the lab to our families.

I thank the chairman, the committee, and the staff for all of their dedicated work on this.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), a member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my wholehearted support for the 21st Century Cures initiative. This legislation will change lives, and it will save lives.

When Chairman UPTON and Congresswoman DEGETTE introduced this bipartisan initiative, they promised it would be different. They used words like "bold," "transformative," "profound," and "hope." They promised hope, and they promised to change lives. Thankfully, they have delivered on these promises and then some.

21st Century Cures will profoundly transform our Nation's ability to discover, develop, and deliver the cures of tomorrow. It will change and even save lives, lives like that of Fifth District constituent Teresa Altemeyer, who has a form of chronic leukemia.

21st Century Cures can make all of the difference. She recently told me, as one of the many hundreds of thousands of patients living with chronic lingering cancer, "I am always looking forward to the future for the next therapy that can either hold off my cancer or potentially cure it, and in the past the wait for these medications has been excruciatingly slow."

Tomorrow I will be missing the funeral of a dear friend, Judy Warren, who died on Sunday from pancreatic cancer. She would have wanted me to be here tomorrow, voting on this bill. It couldn't save her, but it can save Teresa and many others.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation, I believe, as Mr. LANCE stated, is proof that we can accomplish great things when we put aside partisanship and unite around a common goal.

To that end, I want to thank all of my wonderful colleagues here today who have worked on this thing for so long. I am new to the committee, and coming into this and being able to be a part of this is really a great honor for me.

□ 1845

I want to thank the chair and the ranking member also for my provision to extend and expand the prior authorization program for prior mobility devices in this bill, providing certainty to Medicare beneficiaries that these critical devices will, in fact, be covered.

I am also excited about the NIH innovation fund, which entails mandatory funding, as was mentioned earlier, and will support scientists like those working at the University of Iowa.

As a result, we will have more groundbreaking advances like the University of Iowa researchers' discovery of a biomarker that could lead to early detection for the risk of preeclampsia in pregnant women, a discovery that could save countless lives.

While I am disappointed that the NIH funding was cut from \$10 billion to \$8.75 billion, I am hopeful that we can restore this amount as the process moves forward.

Finally, I am really happy that we finally have gotten to a point in this body, at least on this legislation, where we can think longer term and not just short term, not just about the costs for this program this year or even for the next 5 years, but think about all the savings that this will entail down the road as well, something that really happens far too often, I think, in this body and over in the Senate as well.

I thank my colleagues for their work on this issue. I am really very pleased to be a part of the process. Thank you for having me as a member of that committee and to be a part of the process.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New

York (Mr. COLLINS), a member of the committee.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act. This legislation will modernize and advance our healthcare system to help the millions of Americans battling rare diseases. It increases funding for NIH grants used by scientists at world class universities like those in my district in Buffalo and Rochester, New York.

H.R. 6 streamlines the drug approval process at the FDA, helping get new drugs to market faster. Patients are demanding a fresh approach to drug approval and biomedical research. This legislation provides America's medical innovators the guidance they need to lead a new age of medical innovations.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and my colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce for their dedication to this cause. I am proud of the work we have accomplished, and I am confident that this legislation accomplishes our goal of incentivizing innovation and defeating disease.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to another gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON), who again had a very positive impact on the legislation that was bipartisan as a part of this bill.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 6 on behalf of the many Americans who have been impacted by Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases. Lyme disease is rapidly becoming a public health scourge in the U.S. We simply need to do better at prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

H.R. 6 includes the text of the Tick-Borne Disease Research Accountability and Transparency Act, which is a truly constituent-driven effort and represents a significant step forward in bringing solutions for our chronic Lyme sufferers.

I would like to thank the physicians, the patient advocates, and researchers that helped in this process, including Dr. Richard Horowitz, Pat Smith, David Roth, Jill and Ira Auerbach, Holly Ahern, Chris Fisk, and other Lyme advocates across the nation, including Representative CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey and my coauthor and friend, Representative JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman UPTON, Ranking Members PALLONE and DEGETTE, and their dedicated committee staff for working tirelessly to include members' input and manage an open, bipartisan process for this important legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 11 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the 21st Century Cures Act and thank the chairman and the Committee on Energy and Commerce to keep America at the forefront of medical innovation by removing barriers that prevent development and delivery of life-improving therapies.

However, this is not only an issue of keeping America competitive; it is a moral issue. The greatest physician in history said in Matthew: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

I want to share the story of Brennan Simkins, who was diagnosed with childhood cancer. Brennan has had over four stem cell transplants. He is still living today, and he is the student of my wife, who is teaching him piano.

He is truly a miracle and a blessing to us, but he still requires medications. There are medications out there which are caught up in bureaucratic red tape. By passing this bill, we can help patients and families across the country, like Brennan Simkins, get access to the medicines of tomorrow.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. UPTON. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ALLEN. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR).

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey yielding some time.

Tomorrow, the House will vote on the 21st Century Cures Act, legislation that will advance medical research at the FDA and the NIH to lead new treatment for cures for countless people. This is necessary.

However, what is not necessary is the dangerous language that Republican leadership quietly tucked in the bill that blocks access to reproductive care. This is unacceptable.

As a member of the Pro-Choice Caucus, I oppose this and other attempts to expand restrictions on reproductive care. We cannot allow this type of antichoice language to keep appearing in what is otherwise important legislation.

Today, it is in legislation to further medical research. Before, it was in legislation to fund community health centers and to protect victims of trafficking. Allowing this policy to move forward will move women's health care backward. We cannot allow these attacks to continue.

Representatives LEE, CLARKE, and SCHAKOWSKY have offered an amendment to strike this destructive antichoice language. Today, I offer them my strong support.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of their amendment and to also insist that we need to stop injecting the Hyde language into parts of law it doesn't belong.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the 21st Century Cures Act. This bill is a bold proposal that would accelerate our scientists' ability to develop lifesaving cures. Our need for action is now. Currently, more than 10,000 known diseases exist in the world; however, we only have treatments for approximately 500.

In my district of southern California, 4-year-old Callan Mullins was born with a severe congenital heart defect. He has undergone four open heart surgeries, suffered numerous strokes, been diagnosed with cerebral palsy; and at the age of 3, doctors delivered the heartbreaking news that he had a brain tumor.

Callan is a fighter and a survivor, but his parents are still seeking answers and medical breakthroughs to ensure that he can live life to its fullest. The Cures Act would offer hope to the millions of Americans like Callan battling devastating illnesses.

I thank Chairman FRED UPTON for his tireless work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to stand with me as we pave the way for lifesaving treatments and cures.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Before conclusion of debate, Mr. Chairman, let me just take a minute to recognize Chairman UPTON and Representative DEGETTE for their steadfast dedication to this bill.

This bill would not have been possible without their work for so many years, beginning when they had these forums where they heard from patients and the advocacy groups around the country.

The process that they used to actually obtain information that became the basis for this bill was really unusual and was very, I would say, populist and grassroots in a way that I think I would like to see emulated in the future because it was so successful.

It is further proof, I think, also that when we want to work together to achieve great things, we are capable. I know it hasn't always been easy, and the staff has had to work around the clock and on weekends and during holidays since January, but this is a good bill that I am proud to support.

I just want to thank not only the members, but also the staff of Chairman UPTON and Chairman PITTS. That is Gary Andres, Clay Alspach, John Stone, Carly McWilliams, Paul Eddatel, Robert Horne, Joan Hillebrands, Katie Novaria, Adrianna Simonelli, and Heidi Stirrup.

Let me also thank Representative DEGETTE for her work, her staff as well: Lisa Cohen, Rachel Stauffer, and Elizabeth Farrar; Mr. GREEN's staff: Kristen O'Neill; and, of course, my staff: Jeff Carroll, Tiffany Guarascio, Kim Trzeciak, Eric Flamm, Rachel Pryor, Waverly Gordon, and Arielle Woronoff.

Let me just say this: Obviously, I urge support for this legislation. I hope

that we get a huge vote, but I think the biggest satisfaction that I am going to get when this passes and we work to get it passed in the Senate and to the President's desk is that every Member of Congress knows that, when we go home, there are always events with various advocacy groups.

I think, of course, of the pancreatic cancer group because my mom died of pancreatic cancer about 5 years ago, 7 months after she was diagnosed, which is actually a long time. Many people die within 6 weeks or 2 months after diagnosis because the diagnosis takes so long and occurs too late, effectively.

You go to these various events that the groups have. Sometimes, it is a run; or it is a walk. DIANA DEGETTE mentioned ALS. I went to an ALS walk, I think, about 3 or 4 weeks ago.

The typical response—and I am thinking of this last ALS walk—is that someone will come up to you and say: Why aren't you doing enough to find a cure? Why aren't you spending more money? Why aren't you prioritizing this disease? Why is it so difficult to have a clinical trial or to get involved in a clinical trial?

For 20 years, most of the time, when somebody has brought that up, I haven't really had an easy response because, for many of the diseases, there hasn't been really much progress at all.

Now, the biggest satisfaction I am going to have—and I have already had it over the last few weeks—is when I go back and I go to one of these events and one of the patients or advocate representatives says to me: Well, what are you doing about this?

I will be able to say: Well, we have a bill called 21st Century Cures, and it does a lot of things that could make a difference in terms of what your concerns are.

That, to me, is the greatest satisfaction, really, of our being able to pass this bill tomorrow.

I would urge support on a bipartisan basis.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, if I might ask, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. I yield myself the balance of the time to close. I won't use 12½ minutes, I don't think.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate you being here tonight and the Members, knowing that we are going to debate a number of amendments and vote on final passage tomorrow morning.

We have all thanked a lot of people here, a lot of great staff, terrific staff, a lot of good Members. I am not sure anyone has actually thanked the leadership on both sides.

I want to thank JOHN BOEHNER, the Speaker, not only for giving us H.R. 6, but his strong support all the way; KEVIN MCCARTHY, our majority leader; STEVE SCALISE, our whip; CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, our conference chair; and on the Democratic side, too, NANCY PELOSI, former Speaker, has

been terrific; STENY HOYER has been in the trenches every day on this issue, came and participated in our very first roundtable more than a year ago to see this bill move forward. It is, indeed, a bipartisan bill.

Every one of us here, as we think about the 434 of us here in the House, every one of us has taken a different path to get here. We each represent diverse districts, and despite our differences geographically and politically, whether we have an R or a D next to our name, I daresay that there is one thread that indeed binds us all.

We are all here to improve the lives of our friends, our neighbors, and our family members at home.

□ 1900

This is Brooke and Brielle. I am in the middle. So look at just Brooke and Brielle. They and so many of our friends, neighbors, and family members are why we are here today. These two little girls from my district in Michigan are bravely battling SMA. They are two of the brightest stars that I know.

Our 21st Century Cures effort seeks to capture just a sliver of the hope and optimism that countless patients like Brooke and Brielle exude, despite insurmountable odds.

A year and a half ago, we had an idea. We sat down, Republicans and Democrats, and it was time for Congress to do something positive to boost research and innovation and deliver real hope for more cures by expediting the approval of drugs and devices. That is what this bill does.

We traveled the country. We had probably 40 or 50 different roundtable and subcommittee hearings all over the place, and we appreciated Republican and Democratic participation. We visited with patients, researchers, innovators, and health experts from across the health spectrum. We listened, and we put pen to paper, and then we listened some more. And that is why we are here today.

There is not a single person in this Chamber or watching at home tonight who has not been touched by disease in some way, and it is about time that we actually do something about it.

So as we begin debate on this landmark bill, I can't help but think of the patients who are sitting across from their doctors right now about to get news that certainly is going to change their world.

It is not just the disease that makes them feel powerless and vulnerable. The very system designed to help them has not kept pace with scientific advances. They need the next generation of treatment and cures, but they don't have until the next generation to wait.

They aren't interested in debating why the timelines, the failure rates, the size and the costs of conducting clinical trials are at all-time highs. They know that, despite the promise of scientific breakthroughs, they can't get the therapy that might save them. That is why we need this bill.

We have all said too many early good-byes—too many—and we have seen families robbed of a parent that is never going to get to see their child's milestones, like not see them walk down the aisle, maybe not see a graduation, maybe not see a career, maybe not see them raise a family of their own, and we have seen children that are born without the gift of a future. Life is not always fair. We know that, but we have got to try and do better.

The last century and the century before it brought just remarkable medical breakthroughs. From x rays and anesthesia to pacemakers and transplants, the tools to diagnose and treat patients have been transformed over and over and over again; yet for every single disease that we defeat, every condition we cure, there are thousands more still plaguing our people. Of the 10,000 known diseases, 7,000 of which are rare, there are treatments for only 500.

The history of health innovation is indeed remarkable, but now we have got our sights set on this bill, 21st Century Cures. The bill is about making sure that our laws, regulations, and resources keep pace with scientific advances.

So what does it take to vanquish a disease? Yes, often billions of dollars, millions of hours—that is for sure—thousands of researchers, and hundreds—maybe thousands—of failed attempts can go into the development of yet just one single treatment or cure. It is daunting, it seems impossible, but still, patients like Brooke and Brielle hold out hope.

They battle through pain, transcend physical limitations, and live lives filled with joy and optimism. Our brothers and sisters, moms and dads, grandparents and friends, they all keep faith in the future, in spite of suffering. This bill, the 21st Century Cures initiative, is for them. It is for those that we lost, those who grapple with sickness today, and those who will be diagnosed tomorrow.

In this, the greatest century in the world on the greatest country on the planet, Americans deserve a system that is second to none. We can and must do better. It is about hope—hope that the burden for patients and caregivers is less tomorrow than it was yesterday—and it is about time.

So as Brooke and Brielle always say with a smile and a sparkle in their eyes, "We can, and we will." The time for 21st Century Cures is now.

Please join us, Republicans and Democrats, leaders on both sides of the aisle, for the patients that we want to solve these diseases for, by supporting this bill, by working with our colleagues in the Senate, but really listening to the voices that call for us to do something well. This is it, H.R. 6. Please vote for it tomorrow.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the 21st Century Cures

Act. I thank Chairman UPTON and my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for all the work they've done advancing this important initiative.

For the past year and a half, we have been listening to experts and patients across the country detail how we can proactively address America's growing health care needs and areas where cures and therapies are lacking.

The single best thing we can do? Make sure that our ultimate goal should not be to provide lifelong treatment, but to find life-saving cures.

It shouldn't take 15 years and billions of dollars to maybe get a new medical innovation approved. We need to remove the unnecessary barriers between Americans and life-changing innovation.

This means prioritizing resources, cutting through red tape, and empowering scientists and researchers so they can discover, develop and deliver medical breakthroughs. 21st Century Cures does this.

I'm proud to have authored six major provisions in the Cures package. These are bills that modernize HIPAA laws, accelerate the discovery of new cures, create research consortia to treat pediatric disorders, and bring our regulatory framework into the 21st century by embracing technologies that focus on patient-specific therapies and the potential for powerful indicators, like Biomarkers.

Mr. Chair, we have a unique opportunity here today. Today we are offering hope for the millions of Americans suffering from currently incurable and untreatable diseases.

Hope for the Eastern Washington dad with ALS who just wants to see his kids grow up.

Hope for the high school student with cancer waiting for the FDA to approve a clinical trial.

This is our chance to help foster an environment where innovation is accelerated, not stifled. Where discovery and high paying jobs are here in the United States, not abroad.

This is our chance to offer the promise of real solutions to the American people.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues join me in taking advantage of this tremendous opportunity, and passing 21st Century Cures.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, which will help uncover the next generation of ground-breaking cures and treatments for the thousands of diseases that currently have none. H.R. 6 will streamline the delivery process, enhance research and development, and modernize the regulatory system for approving drugs and medical devices. For patients, families, and loved ones affected by serious illnesses, this legislation offers real hope.

Last summer, I was fortunate to meet a young man named Scott Andrew Mosley who lives in my district in Henderson, Kentucky. Scott is 13 years old and was diagnosed with Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) at the age of 6. DMD is a recessive X-linked form of muscular dystrophy, affecting around 1 in 3,600 boys, which results in muscle degeneration and premature death.

DMD begins in the legs and over time attacks all the muscles in the body. Young Scott became unable to walk at the age of 9 because of DMD, but has never complained about the hand he has been dealt. He offers encouraging smiles to everyone he meets, despite knowing he faces a disease without a cure. Last year, a group of gentlemen in the Henderson community rallied together and vol-

unteered to remodel and refit Scott's bedroom with his own shower and equipment necessary to transfer him from bed to bath. These gentlemen volunteered their time, talent, and money to help Scott and his family because it was the right thing to do.

Mr. Chair, as a Member of this esteemed body, I believe it is our duty and obligation to pass the 21st Century Cures Act so that people like Scott Mosley can have hope for a cure for DMD and so many other diseases. Many other Kentuckians and Americans across this country are also in need, and passing the 21st Century Cures Act will bring them hope, and it also is the right thing to do. My thoughts and prayers remain with Scott and the Mosley family, and I thank them for the opportunity to speak on their behalf.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act. Unanimously passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee with a 51-0 vote, the 21st Century Cures initiative will encourage innovation in biomedical research and development of new treatments.

With \$8.75 billion in mandatory funding over the next five years delivered to the newly created National Institutes of Health and Cures Innovation Fund and \$550 million for the Food and Drug Administration over the next five years, it is clear that Congress is committed to investing in health research. Developing a better system of funding towards high-risk high reward research and research by early stage investigators is crucial to finding better health outcomes. With a better focus on infectious disease, precision medicine, and biomarkers, I strongly believe that we will finally address these areas of unmet medical needs, which are often the most pervasive issues in our health system.

The modernization of clinical trials by supporting a more centralized system, moving to more adaptive clinical trial designs, and creating a national neurological disease surveillance system will help to develop better data and provide more patient success stories. The legislation also allows for better sharing of clinical trial information for researchers and scientists for more efficiency across the board. Also, the bill ensures that strategies will be developed to cast a wider net for clinical trials in order to increase minority representation.

Last October, I wrote a letter urging the White House to take into consideration UT-Southwestern's existing particle therapy research infrastructure and expertise in leading cancer treatment research in the U.S. when selecting the planning grant award recipients. The planned center would serve as a research adjunct to an independently created and funded, sustainable clinical facility for particle beam radiation therapy. Currently, the planning grant includes pilot projects that will enable a research agenda in particle beam delivery systems, dosimetry, radiation biology, and/or translational pre-clinical studies.

Mr. Chair, the advanced planning grant the UT Southwestern Medical Center received in February 2015, is exactly the type of medical and technological advancement the DFW Metroplex and country needs and is the type of federal investment we need to continue to lead the world in state-of-the-art medical research. Not only is this grant a major advancement for STEM, it is a crucial step in the right direction for cancer research and those affected by cancer here in the United States.

This legislation provides new funding opportunities for innovative cancer treatment approaches such as the development of America's first Heavy Ion Center for cancer therapy and would pave the way to keep America at the forefront of medical research and state-of-the-art cancer treatment.

While H.R. 6 contains many provisions regarding the biomedical research workforce, clinical trials, FDA improvements, I am most proud of the initiative's provisions regarding mandatory funding for the NIH and FDA. I strongly believe that the Congress has not placed enough importance on scientific research and this is a way to get us back on track. Investing in innovation will yield high rewards for the medical community, especially patients. I am proud to support H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. HARDY, 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. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 7, the Obama administration once again ignored a deadline for the Iranian Nuclear Agreement while failing to set a new date to conclude discussions on what could prove to be some of the most important diplomatic negotiations of our lifetimes.

In March of 2015, I joined 367 Members of the House in sending a letter to President Obama requesting that any agreement would be provided adequate congressional oversight and approval. This was a bipartisan effort because both Democrats and Republicans alike recognized the magnitude of the challenges we face in confronting the possibility of a nuclear Iran.

The United States must promote an agreement that first and foremost advances our national security and the security of our allies in the region. A clear indicator of future performance has always been past performance. Unfortunately, Iran has a decades-long history of obfuscation when it comes to their nuclear program.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that negotiations do not result in simply delaying Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon for just a few short years but, rather, a strong deal that would prevent the current regime from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Speaker, as talks continue into the weekend, I am hopeful that negotiators will remember that no deal is better than a bad deal.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE
CAUCUS: CONFEDERATE FLAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the distinguished gentlewoman from California introduced a privileged resolution, not too different from the one my friend and colleague Mr. THOMPSON brought to the floor just last week. Mr. Speaker, that resolution called for the immediate removal of the Confederate battle flag from the Capitol grounds. And my colleagues across the aisle moved quickly to banish that resolution to die in committee.

Earlier today, the original home of the Confederacy argued, but agreed, that the Confederate flag and the history it represents belong in a museum. They decided that the flag should not serve as a bright, waving reminder of the discrimination and disparity of treatment for people of color that still lingers in communities across our country—hateful sentiments that resulted in the loss of nine lives at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

They decided that that flag should not hang high above the halls of State government, forcing all those who see it to wonder whether the emotions and ideology so closely tied to it are present in the hearts and minds of those who serve in that statehouse.

They decided that the flag had flown long enough, and that taking it down would be one small but critical step in healing the deep divisions present in their State.

They stood against the symbol of bigotry, they stood against years of complacency, and they stood for the principles of equality, justice, and unity for this Nation. They will take that flag down tomorrow.

But Republican leadership in this body refuses to do that. They took the path of cowardice and turned a blind eye to the struggles of generations of Americans. They used backhanded tactics last night to muddle the language of the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, including language intended to satisfy Members who would rather see that flag fly.

The fallout from that language led to the disappearance of that bill from today's scheduled debate and resulted in the chairman of that subcommittee disowning the final product.

Leader PELOSI's resolution offered another opportunity for my colleagues across the aisle to stand on the right side of history, but they turned that chance down resoundingly.

Mr. Speaker, let's not mince words. While I stand with my brothers and sisters of the South, the Confederacy itself fell far below even common decency for fellow man, violating human rights and taking advantage of every part of the lives of the men and women they enslaved, sometimes for profit and sometimes purely for pleasure.

The Confederacy used extreme violence and terrorism to subjugate millions purely on the basis of the color of their skin, and started the deadliest war ever to take place on U.S. soil to defend a disgraceful system. That flag is a symbol of the Confederacy's effort to keep that system intact. That is why, Mr. Speaker, before the holiday, I stood in this very spot on the floor to denounce the hate, bigotry, malice, discrimination, and division that the Confederate flag stands for.

But I also reminded my colleagues that a symbol, while significant, is only a stand-in for something far stronger. A symbol will never have the strength of a bullet fired from the barrel of a policeman's gun at an unarmed Black man because of ingrained bias. A symbol will never have the impact of a prison sentence that permanently prevents a young person from becoming a full-fledged member of society, a fate far more likely to befall a person of color. A symbol will never eradicate Black and Latino wealth like the predatory loan structures that put their homes underwater in a recession at rates that dwarfed their White peers.

But if we are not even willing to get rid of a symbol, as this body has so clearly expressed its disinterest in doing, how can we possibly move on to the real underlying problems, issues like education for young people, affordable housing, and access and training for jobs.

Removing a symbol is an easy thing to do, an easy thing that would have signaled one country, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Today, Republican Members across the aisle did more than just stand up for that symbol of hate and that symbol of degradation. These Members treated me and those issues that are vitally important and extremely sensitive to me in a manner that was both disrespectful, insensitive, and very hurtful, Mr. Speaker.

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Nonetheless, this will not go away. We will continue to raise this issue every day that it is needed, every week that it is needed, every month that it is needed, until my colleagues can recognize that a simple act of decency, the removal of this symbol of hate and disrespect and slavery, a mark on our history that needs to be removed.

Once we do that, Mr. Speaker, once we do that simple, little thing, and that is to stand together in taking down that ugly symbol that that flag represents, then we will be able to get on with the serious and important work that needs to be done to lift up this economy on behalf of all people.

That will be education for all people, and higher education that is affordable for all people, Mr. Speaker. It will be affordable housing. It will be jobs and job training. It will be adequate preschool programs and afterschool programs. It will be recreation programs and character-building programs.

It will be safe communities. It will be equal opportunity for all because that is the country that we live in, and that is the reason that we have this Congress, and that is the reason that I am here.

I, for one, will not be silent on this issue until we see this change that the 21st century demands.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for yielding, and I stand with her and what she has just said.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes, we forget how privileged we are, the Members of Congress, who have a chance to stand in this hallowed Chamber. We are the representatives of the people. We get elected to speak for the American people. We get elected to act on behalf of the American people.

Very few Americans, throughout the history of our country, have had an opportunity to stand right here where we are today and say that we actually can get things done, not just for the American people, for the people of the world, because there has never been a democracy like the United States of America.

There has never been a country that has had an opportunity to do so much for so many, and there has never been a democracy that has a chance to prove to the world that we know how to get this done and do it right.

Mr. Speaker, as we stand here in this Chamber, we have to admit, we have to be prepared on behalf of the American people to stand up, to step up, to do what is right, and to do what the American people expect us to do.

Now, they know we have to speak for them, but they don't want us just to talk. The time to just talk on so many issues has come and gone.

Mr. Speaker, I think the American public would agree that the time to just talk about what to do about the Confederate battle flag has come and gone. The time to just talk about what to do about the Confederate battle flag came 150 years ago when the chance to heal was upon us.

As President Lincoln said in his second inaugural address: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds."

If we needed to talk, Abraham Lincoln said it all. Lincoln wanted us to act, to move, to get things done for the American people.

The time to talk came after one after another Black church was suspiciously burned down throughout this country, and we knew something was going on.

That was the time to talk about what we needed to do.

The time to talk was before a man, driven by hate and animosity, on June 17, entered Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, to carry out a vicious plan to start a race war—because we have seen these signs of danger growing for the disregard for life.

That would have been a time to talk and heal, before that man, crazed with hate, walked into Mother Emanuel Church; but, Mr. Speaker, after nine innocent, God-loving, God-fearing Americans were taken from their families, from their church where they were praying, from their country, the time to just talk is over.

It is time for us to step up. It is time for us to stand up because that is why we get elected, to do what the people expect us, on their behalf, to do.

320 million Americans cannot get up and say, It is time to remove the Confederate battle flag from any grounds where we reflect the governance of a democracy. They encharge us to do that, and the time to talk has ended.

When we see on the floor of the House, last night, an opportunity for the Congress to register itself and say, We hear you, America, you want us to act, and you want us to take down that Confederate battle flag in whatever symbolic way we can, including selling that symbol here in the Capitol, we had an opportunity.

In fact, we had an opportunity that was golden because it seemed like we had a bipartisan vote to do exactly that; but, in the dead of night, something happened. Some people decided to hide behind the dark cloud and change what we had just done.

When we take to the floor here, we may only be talking, but as my colleague from New Jersey said, we are going to do much more because the time to talk has just ended. It is time to act. It is time to step up.

We all have an opportunity. We all have an obligation to stand up.

Tomorrow morning, at 10, the Confederate battle flag will finally come down from above the South Carolina Capitol once and for all. Mr. Speaker, the Confederate battle flag has no place but a museum in the 21st century.

Let us all together, those of us privileged to be in this Chamber, along with our fellow Americans, forge a path forward as a Nation that celebrates our bright future, not our dark past. It is time to take the Confederate battle flag down. It is time for us to step up.

It is not a time to hide behind procedural motions, behind votes in the dead of night, and it certainly is not time for us to assemble a bipartisan group of Members to talk about what we need to do about the Confederate battle flag.

It is time to do the work of the people, and they want us to act. There should be no doubt about it. The American people are speaking very forcefully. Don't just talk; act.

Mr. Speaker, I say with great pride, having served in this Chamber for many years, I believe the people's Representatives in the people's House are getting ready to act; and no act during the dead of night, no effort to derail this effort will succeed because the people have spoken and spoken in the words of the nine people who are no longer with us.

We do it with grace, but we will do it with power because we understand this is not a time to just talk; it is a time to act—and we will act.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Representative BECERRA, thank you so much for taking your time and being here with us today, and thank you so much for your eloquent words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN).

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for allowing me to add my voice to this discussion.

Certainly, all Americans were devastated by the brutal murder of nine people, including Senator Pinckney, while they were attending Wednesday night Bible study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Their killer was motivated by racism, bigotry, and even had pictures of himself displaying Confederate memorabilia.

The people of South Carolina and their political representatives have engaged in serious conversations about race, about healing, and how to deal with their State's history.

South Carolina's Governor signed a bill a few hours ago to take down that Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the State capitol where it has flown for 50 years, and as South Carolina was moving to take down that flag, some right here were moving in the opposite direction.

Earlier today, I took to this House floor to express my outrage that my friends on the other side of the aisle had offered a surprise amendment last night to allow the Confederate battle flag to be displayed in our national parks and at Federal cemeteries, just a couple of days after this body voted to remove that Confederate battle flag from our national parks.

Many of my colleagues, including those participating in this Special Order tonight, joined in speaking out; and as a result, I think we succeeded in stopping them from bringing that amendment to a vote.

We are here now because we recognize that it is not enough to keep the Confederate flag from being displayed or sold at national parks. Right now, here on the grounds of the United States Capitol, where we and our staffs work and visitors from all over come to visit, the Confederate battle flag and other images of the Confederacy are still visible; and that, we believe now, is unacceptable.

I am proud to serve in the United States House of Representatives, which

is known as the people's House; yet here in the hallways of our office buildings and elsewhere in the House of Representatives, including this side of the Capitol Building, there are State flags on display which include imagery of the Confederacy.

Many of the residents of the wonderfully diverse district which I represent in California and many other Americans from all across our country find these images offensive, insulting, painful, even threatening.

If we are to truly be representative of the people and if we want the people, all of the people of this great Nation, to feel welcome and comfortable here in the people's House, then we cannot continue to have divisive symbols associated with hatred, with bigotry and oppression on public display.

Therefore, let me add my voice to those of my colleagues in calling for the removal from the House of Representatives of any flag containing any portion of that Confederate battle flag.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentlewoman from California for sharing her wisdom with us and her encouragement.

Mr. Speaker, I really am touched by what we experienced in Charleston, South Carolina, the kind of grace and mercy that the families of those who were felled by this domestic terrorist on the church in Charleston, South Carolina.

I know that, even in this Chamber, there are friends that I have across the aisle who would gladly vote with me and vote with my colleagues to remove that flag and that imagery and that symbolism from any of our government properties if they would simply be given the chance.

In honor and respect of the loss of life and the grace and mercy and the healing and forgiveness that was demonstrated by the families of those who lost their lives in Charleston, South Carolina, and in recognition of the courageous steps that the South Carolinians did in voting to take down that flag and for the Governor to sign that and to watch, tomorrow, when history is being made, to take down that flag, I pray that our House is given the opportunity to vote our conscience because I know that I have colleagues on the other side of the aisle that feel the same way that I do, that believe in the greatness of this country and that believe in justice and liberty for all and believe that those symbols that remind us of the mistakes that we have made belong in the annals of history, to be remembered, but never to be repeated.

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

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CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BABIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of Iowa. 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 the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to take up a topic that I think is going to be of interest to all Americans, but I can't dive into that topic immediately without first referencing my reaction to these long days of debate that have taken place here in Congress about opening up a subject that had been put away by this country since about 1865.

I grew up as a Yankee well north of the Mason-Dixon line. I saw the Confederate flag in multiple applications. It always was a symbol of southern pride and regional patriotism and a symbol that said to them that the South was proud to be the South, but I never saw it as a racist symbol.

But it had drifted into a symbol of an artifact of history until such time now as it has been seized upon by those who are using it to divide America again.

I regret that they have gone through these days of this ritual of excoriating the Confederate flag. I regret that that has been brought up. And one would think that, if it was that offensive, that they would just let it drift back into history as a relic of history rather than try to resurrect it as a symbol of something that they can't seem to let go of.

But, for us, we are a country that every component of our history has not been as noble as we would like. Every country in the world has had difficulties along the way. We have risen above our difficulties, Mr. Speaker, and we have adjusted to them and have put them behind us.

But we cannot be eradicating or erasing the history of our country. It is important that we do keep it in front of us so that we can evaluate the lessons learned and move forward and make progress. That was the reconstruction era. That goes clear back to right after 1865, and I regret that those old wounds have been peeled open again.

It is ironic that the gentleman would talk about President Lincoln's second Inaugural Address and binding up this Nation's wounds. They have been bound up. They have been healed up. And now they are open again, regrettably, Mr. Speaker. So I will package up that component of my response.

THE SUPREME COURT

Mr. KING of Iowa. I will now shift over to the topic that I came to the floor to address, and that is the topic of the Supreme Court from the mar-

riage decision, the decisions that actually came down from the Supreme Court—I believe it was a week ago last Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday, there was a decision from the Supreme Court on *ObamaCare*, the *King v. Burwell* case, where the majority decision of the Supreme Court concluded that the law, as passed by the United States Congress, doesn't mean what it says.

It means instead, according to the majority of the Supreme Court, what they think the President would have liked to have had it said if he had actually been dictating the language there.

But we have to vote, Mr. Speaker, on the language that is in the bill, not the language that should have been in the head of the President and the Speaker of the House at the time.

That is why we have had a Supreme Court who, over the last generation, has been textualist. This has emerged from the *Rehnquist* court and should have survived and been enhanced under the *Roberts* court, that the law means what it says and the Constitution means what it says and, furthermore, it needs to mean what it was understood to mean at the time of ratification.

We do have a language that moves and changes and morphs along the way. And the language that is written into the Constitution, into the various amendments that are there and written into our laws, we can't simply say that because we have a different way we utilize language today, that somehow the people who ratified it had a meaning that conformed to the morphed language of the modern world. And I would have thought that Chief Justice *Roberts* would have been one of those who would have adhered to that.

I can think of times when the Court has said to this Congress: You may have intended one thing, but the language in the bill that you passed and was signed into law actually means something different. So you can either live with the decision of the Court or you can set about changing the language so that the language actually does what you intended it to do. It is a simple understanding of simple construction under the law in the Constitution.

An example, Mr. Speaker, would be the ban on partial birth abortion that passed here in this Congress in the nineties. It went before three Federal courts and then was appealed to the Supreme Court.

And the Supreme Court concluded that the ban on partial birth abortion that Congress had first passed was vague in its description of the act itself and that Congress didn't have findings that partial birth abortion was not necessary to save the life of the mother.

So it was struck down by the Supreme Court, and that means they sent it back to us. They said: Congress, fix that. And I got involved in that.

I want to tip my hat to Congressman *STEVE CHABOT* of Ohio, who was the

chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee at the time, and *JIM SENBRENNER*, the chair of the full Judiciary Committee. We held hearing after hearing. We rewrote the definition of "partial birth abortion" so that it was precise and clear and understandable, and we complied with the Court's directive.

In those hearings, we brought witnesses that put into the *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD* a mass of evidence that concluded that a partial birth abortion was never necessary to save the life of the mother. We did those things to conform to the directive of the Supreme Court because they read the text of the law.

But today we have a Supreme Court that concludes that—well, the text may say one thing, but we think the President would have preferred it to say something else. And so did most of the people, maybe, that voted to pass *ObamaCare*, that very partisan piece of legislation. Maybe they intended for it to say something else, too, but it didn't.

So the Supreme Court inserted the words "or Federal Government" into the statute that said an exchange established by the State. The Supreme Court essentially wrote into that "by State or Federal Government," alleging that the language was vague.

That is appalling to me, Mr. Speaker, to think that in the United States of America, a country ruled by the rule of law, that we could have a Supreme Court who—no one has a higher charge to read the language, to understand it, to call the balls and strikes, as the Chief Justice has said.

I think he forgot to say that you are supposed to also call whether it is fair or foul. Well, I think it is foul. It is a foul ball for the Supreme Court to think that they can change the language of the law.

If they sent it back here, Congress then had an obligation to adjust the policy to our intent from now, maybe not the intent at the time that it was passed, because those years have moved.

Then subsequent to that, the very next day, Friday—a week ago last Friday, as I recall—the Supreme Court came with a decision, a decision on same sex marriage. I have some experience with this, Mr. Speaker, and it falls along this line.

In 2009, the Iowa Supreme Court, in reading the mirror of our 14th Amendment, which is in our United States Constitution—and the mirror of it is written into the Iowa State Constitution—they concluded that same-sex marriage was the law of the land in Iowa. And their conclusion was that it fell underneath the equal protection and due process clauses of the 14th Amendment—the mirrored component of the 14th Amendment that was in our Iowa constitution.

There are 63 pages in the *Varnum v. Brien* decision in the Iowa case. I read that decision. I read all 63 pages. But

not only that, I poked through it. I read it. I looked at the ceiling. I contemplated. I looked back down at the words. I tried to absorb the kind of legal rationale that would get you to the point where you could conclude that under equal protection or due process, that marriage really was between one adult and another entity, whatever sex or gender that entity might be. And they wrote that under the protection of the 14th Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause and due process, that, quote, homosexuals have a right to public affirmation, closed quote.

Mr. Speaker, I know of no place in law, I know of no place in society, I know of no place in history where there is an individual, let alone a group of people, a self-labeled group of people that have any claim to public affirmation, public approval conferred by the court. But that was the key to understanding this litigation that has moved forward since 2009.

It brings us into 2015. And we have a decision in the Supreme Court that commands all States, if they are going to recognize any marriage, to recognize same sex marriage and for all States to also provide the reciprocity of recognizing marriages that take place in other States, as those individuals may come through or move into their States. That is that right of reciprocity. It is in the Constitution, reciprocity.

But, Mr. Speaker, for the Supreme Court to essentially create a new right, a right to same sex marriage manufactured out of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, that was ratified in 1868—and, by the way, it ties into this dialogue about the Confederate flag and all the rhetoric that we have had in this Congress all week long. It ties into it in this way:

The 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution were ratified in the aftermath of the Civil War. They were established, first, the 13th Amendment, to free the slaves because the people in the legislature at the time didn't believe that a clear statute that freed the slaves was going to actually have the impact that a constitutional amendment would. So they passed the 13th Amendment to establish that there will be no slavery in the United States anywhere, ever.

The second was the 14th Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause and the Due Process Clause and the clause says that all persons born in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof shall be American citizens. All of that to ensure not only that the freed slaves would be free and they would have equal access to all their rights of citizenship but that their children would also be citizens and that they would have equal protection under the law. That was the essence of the 14th Amendment.

We are asked to believe that somehow those who wrote and ratified the

14th Amendment in 1868 had secretly put some subtle language into it that they somehow knew we would discover in 2015 that says, there shall be same sex marriage in all of America, and the Supreme Court will find it, and they will impose it upon the rest of the country because they are the enlightened five of nine in black robes.

Well, the Supreme Court has had a terrible record, a terrible record on dealing with large domestic issues. In 1857, Dred Scott, they thought they could resolve the slavery issue. The Supreme Court was stacked in favor of the South. Five from the South and one from Pennsylvania that was sympathetic to slavery. They had a 6-3 operation going on. And they essentially declared that blacks could not be citizens, and they could not be free. They could not be citizens, and they could not be freed by States. And that if a slave owner owned a slave, they owned that slave in any State that that individual might go. That was the decision of Dred Scott.

They thought they had put the issue away. It came back to haunt this country over and over again. And it was part of the conflict that began in the next decade, within 1862, and that brought about the death of 600,000 Americans and split this country apart and it has taken years to put us back together. The Dred Scott decision.

Fast forward 100 years. They took prayer out of the public schools. We honored that decision. We stopped praying at least openly in our public schools. Now the question is: Can a football team without the coach kneel on the grass and pray before a ball game?

We are a First Amendment country. Freedom of religion. And we are dealing with this kind of assault on free religion because the Supreme Court in *Murray v. Curlett* in 1963 dumped that on us; 1973, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Then you have the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision.

□ 1945

And it goes on and on and on, Mr. Speaker. Up to this point, the domestic life of America has been dramatically transformed by order of the Supreme Court, the people least connected to the will of the people. When they separate themselves from the text of the statute and the text in the understanding of the Constitution, we are in a place where the Supreme Court then has put themselves above the law, above the Constitution, and above the will of the people.

One of the people that understands that as well as anybody in this United States Congress is my friend from Texas, Mr. LOUIE GOHMERT, who speaks to us often in these Chambers. I know about his marriage, and I know about his conviction to the rule of law and the Constitution.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas, LOUIE GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. I am very grateful for my very dear friend—not just

friend, but dear friend—from Iowa, and I am pleased that he would take the time to talk about this. He is making some great points.

The Dred Scott decision, if you really look at it, was decided by a majority who had great aspirations that the media was going to love what they did. Instead of looking at the words of the Constitution and applying those words, they were playing to the elite media, and the elite media was completely wrong. Slavery was the worst abomination and blot on this Nation's history, and it is tragic that the Supreme Court played an active role in that.

It is tragic that in the seventies, as you pointed out, from the sixties, the seventies, the *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court has contributed to tens of millions of murders—tragic. But I guess as a former judge and a former chief justice, nothing infuriates me more than for a judge or justice to believe that they are completely above the law. I know what it is to recuse myself. I know what it is for judges who are friends of mine who had strong feelings about a case, but they knew that they would not be fair and impartial and so they had to recuse or disqualify themselves.

With regard to marriage, we had one Justice, Sonia Sotomayor, who has made comments indicating a massive question over her impartiality. But if you take two Justices about which there is no question, they were totally disqualified. They were very partial, and they were opinionated. Going into this opinion, they had long since made up their minds.

In fact, one columnist reported on the last marriage, a same-sex marriage, that Justice Ginsburg performed. She emphasized the word "Constitution" when she said, "I now pronounce these two men married by the powers vested in me by the Constitution of the United States." That is a Justice who was completely disqualified.

Do you wonder, well, what actually disqualifies a judge? The law is very clear about that, and Congress does have the authority to dictate the terms by which a judge may sit on the Supreme Court or may sit on a particular case. This law, 28 U.S.C. 455 (a) part—(b) gets into a number of different options—in (a) there is no option. This is an emphatic requirement for a Justice.

We know that Justice Kagan had performed a same-sex marriage before this opinion. So we had two Justices who, under the laws of the United States as allowed by the United States Constitution's clear reading, were disqualified. They were lawbreakers in order to dictate legislation on a social issue over which they have no authority by virtue of the Constitution and the 10th Amendment. Yet they violated the law, they violated the Constitution, and they violated their oath.

It is dishonorable to be a justice in any court and violate your oath, violate the law, and violate the Constitution. But the law is wanting to assure

the American people that we are going to be so far above question that not only do you have to disqualify yourself if you are partial, you are biased, you are prejudiced in a case, but “if your impartiality might reasonably be questioned” is the language, then you have to. It is a “shall.” You shall disqualify yourself.

Mr. Speaker, two Justices violated the law, violated the Constitution, violated their oath, were dishonorable, and dictated law they have no business dictating.

There is just one final point I would like to make, and I brought this up on C-SPAN yesterday, but I have been giving it some thought. What would be a good way to really get a grip on what nature would indicate? And my friend knows I was there in Iowa with him after that ridiculous decision by the Iowa Supreme Court and the three judges that were up for retention that year were eliminated, as they should have been. But having read that Iowa decision back then, I was amazed that the Iowa Supreme Court said this is a no evidence matter.

We have different standards: substantial evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt, and preponderance of the evidence.

They said this is a no evidence issue. There is no evidence of any kind from any source to indicate a preference for marriage between a man and a woman as opposed to marriage between two men or two women.

I think it is a very important point to say, well, I would be willing to put up everything I will make for the rest of my life, that it would go in to a bet, because I have that much faith in what Moses said and what Jesus said.

Moses said that this is from God, that a marriage is when a man shall leave his father and mother and a woman leave her home and the two will become one flesh. That is a marriage. Jesus repeated: You know the law. Moses give you the law. Here is the law.

And He repeated the very words of Moses, and then He added a line and said: What God has joined together, let no man pull apart.

So I have such faith in the words of Moses and Jesus, I would be willing to stake anything I make the rest of my life that my kids would otherwise get that we could take four couples of man and woman as Moses and Jesus said and find a place that we could place them where they are isolated but they have everything they need to live and have a good, full life, and then take another place, an island or such, and put four couples of men, all men that love each other, and put them in such an isolated island situation where they have everything they need to be comfortable and live, and then have an island where we have four couples of women that love each other, they are going to stay together. And then let's come back however many years you want to wait to come back, at least 25,

and you could go 200 years, and let's go back and see what nature has to say about which couple it prefers to sustain a civilization. Which couple is preferred by nature? You and I believe nature is God, as the Founders did. Which one is preferred? And I am willing to bet everything that I make the rest of my life that in those situations where just nature has to take its course, the couples of man and woman will be the one that proliferates and continues to exist and live on to produce further generations.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is what the people of Iowa found so offensive that they had judges that were so completely ignorant of nature and nature's God that they could say that there is no evidence in nature or anywhere else to indicate a preference for a couple between a man and a woman.

I know people have raised issues, but you need to be able to see someone you love in the hospital, you bet. We ought to make sure State legislatures fix that problem. If you love somebody, they are your partner, you care about them and they care about you, you don't want to just stalk anybody you want, but if there is a mutual love, admiration, and respect, you ought to be able to see them in a hospital. You ought to be able to transfer property and leave property. We ought to be able to address those things in the law.

But when it comes to the building block for future generations and future civilizations, I can promise you that if it is not built on couples that are man and woman, as Moses and Jesus said, then that civilization will not endure. It is just the law of nature.

I love the people of Iowa. I love the fact that they came out and let it be known that these judges who were educated far beyond their intellectual capability needed to step down because the people of Iowa could figure out that there was evidence to support marriage being between a man and a woman.

So I appreciate the time the gentleman has yielded to me. Thank you for continuing to stand for what is right, even when we have Supreme Court Justices that violate the law, the Constitution, and their oath.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Texas. I appreciate his presentation here tonight and the many times and many hours that he has spent on the floor. I also would say for the record that the gentleman from Texas, Judge LOUIE GOHMERT, who had the temptation to legislate as a judge and understood constitutionally how to go about that, resigned his seat as a judge and ran for the United States Congress because he is, at heart, a legislator with a deep respect and appreciation for the rule of law, the statutory construction, and the Constitution itself.

Congressman GOHMERT did come to Iowa and rode the judge bus. We traveled around from town to town and gave speech after speech. There were

some folks to greet us there that weren't very happy with our presence. I don't think their mothers were very proud of them, Mr. Speaker, but I think Louie's mother can be very proud of him.

I look across the Midwest, in the heart of the heartland, and you can't think about the heart of the heartland without thinking of Kansas. I know the gentleman that represents the vast reaches of the western at least two-thirds of Kansas, if not more, has arrived here tonight, and he has demonstrated his faith and his commitment to family in a lot of ways. I have been able to see that.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP).

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to visit tonight about a very radical decision. I appreciate the discussion of my colleagues from Texas and Iowa outlining some of the background.

I was born in 1968, and what this Court would have us believe is that 100 years before I was born, somehow secretly written into this constitutional Amendment was language that invalidated laws in every State of the Union at that time. They want us to believe the authors of this constitutional Amendment, the 14th Amendment, violated their own State laws at the time and just didn't know it. That is silly. That is utter nonsense. And only if you lived in Washington, D.C., in some bubble and spent your weekends or your summers vacationing in Western Europe, not in western Kansas where I am from, could you dream up somehow the Constitution dictated that you would overrule, override, undo—this is five unelected black robe attorneys that are going to dictate to 50 million Americans that you are wrong on the definition of marriage. You are wrong. 2,000 years of human history is wrong. The authors of the 14th Amendment were wrong, and 31 States are wrong. Let me go through that. We are talking about dozens and dozens of States that adopted by a vote of the people.

Again, let's roll back 2 years ago in the Winter decision. This same Court, the exact same Court, said: Do you know what? It is up to the States to decide.

They actually declared themselves wrong 2 years previous to that and set to deny the vote, the right to vote to short-circuit the democratic process. Now recognize, folks have strong opinions.

□ 2000

Even the President of the United States—President Obama and I both agree on this point; there are strong opinions on both sides, but what is happening here is the folks that can't win in the State of Kansas, can't win in 30 other States, have decided that they are going to try to find five people, five people to overrule 50 million.

Let me give you an example. My home State of Kansas, when we passed our Kansas marriage amendment, which I was proud to be the author of, 417,675 men and women voted to declare that marriage is only between a man and a woman. Five lawyers across the street said, You are all wrong—every one of them.

You go to the State of California, in 2008, 7,001,084 Californians were declared to be wrong by five people across the street, five people who have already fled town. They have left town. They won't even stay here; they don't even show up in public. They go behind closed doors, make up their mind, come out, and rule.

This is exactly what our Founders were afraid of with judicial tyranny of folks trying to dictate, to mandate, take their personal biases, and mandate them on California, mandate them—let me pick a State at random—the State of Maine, 300,848 folks in Maine. How about in Alaska? 152,965 people that these 5 people said were wrong.

Total across the entire Nation, there were 51,483,777 people that this court, these 5 people, not the entire court, 5 people decided you 51,483,777 people, you are wrong. Those five were wrong 2 years ago—or at least one of them was wrong. They changed their mind 2 years ago.

If you look at the Holy Father's latest encyclical that has been much discussed, it talks about the rule of law and how if you start violating laws that becomes a pattern—and here, we have a pattern of this Court deciding to ignore the clear Constitution and decide to impose their biases.

As I understand, the dissent was frightening. This is not only imposing their biases against traditional marriage; these five people don't like marriage as 51 million Americans understand that.

In the dissent, it talked about not only that, they have opened the door to plural unions; and it is coming. They referenced a Court case. This is where this Court is headed, and it is totally out of step, not only with 51 million Americans, but with their own Court decision 2 years ago, but also with the whole idea of our Constitution, that somehow it is living and breathing and then five people.

I mean, this is the same margin by which we have had atrocious decisions throughout history of this country. You go not far from this—and my colleague from Iowa knows this—you go not far from here, you go down, I think it is a floor down, where you had a decision by the same U.S. Supreme Court, just a few different folks, decided certain people didn't have rights and made a decision, an atrocious decision. They were wrong. I think the Court is wrong today.

Again, the idea that somehow they know better is the elitism that I think is driving folks crazy, and it is not just on this issue. My colleague from Iowa

has pointed out, again and again, it is concerns about immigration, it is concerns about education, it is concerns about spending, about overregulation where you have folks inside a bubble in Washington, D.C., they read every week.

Every day, I guess, they read the New York Times and think they are doing a great job; they read The Washington Post, but they don't read and listen to real Americans. Again, they travel and vacation in western Europe.

Many times, we see them using Court decisions in the arguments that have no basis not only in our jurisprudence, but in our history and are using that which is outside—I have never served in the U.S. Senate; I probably never will, and I have no desire to do that, but I have got to wonder, when each of these five that decided to overrule 51 million, did anybody ask them: Do you think you are smarter than the rest of America? Did anybody ask them?

Actually, when they did ask them, they said: We can't tell you how we are going to rule.

There is no doubt that at least four, perhaps five, of these judges, these attorneys, these lawyers made up their mind before they got the case and said: This is the decision. Here is what we want to reach. Here is the outcome. Let's make something up so we can at least claim there is an argument.

There is no logical argument; there is no legal argument. All there is, is the utter power, the claim that we get to dictate what the rest of America will accept.

As a pro-life American as well, we have to go 42 years ago. A court tried to do the same thing. And at that time, in '73, and I am guessing January 24, 1973, I was a little tyke. Thank goodness I was born before the Roe v. Wade generation. I saw some of those folks run around today, claiming they were part of that generation.

Part of that generation, one-third of those are gone. At that time, the Court said they were going to impose abortion on all of America through all 9 months. Do you know what, they walked away and said: We got it all done.

What they found out is the American people are resilient. When they see outrageous decisions like this, it might take them weeks, it might take them months, it might take them a year, it might take them decades, but they will be pushing back. They will be pushing back and demanding that, when you put your thumb into the eye of 51 million Americans, you put your thumb in the eye of 2,000 years of history, you put your thumb in the eye of millions of millions of children that deserve a dad and a mom, a married dad and a mom, and say: Do you know what, you don't count; you don't count.

That is what this Court is saying. We spend billions of dollars every year trying to replace a mom and a dad. Here we are today because of five people across the street—again, five people de-

cidating for the rest of us. This was not interpretation of the Constitution; this was just utter legal nonsense.

There are two ways to respond to this. One is a Federal marriage amendment. I have introduced that a couple sessions in a row. That is the way you amend the Constitution. The way the left amends the Constitution is they get five votes.

Folks have been worried about a constitutional convention; and I always joke that, well, they have one every time they issue a ruling. This one was a constitutional convention, utter legal fiction and nonsense. They know it; they all know this.

They are probably drinking cocktails tonight, laughing about our comments on the floor saying: Well, yeah, everybody knows that.

So we are just under some fiction. We are trying to figure out, okay, here is the decision we want; here is how we get there. A Federal marriage amendment is one option, but that is difficult.

A second one that we have to worry about—and it was noted in the oral arguments, it was noted in the opinion of the majority and the minority, because of this decision, mark my words, mark the words of the dissenters—is they will use this decision to attack religious liberties of Americans who still believe, 51 million and plenty of others, that marriage is between a man and a woman.

They are not going to stop. Ten years ago, they said they would stop at civil unions. That was all they wanted; then, well, maybe want something else. Now, it is not only do they want marriage, the next one will be to say, if you disagree with me, you not only have to bake a cake, you have to participate in other ceremonies in other ways. It goes on and on.

That is why I have introduced, along with others, the First Amendment Defense Act, which I call upon those who believe in marriage, and even if you don't believe in marriage but believe in the supremacy of the American people rather than five attorneys, we bring that to the floor and defend the rights and liberties of Americans and the thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, perhaps millions of churches that say, Do you know what, we don't agree with that, and we will not have the Federal Government imposing their way—these five people.

Now, I am just one. We got 435 in this body, 100 in the other body, and the Court just said: Do you know what, that doesn't matter.

That is the definition of tyranny, and from tyranny, good things do not come. Our Founders understood that.

When you consolidate power—and as my colleague said: What difference does Congress make anymore?

The decision the day before suggested they get to rewrite the law, and the marriage decision was they get to rewrite the Constitution. This is a fundamental decision on the history of our

country, the history of our Constitution, where the future goes, and the history for and the future for our children.

I appreciate my colleague from Iowa, his efforts for many years. I will not apologize on behalf of 417,675 Kansans who voted for marriage. If those five Justices are asking them to apologize, they will not. They will continue to defend God's lawful marriage, and they will do that proudly and will continue to defend the State, and our U.S. Congress should do the same.

I appreciate my colleague from Iowa's leadership. These are one of these things that it is not easy.

Congressman, I appreciate your leadership on this and not giving up for the right thing.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Kansas, but I would ask if he will yield to a question before he retires.

You mention your constitutional amendment to preserve marriage between a man and a woman. I would ask if you would be prepared to, if you can, from memory, quote that into the RECORD here tonight.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. I am not prepared to quote it. I know what the vote was.

Mr. KING of Iowa. The essence of it, if you could?

Mr. HUELSKAMP. The essence is marriage is reserved between one man and one woman. It is a very simple definition, a very historical definition, and it was adopted by 417,675.

Do you know what was interesting? I never once told the State of Kansas that, if five people wanted it, that was the rule of law in Kansas—no. We had to go through an open process, have the debate, have the campaign, get it through the legislature.

We tried 2 years in a row; it didn't happen. Finally, in 2005, it got on the ballot. It went up. Everybody had their up and down American experiment of democracy and decided.

I will tell you at the time—and Steve understands this, my Congressman—that people said: We don't need to do that. The Court would never overrule that. There is nowhere that is in the Constitution.

It is very clear; marriage is between a man and a woman. That is the thing, marriage predates government. No matter what these five unelected lawyers appointed for life—with full benefits, I might add, and health care—outside of ObamaCare, that is another issue—no matter what they say, they are not changing what a marriage is.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I would like to reiterate this point that as you debated this in Kansas, I am one of the authors of the Iowa's Defense of Marriage Act. Ours says differently than I think all the other States.

All the other States say marriage is between one man and one woman. I insisted that the language say between one male and one female because I didn't want to be in a debate about what a man was and what a woman was.

I didn't know that, within the last couple of months, we would be having that debate nationally, but I think our debate is more specific—however, overruled by the Supreme Court of the State of Iowa.

I didn't get around to mentioning that we voted three of those justices off the bench, swept them off. There were only three up for retention ballot in 2010. We voted them all off of the bench.

I still ask this question, which is, as precise as our language is, I could not divine any right to same-sex marriage in the Constitution, not in the 14th Amendment, not in the Iowa Constitution that is mirrored to the 14th Amendment; but the Supreme Court found it anyway.

Is it beyond the realm of possibility that, if your amendment becomes incorporated into our Constitution that a more liberal court, or this Court itself, might find a way to rationalize their way around no matter how we write it?

Mr. HUELSKAMP. That is absolutely true. I mean, where can they end up?

Again, when it becomes an issue of bias, and our colleague from Texas talked about that, two justices that clearly demonstrated bias in the State of Kansas, that would be a basis for not ruling on the case and perhaps not even being on a court.

I mean, those are illegal. I am not an attorney, but we recognize that would be highly unethical in the State of Kansas, but apparently, that is the way you get things done nationally, to impose your will.

One thing that, again, I mention in passing that we can't forget is what this does for our children, what this does for our children by attempting to fundamentally destroy and redefine marriage.

I have been asked: Well, how does it affect your marriage?

When you make marriage anything, you devalue what really is marriage. The last thing we need to be doing in this society is devaluing families, devaluing marriage, and attacking the basis of our society. Our Founders understood that.

I don't know what these Justices, what their history was growing up, what led them to change their mind and impose that on the rest of America; but that is why our Founders said: Here is the Constitution. You can interpret it, but you shall go no further.

Mr. KING of Iowa. They understand that in Kansas, they understand that in Iowa, and I suspect they understand that in Florida.

As I look over, I see the gentleman from Florida—I am looking at two doctors here—the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

I thank the gentleman from Kansas for coming down tonight, as well as the gentlemen from Florida and Texas, and the other folks that might show up.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Iowa, Kansas, and Texas for coming down here to share your thoughts on this important item.

Mr. HUELSKAMP, you brought up about diluting the institution of marriage, and if we keep going down this path, it will be worth nothing.

If we keep diluting the value of our money, it is worth nothing; and if we keep diluting the value of the things that have made our society great, the nucleus family, if we keep doing that, it becomes more washed out.

□ 2015

Roughly 2 weeks ago the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision on Obergefell v. Hodges demonstrated yet again the highest court in the land legislating from the bench.

The ruling was disappointing not only for the fact that the court had not four States to redefine marriage, but even more so because it removes millions of American from the democratic process of choosing for themselves who and what defines marriage.

I personally and millions—you brought up 51 million—hold a traditional view of marriage between one man and one woman. And I am proud to say that I have been married to my wife Carolyn for over 40 years. God bless her because we know that is a tough job.

However, the Constitution grants people, the voters, the ability to decide whether or not to recognize same-sex marriage.

Chief Justice Roberts in his dissent made a valid point, which I am sure is shared by many Americans. He said those who founded our country would not recognize the majority's conception of the judicial role.

And then he continued: They certainly would not have been satisfied by a system empowering judges to override policies, judgments, so long as they do so after a quiet extensive discussion.

With this type of legislation from the bench, what is the point of the States' rights. I think that is what this gets down to because 30 States wanted to define and have the right, according to the 10th Amendment, that it is a State's rights issue.

If you live in that State and they decide what marriage is and you don't like it, you have the freedom to move or challenge us through the State system.

I think it is a sad day in America when we have to, as a country, redefine who we are as a Nation, we have to redefine what marriage is, an institution that has been around and ordained by God for over thousands of years, 2,000-years plus, to come down to this point in our society.

We have got a book that we have lived by, and I am going to hold this up for the viewers. This is, in total, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. And you can see it is a very thin book. It is not epic in volume, but, yet, it is an epic in ideology

of what a nation stands for, a nation of laws.

We have the three branches of government. I have been up here for 2½ years, and what I hear over and over again is we are in a constitutional crisis.

And being in Congress for the last 2½ years, I see a lot of dysfunctionality. And if we don't do our job, you get other branches of government fulfilling that job and overstepping their boundaries.

I agree with Justice Antonin Scalia when he stated in his dissent: A system of government that makes the people subordinate to a committee of non-elected lawyers does not deserve to be called a democracy.

Wow. Those are powerful words. A system of government that makes the people subordinate to a committee of nine unelected lawyers does not deserve to be called a democracy.

We cannot allow our Constitution to be eroded, and I will continue to fight for the States' rights and stop this continued Federal power grab.

I look at Justice Roberts, some of the dissension in his ruling, and Roberts forcibly criticized the majority: Sidestepping the democratic process and declaring that same-sex couples have the right to marry when, in his view, such a right has no basis in the Constitution. The court's decision, he complained, orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human societies for millennia.

We are redefining that.

And then he goes on to the Kalahari bushmen and to the Han Chinese, the Carthaginians, and the Aztecs. Just who, Roberts laments, do we think we are?

The other three justices echoed Roberts' sentiment, sometimes in even more strident terms.

Justice Scalia characterized the decision as a judicial putsch and suggested that, before he signed on to an opinion like the majority, I would hide my head in a bag. This is from our Supreme Court justices.

I think it is a sad state of affairs that, in the three branches of government, that we are out of balance.

We, as Member of Congress, are the most powerful branch. It is the way our Founders set our country up. It is the longest living democracy and constitutional free republic in the world. The reason for that is the checks and balances.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to say to you and to my colleagues that our three branches of government are seriously out of balance.

And at times during human history, when the government oversteps its boundaries, whether in total or in the different branches, and they overstep the boundaries of the Constitution, it is not only our duty, but it is our responsibility as Americans and as the people's House in the United States of Congress to stand up and rein in gov-

ernment and hold those other branches accountable.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House floor to make sure that we are the ones that stand up and say: Enough is enough. We have had enough.

Mr. KING of IOWA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the fine gentleman from Florida for his presentation, his understanding of this, and his conviction on constitutional issue after constitutional issue, including reminding us this is a constitutional republic that we live in.

I would like to now recognize the husband of Roxanne Babin, the gentleman from Texas whom I get to count as a good friend here in this Congress, who has stood up on principle time and again.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we have 8 minutes left in our time. So we will try to judge it accordingly.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman from Iowa and good friend. I appreciate recognizing my wife in the gallery as well.

I thank the gentleman for yielding time, and I thank him for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today deeply and bitterly disappointed and saddened by the recent actions of five unelected U.S. Supreme Court justices and their decision to defy the will of the American people and disregard the rule of law.

As a strong defender of traditional marriage and State sovereignty, I believe it is absolutely wrong that five unelected members of the U.S. Supreme Court overruled tens of millions of Americans, including many in my home State, the State of Texas, who voted to enact State statutes and State constitutional amendments to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

Under this ruling, five members of the Supreme Court invalidated the votes of over 50 million Americans. That is deeply disturbing and alarming. And the dissenting justices raised this very concern.

Traditional marriage has been under assault as courts and some state legislatures have sought to both redefine marriage as something other than between a man and a woman.

Most seriously, they are now taking action to penalize and discriminate against those who have religious and conscience convictions against the redefinition of marriage.

Over 30 States and tens of millions of Americans acted through the legislative and election process to keep marriage between one man and one woman within their respective States.

Unfortunately, various courts took it upon themselves to sidestep the democratic process and to silence those voices with their reprehensible activist decisions.

By circumventing the votes of American citizens, the Supreme Court's

sweeping decision now sets the Government on a collision course with religious freedoms guaranteed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Americans with religious conviction will now be forced into a position of great uncertainty. If their religious beliefs conflict with same-sex marriage, they may lose their business license and they could be subjected to prosecution or even litigation.

Some are even calling for ending tax exemption status for any church or religious organization that opposes same-sex marriage. This is alarming and it demands action.

We have seen the attacks led by IRS bureaucrats like Lois Lerner on conservative groups in the past, and we can expect the same under these discussions. As elected leaders, we cannot and must not back down.

We have an obligation to fight for the religious protection of our constituencies against such judicial activism and the consequences that will come from it. I have met with local pastors in Texas over the past few weeks, and they are very, very concerned about this ruling.

Congress wants to take immediate action to restore each States' ability to determine their own marriage laws and to protect individuals and institutions with deeply held religious convictions regarding traditional marriage to ensure that they do not face discrimination because of these convictions.

As an unwavering advocate for protecting the traditional marriage, I strongly support and have cosponsored a constitutional amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

We should also pass the First Amendment Defense Act to protect churches, Christian schools and colleges and business owners from being coerced by the government to act against their religious convictions in regards to acceptance of same-sex marriage.

In the 36th Congressional District of Texas, where I have spent my entire life, people are very distressed over the Supreme Court's redefinition of marriage and its impact on their ability to freely practice their faith. They realize, as do I, that, under the Supreme Court's decision, things are going to get worse as this collision course is set in motion.

We will see more lawsuits spring up that challenge the faith of average American families who hold their beliefs dearly, as well as their churches, schools, and charities.

Under such uncertainty, I stand in strong solidarity with my constituents, our local and State leaders, and the like-minded colleagues that I have had the great privilege of listening to tonight and having your time yielded to me. I serve with you folks in Congress that we will never back down on this issue.

I will work tirelessly on all fronts to defend traditional marriage and the

protection of religious liberties granted under our U.S. Constitution.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I appreciate very much his commitment to many causes, especially this cause.

I recognize the gentleman from California that has arrived, and I point out that we are down to 3 minutes.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) to hear what he might have to say about this topic.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Iowa. Thank you for a little bit of time on this.

It is indeed something I know a lot of people are grieving over with the Supreme Court decision, first on the morality issue.

Those of us that believe in the Bible, that believe in God, feel that the Bible is pretty clear on this subject of homosexuality and the application of marriage.

But even more so, beyond that, it is a choice. People can choose to follow that path of biblical values or they can choose not. They will make that decision, and they will be held accountable for that decision one way or the other.

So what I am looking at is that the court, in this ruling, has usurped the process of the American people in the legislative process and replaced it with the opinions of five court members.

Where that ruling was on Friday, the following Monday, the court upheld that the people would draw their own lines in Arizona and, by extension, California.

So the people's voice is heard on district lines as seen by the court, but the people's voice is ignored when California passed two different initiatives to uphold marriage.

So there is not even consistency on the court on what the Constitution is supposed to mean on the people's voice, and that is very troublesome.

It indicates to me that we are not far from a constitutional crisis with the way this court usurps the people's voice and the legislative process.

So I appreciate the time from the gentleman here tonight. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, we have heard from a list of solid constitutionalists here this evening that are not only committed to their oath to support and defend the Constitution, but, also, each committed to their own marriage throughout these years that, if we added them up, it is well over a century of us together. Marilyn and I are 43 years.

I am steeped in the Constitution and the rule of law. I have great respect for the Supreme Court of United States, but I have greater respect for the supreme law of the land, which is the Constitution of the United States.

If the law doesn't mean what it says and if the Constitution can have divined within it certain rights that are imagined only by this court and not imagined by the people that rati-

fied the very language that they are ruling upon, then what have we come to?

I believe that this decision, this Obergefell v. Hodges decision on marriage, right behind the decision of King v. Burwell—that, if the court continues down this path, Mr. Speaker, they will render our Constitution an artifact of history and this country will not respect a court that doesn't respect the language and the text of the Constitution.

□ 2030

We are here to reject and criticize the decision of the Supreme Court that imposes same-sex marriage on all of America and requires each of the States to recognize with reciprocity those marriages. That is a decision this Congress couldn't make for the American people, and it is a decision that should be left up to the States.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit that I am one who is prepared to support the simple elimination of civil marriage because this government has gotten into it so far that holy matrimony will not be protected from the further litigation in this Court unless we separate it from civil marriage itself.

The next litigation that comes will be that that sues our priests and our pastors to command them to conduct same-sex marriages at their altars, and that is where the First Amendment freedom of religion comes into conflict with the distorted view of the 14th Amendment which is part of this Obergefell, and that, Mr. Speaker, will be a constitutional crisis.

I yield back the balance of my time.

A MATTER OF HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUSSELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I heard earlier discussions from my friends—and I literally mean that, friends; I am not being sarcastic, they are friends—talking about the shootings. It sounds like they were certainly racist shootings in South Carolina when an evil man shot brothers and sisters of mine as fellow Christians.

Now there is this big race to go after the Confederate flag. So, Mr. Speaker, I saw this article by Daniel Greenfield and felt like this was worth noting, historically, information that Mr. GREENFIELD has published this month. Just touching on parts of the article—I started to say “he,” but it says “Daniel.” Maybe it is a man, maybe it isn't. I don't want to be biased based on a name.

But anyway, in his article he says, talking about President Obama: “When Obama condemned Christianity for the Crusades, only a thousand years too late, in attendance was the Foreign Minister of Sudan, a country that practices slavery and genocide. President

Obama could have taken time out from his rigorous denunciation of the Middle Ages to speak truth to the emissary of a Muslim Brotherhood regime whose leader is wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, but our moral liberals spend too much time romanticizing actual slaver cultures.

“It's a lot easier for our President to get in his million-dollar Cadillac with 5-inch thick bulletproof windows, a ride Boss Hogg could only envy”—Boss Hogg being a reference to the name of the show “Dukes of Hazzard”—“and chase down a couple of good ole boys than it is to condemn a culture that committed genocide in our own time, not in 1099, and that keeps slaves today, not in 1815.

“Even while the Duke boys”—again, references to “Dukes of Hazzard”—“the Duke boys were chased through Georgia, President Obama appeared at an Iftar dinner, an event at which Muslims emulate Mohammed, who had more slaves than Robert E. Lee. There are no slaves in Arlington House today, but in the heartlands of Islam, from Saudi mansions to ISIS dungeons, there are still slaves, laboring, beaten, bought, sold, raped, and disposed of in Mohammed's name.

“Slavery does not exist under the Confederate flag eagerly being pulled down. It does exist under the black and green flags of Islam rising over mosques in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and America today.

“In our incredibly tolerant culture, it has become politically incorrect to watch the General Lee”—talking about a car—“jump a fence or a barn, but paying tribute to the culture that sent the slaves here and that still practices slavery is the culturally sensitive thing to do. In 2015, slavery is no longer freedom, but it certainly is tolerance.”

The article goes on: “Slavery was an indigenous African and Middle Eastern practice, not to mention an indigenous practice in America among indigenous cultures.”

The author here is talking about, for those who don't understand indigenous cultures, he is talking about Native Americans. There were Native Americans that had slaves, just like in Africa and Middle Eastern practices.

The article goes on: “If justice demands that we pull down the Confederate flag everywhere, even from the top of the orange car sailing through the air in the freeze frame of an old television show, then what possible justification is there for all the faux Aztec knickknacks? Even the worst Southern plantation owners didn't tear out the hearts of their slaves on top of pyramids.”

This is a reference that obviously in history we understand Aztecs did pull out hearts of slaves that they sacrificed on top of pyramids.

Anyway, the article says: “The romanticization of Aztec brutality plays a crucial role in the mythology of Mexican nationalist groups like La

Raza promoting the Reconquista of America today.’

I wasn't aware of that, but the article says: “Black nationalists romanticize the slave-holding civilization of Egypt despite the fact that the narrative of the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from bondage played a crucial role in the end of slavery in America. The endless stories about the ‘Amazons’ of the African kingdom of Dahomey neatly fit into the leftist myth of a peaceful matriarchal Africa disrupted by European colonialism, but Dahomey ran on slavery.”

“The ‘Amazons’ helped capture slaves for the Atlantic slave trade. White and Black liberals are romanticizing the very culture that captured and sold their forefathers into slavery. ‘In Dahomey,’ the first major mainstream Black musical was about African Americans moving to Dahomey. By then, the French had taken over old Dahomey and together with the British had put an end to the slave trade.”

“The French dismantled the ‘Amazons’ and freed many of Dahomey’s slaves only for the idiot descendants of both groups to romanticize the last noble stand of Dahomey fighting for the right to export Black slaves to Cuba and condemn the European liberators who put a stop to that atrocity.”

“If we crack down on romanticizing Dixie, how can we possibly justify romanticizing Dahomey or the Aztecs or Mohammed?”

“If slavery and racism are wrong,” which clearly they are, the article says. “If slavery and racism are wrong, then they are wrong across the board . . . Dahomey and Mohammed had bought, sold, and killed enough Black lives to be frowned upon.”

“If we go back far enough in time, most cultures kept slaves. The Romans and Greeks certainly did. That’s why the meaningful standard is not whether a culture ever had slaves, but whether it has slaves today. If we are going to eradicate the symbols of every culture that ever traded in slaves, there will be few cultural symbols that will escape unscathed. But the academics who insist on cultural relativism in 19th century Africa reject it in 19th century South Carolina, thereby revealing their own racism.”

“And so instead of fighting actual modern-day slavery in Africa and the Middle East, social justice warriors are swarming to invade Hazzard County.”

“Most of the cultures of the past that we admire, respect, and even romanticize had slaves, but when we look back at their achievements and even try to forge some connection to them, it does not have to mean an endorsement of their worst habits. This is a concept that liberals understood but that leftists reject.”

“The recent hysteria reminds us that the nuanced reason of the former has been replaced by the irrational, destructive impulses of the latter. The left is so obsessed with creating utopias of the future that, like the Taliban

or ISIS, it destroys the relics of past societies that do not measure up to its impossible standards. And then it replaces them with imaginary utopias of the past that never existed.”

“As Ben Carson pointed out, we will not get rid of racism by banning the Confederate flag. Even when it is used at its worst by the likes of Dylann Storm Roof, it is a symptom, not the problem. Roof was not radicalized by the dead Confederacy, but by the racial tensions kicked off”—I am not sure I want to say that.

But, anyway, interesting take, but all of this talk about eliminating any references or uses of things that remind us of the horrors, the abomination that slavery was in the United States should be eliminated. That is what we are hearing.

And so, Mr. Speaker, in thinking about that—and the suggestion was made by my friend, another judge from Texas, Judge CARTER, so I had to go look it up. I think there is an entity that was so evil in supporting slavery, in fighting against civil rights, in fighting against the Christian brother that Martin Luther King, Jr., was, fighting against those who wanted equality that the Constitution guaranteed, we ought to look at those symbols, and we ought to look at what they stood for and perhaps ban any political organization from participating in Congress for upholding the abomination that slavery was to this country.

So I was able to get a copy of this platform, this political platform from 1856. This is the number one plank in the platform of this hideous political organization, and this is what they believed and they asserted.

□ 2045

I am reading from the number one plank in their party platform: “That Congress has no power under the Constitution, to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the Constitution”—then, here it goes—“that all efforts of the abolitionists, or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions.”

That was the official number one plank in this hideous political organization’s platform from 1856.

They go on. Here is number three: “That by the uniform application of this Democratic principle to the organization of territories, and to the admission of new States, with or without domestic slavery, as they may elect—the equal rights, of all the States will be preserved intact.”

They are saying they want to preserve slavery in any State that wants to have it.

They finish up by saying: “Resolved, That we recognize the right of the people of all the Territories, including Kansas and Nebraska, acting through the legally and fairly expressed will of a majority of actual residents, and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a constitution, with or without domestic slavery.”

It sounds like something the Ku Klux Klan would have done. They are demanding that they have the right to have slavery, the worst abomination in the history of America, that even Thomas Jefferson put in his original draft of the Declaration of Independence that it was a horrible grievance against the King of England for allowing slavery, this horrible abomination, from ever starting in America.

Well, they didn’t learn their lesson. This hideous political organization’s platform in 1860 said they were adopting all the things that they had said in 1856 about the right to keep this heinous, offensive slavery intact.

They include this, though, additionally in their platform of 1860: “Resolved, That the enactment of the State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Law, are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.”

They want to make it clear that not only were they avid supporters of slavery in America, but that it was their right to own people in America. This disgusting political organization also found the fugitive slave law to be, as they say, hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution.

Again, this sounds like something from the Ku Klux Klan. Will we want the Ku Klux Klan participating here on the floor when this is their history? It is the worst abomination.

The horrors of slavery finally were overcome, largely by abolitionist churches and pastors, people who believed that it had to stop, that people couldn’t be treating brothers and sisters in such a way.

It took the life work and even laying down of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., to push us to the level where brothers and sisters, as he was in Christ, could treat brothers and sisters as equal people. That is where we should have been all along. It is where he was pushing us to be against the hideous type things from 1856 and 1860.

If we are going to eliminate everything that reminds us of a hideous past that supported slavery and the oppression, the horrors that slavery entailed—breaking up of families, molestations, the beatings, just the horrors—John Quincy Adams was right. God could not continue to bless America while we were treating brothers and sisters by putting them in chains and bondage.

He was right. So many abolitionists were right. Daniel Webster was right.

Republicans that stood up to these hideous political organizations were right. There should be no place for slavery in America.

If we are going to have a complete cleansing of this country of anything, any symbol, then this platform from the Democratic Party in 1856 and 1860—and it wasn't the Ku Klux Klan; it sounded like it, and there were a lot of Democrats who were members of the Ku Klux Klan. I don't know that you can find Republicans that were members of the Ku Klux Klan, but there were certainly plenty of Democrats that were.

I think it is time not for the Washington Redskins to change their name, but for the Democratic Party to change its name because all you have to do is go online and look up the history of the Democratic Party. It is one of oppressing African Americans. It is one of supporting slavery and the horrors that occurred in the United States, even up through the 20th century on into the 1860s.

I think we had a Democratic Senator who was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. I think he has got a lot of things named after him. I hope that my friends who will ultimately want to change the name of the Democratic Party because of its horrible history will also want to change the names of things that were named after somebody that was a big supporter of the Ku Klux Klan.

The fact is the families of the victims in Charleston, South Carolina—brothers and sisters in Christ, for those of us who are Christians—wow, did they send a powerful message. I didn't see or hear them demanding the Confederate flag be taken down. I heard them forgive the one—the evil, horrible person—that committed such a vile act on people at a prayer meeting, of all things.

They showed the kind of love Jesus showed, the kind of love that was embodied by Father Damien, whose statue is right down at the southern entrance of this building beneath us right now. The plaque on his statue—God forgive anybody who would ever want to change this, because it is so powerful—are the words of Jesus in John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus did that; Father Damien did that; Martin Luther King, Jr., did that—many have so that we could have the freedoms we have today, many of our American military forces have, not just for your freedom, but freedom around the world.

Let's recognize the good with which we have been blessed. Let's stop the name calling, the race baiting, the division politics. Let's fuss and disagree over issues, but let's quit trying to tear this country apart because of things of the past in which not one person in this room would have taken part in.

Let's work together. Fuss, disagree, push for what we believe is best for the

country, but let's stop the race baiting because, if we are really going to go there, we have got to end the Democratic Party. Its history is so interwoven with starting, keeping, trying to push slavery on beyond anything that it should have been through.

We don't need to end the Democratic Party. We just need to work together in the present. That doesn't mean we can't disagree. We do all the time. Let's stop the race baiting. Let's look at the example of the victims' families in Charleston, South Carolina, and say: Wow, there are incredible believers and followers of Jesus Christ. That is somebody we can emulate.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

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

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 728. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7050 Highway BB in Cedar Hill, Missouri, as the "Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 891. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Paloma Drive in Floresville, Texas, as the "Floresville Veterans Post Office Building".

H.R. 1326. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office".

H.R. 1350. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 East 167th Street in Bronx, New York, as the "Herman Badillo Post Office Building".

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 9, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 91. To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

H.R. 891. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Paloma Drive in Floresville, Texas, as the "Floresville Veterans Post Office Building".

H.R. 1326. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office".

H.R. 1350. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 East 167th Street in Bronx, New York, as the "Herman Badillo Post Office Building".

H.R. 728. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7050 Highway BB in Cedar Hill, Missouri, as the "Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 10, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2103. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress entitled "Corrosion Policy and Oversight Budget Materials for FY 2016", pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2228; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2104. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Tioga County, PA, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2015-0001] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2105. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permit Program Revision; Pennsylvania [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0119; FRL-9930-30-Region 3] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2106. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determination of Attainment of the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Standard for the Liberty-Clairton Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0175; FRL-9930-23-Region 3] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2107. 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; Kansas; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0104; FRL-9926-48-Region 7] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2108. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0345; FRL-9929-58-Region 9] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2109. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California

SIP, Ventura & Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control Districts; Permit Exemptions [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0082; FRL-9929-64-Region 9] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2110. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0841; FRL-9929-60-Region 9] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2111. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Preconstruction Requirements — Non-attainment New Source Review [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0833; FRL-9930-31-Region 3] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2112. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Johnstown Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0902; FRL-9930-24-Region 3] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2113. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure to Submit a Section 110 State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0943; FRL-9930-25-OAR] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2114. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Low Emissions Vehicle Program Revisions [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0214; FRL-9930-35-Region 3] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2115. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final amendments — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry and Standards of Performance for Portland Cement Plants [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0817; FRL-9927-62-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ93) received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2116. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Revisions to the Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Micrometers (PM_{2.5}) Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permitting Program State Implementation Plan

(SIP) [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0626; FRL-9930-27-Region 6] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2117. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Arizona; Infrastructure Requirements for Lead and Ozone [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0297; FRL-9930-28-Region 9] received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2118. A letter from the Executive Director, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, transmitting the FY 2014 Annual Report of the Institute, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320e; Public Law 111-148, Sec. 1181(d)(10); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2119. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a list of international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to Congress within sixty days, in accordance with the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2120. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report by the Department on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period of February 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015, pursuant to Sec. 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with Sec. 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2121. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting pursuant to Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2122. A letter from the Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report prepared in accordance with Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. No. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2123. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2124. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a copy of the semi-annual report to Congress from the Office of Inspector General of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the period ending March 31, 2015, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2125. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco's 2014 management report and financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2126. A letter from the Executive Director, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's 2013 annual report to the President and Congress, pursuant to Sec. 27(j) of the Consumer

Product Safety Act and Sec. 209 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2127. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 120328229-4949-02] (RIN: 0648-XD973) received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2128. A letter from the President, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, transmitting the Council's 2014 annual report of an independent auditor, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 10101(b)(1) and 150909; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2129. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Microloan Program Expanded Eligibility and Other Program Changes [Docket No.: SBA-2013-0002] (RIN: 3245-AG53) received July 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Small Business.

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. CRENSHAW: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2995. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-194). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 2990. A bill to provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of subsidized employment for TANF recipients; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 2991. A bill to encourage States to engage more TANF recipients in activities leading to employment and self-sufficiency, and to simplify State administration of TANF work requirements; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself and Ms. HAHN):

H.R. 2992. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the U.S. Merchant Marine of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 2993. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize funding for water recycling projects in areas experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. ESTY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HIMES, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LEE, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 2994. A bill to protect individuals by strengthening the Nation's mental health infrastructure, improving the understanding of violence, strengthening firearm prohibitions and protections for at-risk individuals, and improving and expanding the reporting of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. HARDY:

H.R. 2996. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish wildfire on Federal lands as a major disaster; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 2997. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a demonstration program to enter into budget-neutral, performance-based contracts for energy and water conservation improvements for multifamily residential units; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ROYCE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 2998. A bill to reform uniformity and reciprocity among States that license insurance claims adjusters and to facilitate prompt and efficient adjusting of insurance claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 2999. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to suspend and remove employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 3000. A bill to require the Administrator for General Services to obtain an antivirus product to make available to Federal agencies in order to provide the product to individuals whose personally identifiable information may have been compromised; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 3001. A bill to authorizing certain long-term contracts for Federal purchases of energy; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 3002. A bill to prohibit the receipt of Federal financial assistance by sanctuary cities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Govern-

ment Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 3003. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit for hiring individuals who are veterans or members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, to make permanent the work opportunity credit, and to expand and make permanent the employer wage credit for employees who are active duty members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 3004. A bill to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H.R. 3005. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure funding for grants to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-income families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and 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 Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 3006. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GALLEGGO (for himself, Ms. LEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 3007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the display of the Confederate battle flag in national cemeteries; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 3008. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote civic learning and engagement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BUCK, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MICA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. JONES, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 3009. A bill to amend section 241(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deny assistance under such section to a State or political subdivision of a State that prohibits its officials from taking certain actions with respect to immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3010. A bill to prohibit assistance provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families from being accessed through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr.

BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MARINO, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BRAT, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PALMER, Mr. JONES, and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 3011. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase the penalties applicable to aliens who unlawfully reenter the United States after being removed; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 3012. A bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3013. A bill to protect private property rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. HOLDING, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. ROTHFUS):

H.R. 3014. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize physicians, pursuant to an agreement with the Attorney General, to transport controlled substances from a practice setting to another practice setting or to a disaster area; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BARR, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LONG, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky):

H.R. 3015. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to primarily consider, and to separately report, the domestic benefits of any rule that addresses emissions of carbon dioxide from any existing source, new source, modified source, or reconstructed source that is an electric utility generating unit, in any such rule, and in the regulatory impact analysis for such rule, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 3016. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 3017. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the maximum capital gains rate for individuals 15 percent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr.

ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H. Res. 354. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the safety and security of Jewish communities in Europe; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PELOSI:

H. Res. 355. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. JOYCE):

H. Res. 356. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 30 as "National Bartter Syndrome Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

71. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Illinois, relative to Senate Resolution No. 618, urging Congress to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965 without delay and with adequate funding to reflect the growing populations of Americans who benefit from the Act's programs and services; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

72. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94, urging the Congress of the United States to eliminate the current ban on crude oil exports; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

73. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 207, urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to regulate airline baggage fees and processes for consumers as it relates to transportation of passenger luggage and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed luggage; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

74. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 44, urging Congress and the President of the United States to support the passage of legislation to expedite family reunification for certain Filipino veterans of World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

75. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Resolution No. 102, urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to designate Grambling State University as an 1890 land-grant institution; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Education and the Workforce.

76. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 87, urging the Congress to take such actions as are necessary to amend the employer shared responsibility provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to eliminate penalties on school districts; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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. DOLD:

H.R. 2990.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 2991.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 2992.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 2993.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 2994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 6

The Congress shall have Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 2995.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. HARDY:

H.R. 2996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) and Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 (relating to interstate compacts).

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 2997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Welfare Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1); Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3)

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 2998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 2999.

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 make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 3000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution which states "Congress shall have the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof"

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 3002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 3003.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 3004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 3005.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 3006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause I, Congress has the ability to lay and collect taxes and to provide for the general welfare of the United States, and Amendment XVI.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 3007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 3008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 3009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).”

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 3011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4—“To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States”

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 3012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—“To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 3014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 3015.

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. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 3016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 3017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 167: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 169: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 213: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 223: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 224: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 225: Mr. FARR, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 226: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 303: Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KILDREE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 307: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 343: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 379: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 427: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 452: Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 465: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 482: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 539: Mr. VEASEY and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 551: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 563: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 642: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 662: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 692: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 699: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 702: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. YOHO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. COOK, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 757: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 765: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. REED.

H.R. 789: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 814: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 836: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. DOLD, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 879: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 911: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 913: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 918: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 953: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 957: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 969: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. TAKAI.
H.R. 980: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 985: Mr. KATKO, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1000: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1027: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1062: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1130: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1150: Mr. GUINTA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 1171: Mr. PETERSON and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 1174: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1185: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1192: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1220: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KIND, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1222: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1270: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 1284: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1288: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1299: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 1301: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1312: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1323: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1356: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1369: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1375: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1384: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1388: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. WOODALL.
H.R. 1399: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 1427: Mr. ROTHFUS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 1434: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. RUPPERS-BERGER.

H.R. 1453: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 1475: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1490: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1516: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. WOODALL.
H.R. 1552: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1553: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1584: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 1603: Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 1608: Mr. DESANTIS, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. BLUM, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1610: Mr. LABRADOR, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SALMON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 1625: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 1671: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 1677: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1714: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1726: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1728: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1736: Mr. ROKITA, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 1737: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 1748: Mr. DENHAM, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1752: Mr. FINCHER and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1784: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 1786: Mr. KIND, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 1801: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1817: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 1836: Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 1854: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1887: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1953: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1988: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1994: Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 1995: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 2017: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 2026: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 2043: Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 2058: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 2061: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2096: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 2102: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 2121: Mr. ROSS and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 2140: Mr. TROTT.

H.R. 2241: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2281: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H.R. 2287: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 2291: Ms. ESTY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2315: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 2342: Mr. NOLAN and Ms. MCSALLY.
H.R. 2380: Mr. COHEN and Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 2382: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 2400: Mr. BOST, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 2403: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 2404: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 2405: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 2406: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 2410: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. CARDENAS.

H.R. 2434: Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 2442: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2490: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 2493: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 2494: Mr. RUSSELL and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2502: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 2540: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2563: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2602: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2663: Mr. COSTA and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2669: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2698: Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 2713: Mr. FARR, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2716: Mr. JONES, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 2726: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 2739: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2742: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2752: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2767: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 2775: Mr. HARDY.
H.R. 2800: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 2802: Mr. BARR, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. HARDY.
H.R. 2849: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 2858: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2887: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2896: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2898: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2901: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 2903: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BOST, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 2910: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 2920: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2937: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 2939: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2940: Mr. DENHAM and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2942: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BLUM, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2944: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 2972: Ms. HAHN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2976: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2980: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. DOLD.
H.J. Res. 22: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. PETERSON.
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. HONDA, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. MEEKS.
H. Res. 56: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H. Res. 207: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Miss RICE of New York.
H. Res. 294: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H. Res. 324: Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 348: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.