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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 16, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You so that, with Your spirit, and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

On this day, the House returns when the world is even more dramatically aware of the violence that marks these days worldwide. May all people of goodwill in every nation be inspired to beat back those who would visit death and destruction upon even the innocent, and may peace, which is so sorely longed for, break forth in our midst.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

CONTAINMENT OF ISIS IS NOT A STRATEGY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Friday morning President Obama boastfully declared to the world that ISIS was contained.

Hours later, Paris was burning. ISIS fighters unleashed coordinated attacks all over the City of Lights, murdering 130 people and injuring hundreds of others. This, just weeks after ISIS blew up an airplane, killing over 200 people.

The President is wrong. ISIS is not contained. ISIS' homicidal aggression has spread from the Middle East to the sleeping West. This morning, the radical killers released a video threatening an attack on Washington, D.C.

Shall we dither until this Capital is bombed? I think not. This is our fight, but it is not our fight alone.

We should immediately invoke article 5 of the NATO agreement. This says an attack on one NATO nation—such as France is an attack on all NATO nations. This paves the way for a truly joint and international response to ISIS. The U.S. invoked this provision after the 9/11 attack.

All 28 NATO nations need to join the war against our common enemy because containment is not a strategy.

And that is just the way it is.

A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN FLINT, MICHIGAN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, right now in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, there is a public health crisis. In the 21st century, in a city of 100,000 people, they cannot deliver safe drinking water. They can't guarantee safe drinking water because of high lead levels. As a result of a decision by a State-appointed financial receiver, the city now has water that is undrinkable.

I continue to pursue all avenues to provide relief to my hometown as they struggle with this crisis, to provide relief to the victims and support to that community as it now has to rebuild its water infrastructure.

The State of Michigan could act to forgive the city of its current debt to the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, and it should do that immediately. I am pushing for action to do that, and that requires not only the support of the State government but the Federal Government as well.

The State also must act to provide a health fund to provide monitoring, education in the short term, and assistance in the long term to individuals, especially children, who have been exposed to high levels of lead.

What is happening in Flint is a failure of government. It cannot be allowed, and the State and Federal Government need to act to help this poor city.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this morning my Governor, Governor Abbott of Texas, sent a letter to President Obama: ''I write to inform you that the State of Texas will not accept any refugees from Syria in the wake of the deadly attacks in Paris.''

This tragedy on Friday follows quickly behind Secretary Kerry's announcement that the United States will be taking in an unprecedented number of refugees.

Last month the Helsinki Commission, of which I am a member, held a hearing. Assistant Secretary of State Anne Richards said that refugees were fleeing to Europe because they perceived those borders to be open.

Madam Speaker, there can be no perception that our borders are open. During my questioning last month, it became clear to me that we do not have the procedures in place to perform adequate and thorough background checks on refugees.

President Obama is engaged in what may be best described as magical thinking. Certainly, it is a fragmented strategy to combat ISIS.

The world held a moment of silence this morning. We should not be silent on this issue any longer.

WE STAND WITH FRANCE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, as we saw on Friday, as most Americans were perhaps heading home for the weekend, at least 129 innocent civilians were killed by terrorists in Paris.

One of the attacks took place at a Paris concert hall, where a band from Palm Desert, California, was scheduled to play.

Nohemi Gonzalez, an American and 23-year-old junior at California State University, Long Beach, was doing a semester abroad and was killed while having dinner with her classmates.

Madam Speaker, our thoughts, our prayers, our hearts go out to the families of the victims and the people of France. We stand with the French people, just as they stood with us after 9/11 and so many other times in our past, going back to our founding as a nation.

This attack was a deliberate attempt to use violence and the destruction of innocent lives as a means of spreading a hateful ideology against the world. ISIS must be defeated and destroyed, not contained.

Madam Speaker, we hear rhetoric coming from this administration that global warming is the greatest threat. Indeed. Tell that to the families, the victims of what happened in Paris.

CHAMPIONS OF FREEDOM WILL NOT BE STOPPED

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 13, the world was reminded once again that freedom has its foes when Islamic State militants killed 129 people and injured hundreds more in coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris.

As we mourn those whose lives were lost and pray for the people of France as they confront this terrible tragedy, we must let the adversaries of liberty know that champions of freedom will not be stopped. We will not waver, we will not cede strength, and we will stand firm.

Today a video released by an Islamic State subgroup appears to show militants praising the Paris attacks and warning that a similar attack could take place in Washington.

Congress will continue to explore ways in which we can defeat Islamic State, but it is time for President Obama, who told ABC News on Friday that we ''have contained'' Islamic State, to take seriously this threat to our Nation and all that we stand for.

MELANEY SMITH AND BOOKS FOR KEEPS

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent in my district who has made a difference in the lives of many students.

In 2009, Melaney Smith met a little girl in Athens, Georgia, who loved to read but had no books at home to read over the summer vacation. After realizing this little girl was one of many children in this situation, Melaney decided to start Books for Keeps, a nonprofit dedicated to keeping children engaged in reading by giving them books to take home over the summer. In the 6 years since its founding, Books for Keeps has donated 185,000 books to children in 10 schools, and Melaney has plans to expand it to 15 more next year.

Many children in rural Georgia don't have regular access to libraries, especially during the summer vacation. Location and access to transportation pose a difficulty for many, especially low-income students.

Being married to a schoolteacher, I am sure my wife can attest to the frustration teachers feel when August rolls around and they have to spend precious class time reviewing and catching up before they can move on.

Every year in May, Books for Keeps sends kids off to summer vacation armed with a variety of titles tailored to their interests to entertain and challenge them over the break. We have Melaney Smith from Athens, Georgia, to thank for her initiative to encourage literacy and to inspire students.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 5, 2015 at 2:05 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 22.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, November 6, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 6, 2015 at 9:38 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 24.

That the Senate agreed to (relative to the death of Fred Thompson) S. Res. 309.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 92.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, November 10, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
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 November 10, 2015 at 11:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1004.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, November 10, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 10, 2015 at 1:58 p.m.:

That the Senate concur in the House amendment to the bill S. 1356.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, November 10, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 10, 2015 at 5:16 p.m.:

That the Senate disagree to House amendment to Senate amendment to text of the bill H.R. 22.

Senate agree to conference asked by the House, Senate appointed conferees.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, November 12, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 12, 2015 at 3:25 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1203.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H. Con. Res. 90.

That the Senate passed with an amendment. H.R. 2029.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, November 16, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
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 November 16, 2015 at 10:21 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2280.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2262.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

KEEP THE PROMISE ACT OF 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 308) to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 308

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Keep the Promise Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) In 2002, the voters in the State of Arizona approved Proposition 202, the Indian Gaming Preservation and Self-Reliance Act.

(2) To obtain the support of Arizona voters to approve Proposition 202, the Indian tribes within Arizona agreed to limit the number of casinos within the State and in particular within the Phoenix metropolitan area.

(3) This Act preserves the agreement made between the tribes and the Arizona voters until the expiration of the gaming compacts authorized by Proposition 202.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the terms ''Indian tribe'', ''class II gaming'', and ''class III gaming'' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703); and

(2) the term ''Phoenix metropolitan area'' means land within Maricopa County and Pinal County, Arizona, that is north of latitude 33 degrees, 5 minutes, 13 seconds north, east of longitude 113 degrees, 20 minutes, 0 seconds west, and west of longitude 110 degrees, 50 minutes, 45 seconds west, using the NED 1983 State Plane Arizona FOPS 0202 coordinate system.

SEC. 4. GAMING CLARIFICATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Class II gaming and class III gaming are prohibited on land within the Phoenix metropolitan area acquired by the Secretary of the Interior in trust for the benefit of an Indian tribe after April 9, 2013.

(b) EXPIRATION.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall expire on January 1, 2027.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act, introduced by a bipartisan group of Members from the Arizona delegation, would preserve an Arizona voter-approved gaming compact by prohibiting any Indian casino on land acquired in trust after April 9, 2013, in the Phoenix metropolitan area. This prohibition would expire on January 1, 2027, when the current gaming compact negotiated with the Arizona Governor expires.

This bill helps to resolve public promises that were supposedly made in good faith to the voters in Arizona. In 2002, the voters supported the passage of Proposition 202, which limited the number of tribally owned casinos in the State, and it granted tribes exclusive rights to operate casinos in Arizona.

During the Proposition 202 campaign, a public promise was made by a coalition of 17 Arizona tribes, including the Tohono O'odham Nation, to limit casino gaming in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Unfortunately, one tribe is on the verge of breaking that commitment and more than a majority of the tribes in the State are upset.

The immediate effect of the bill is to block the TO Nation from opening an off-operation casino in the Phoenix area. As I mentioned, the bill has bipartisan support, including a majority

of the House delegation, the Governor of Arizona, and six of the tribes that took part in the Proposition 202 agreement.

It is important to point out that it is not just Arizona tribes who support this bill. Tribes from other States are very concerned about what is happening in Arizona. They believe a dangerous precedent could be set if this legislation is not signed into law, leading to the expansion of off-reservation casinos.

Today's deliberations are not about stopping one casino or gaming as a whole. The Keep the Promise Act is about protecting the integrity of the State's gaming compact, the future of gaming in Arizona, and, ultimately, the future of Indian gaming in this country.

I would like to thank the gentleman, the cosponsor of this legislation, for his leadership on this bill and on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Today, as all of us extend our condolences of support to the people of France, to the loss of life, to the friends and loved ones and families of those murdered by terrorism, we ask Congress that the administration have the resolve to defeat and deal with the horror that this terrorism has created not only in France, but in other parts of the world, and our condolences and prayers in support of the victims.

Today is also a day on which we are debating a profit-driven monopoly-seeking piece of legislation under suspension, H.R. 308, that seeks to make null and void established law, 18 court and administrative decisions, and in a very real way expose the American taxpayers to at least $1 billion in liability.

That CBO score has been again validated and affirmed in the same analysis that was done for S. 152, the companion legislation in the Senate. This liability is for an economic taking of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Why is this special interest earmark that we are talking about today for established human interest in the East Valley of Maricopa County in Arizona with us today on suspension? Because it is simply a piece of legislation to eliminate competition, to control the gaming market in the metro Phoenix area. The adages about let the market decide and let the consumers have choice does not apply to this piece of legislation.

Again, why is H.R. 308 under suspension when very dangerous precedence can be set by H.R. 308 if it were to become law? It eliminates existing law that was passed in 1986. It overturns 18 judicial State and Federal Court decisions and administrative decisions.

It opens up a $1 billion taxpayer liability and creates a new category of selective sovereignty in terms of land taken into trust as a result of 1986 legislation. It nullifies the tribe's ability to yield the highest economic development from it.

It is essentially creating a Federal law that established a no-competition zone in that part of Maricopa County in the Phoenix metro area. So why not regular order, where amendments can be discussed and we can have a full debate?

Today, Monday, under suspension leads one to the belief that there is a deadline involved here, that Congress must pass H.R. 308, and the President must sign H.R. 308 by December 20, when the Tohono O'odham Casino in the West Valley is scheduled to open.

Hypothetically, it passes the House. Then it quickly passes the Senate. Then it goes to the President, is vetoed, as has been indicated by the administration. It comes back. The House overrides that veto, and the casino can't open.

This scenario places H.R. 308 in national significance, above things like security and terrorism, tax extenders that need to come before this Congress, transportation—do we extend for additional time until the conference can come up with one package?—general government funding and appropriations, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the TPP, the trade agreement.

If H.R. 308 is of this vital national importance that it overrides other issues, why suspension and why not have a real debate on the issue?

In terms of Indian Country priorities, where is the legislation of the Carcieri fix? Where is the legislation and funding appropriate for the Indian Health Service? Where are the tribal recognition reforms, as recommended by the administration? Where is the funding for BIA schools? Where is legislation to protect sacred sites? Where is government-to-government codification for consultation? Why not deal with these issues? Perhaps the lobbying influence and resources are not present to move these items so quickly to suspension.

But H.R. 308, a special interest piece of legislation to protect game and market share in Maricopa County, Arizona, has this Congress' total attention. It makes one wonder why, but I think we really know why.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman YOUNG and also thank Chairman BISHOP and the leadership of this House for bringing this bill to the floor today. I also want to thank the bipartisan group of cosponsors for their support. I especially want to thank the Members of the Arizona delegation who have been in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a budgetary impact by Michael Solon, the former senior adviser to the senior leadership; a report from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; and a letter from the mayors of Arizona regarding this legislation.

FORMER SENIOR ADVISOR TO SENATE LEADERSHIP PROVIDES BUDGET ANALYSIS OF H.R. 308

SAYS ''NO BUDGETARY IMPACT''

The former budget advisor to Senator Mitch McConnell and Trent Lott, Michael Solon of U.S. Policy Strategies, has analyzed Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) most recent score of H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 152.

In the analysis, Mr. Solon finds that the ''the facts strongly support CBO's past repeated positions that the Keep the Promise Act will have no budgetary impact, and will not increase spending or the deficit.''

CBO recently expressed uncertainty on the budget score of H.R. 308, stating that they had ''no basis for estimating'' any potential cost from any future litigation. Yet, Mr. Solon notes that previous CBO analyses of virtually identical legislation found no significant impact on the federal budget: ''As recently as September 2013, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that the Keep the Promise Act upholding the Arizona Tribal-State Gaming Compact 'would have no significant impact on the federal budget' and 'would not affect direct spending or revenues.'

That analysis mirrors the January, 2012 CBO report using the identical term of ''no significant impact on the federal budget'' in its assessment.''

Additionally, Mr. Solon indicates that the specific facts of the case make a significant monetary judgment extremely unlikely: ''A full analysis of the legal and factual background strongly supports CBO's original conclusion of no budget impact. Under current law, there are tremendous hurdles that the tribe would have to overcome in order to expand gambling operations beyond the limits jointly established by the state government, all the Tribes, and voters through compacts, state laws and referendum. Even if one assumed they would be successful absent the Keep the Promise Act, the chances of obtaining a significant monetary judgment against the government is extremely low, in particular because other economic uses of the property would not be barred.''

Mr. Solon concludes: ''While CBO is right to inform policymakers of information that introduces uncertainty in its cost estimates, in this particular case the facts strongly support the repeated previous positions of the CBO that the Keep the Promise Act will have no budgetary impact, and will not increase spending or the deficit.''

CBO's recent analysis of the Senate version of the Keep the Promise Act adds that it ''would not increase direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2026.''

Michael Solon is a partner at U.S. policy strategies. He spent two decades on Capitol Hill. In addition to Senators McConnell and Lott, he also worked for Senator Phil Gramm, and Congressman Dick Armey.

A copy of the report is available upon request.

COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2015.

Hon. THOMAS E. PRICE, M.D.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, Today, the House of Representatives will consider H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act of 2015, introduced by Rep. Trent Franks (R–Ariz.) on January 13, 2015.

The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) is aware of the legislative history of this bill, to include similar bills from previous Congresses: H.R. 2938, the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act (2011), and H.R. 1410, the Keep the Promise Act of 2013. For each of the previous bills, which are virtually identical to H.R. 308, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) determined that those bills ''would have no significant impact on the federal budget'' and that they ''would not affect direct spending or revenues.''

However, CBO has failed to provide a definitive score for H.R. 308, due to a virtually unprecedented factor: the risk of potential litigation. Of particular concern, CCAGW understands that CBO may have been pressured by opponents of the legislation to inject uncertainty into the final score. Regardless of the merits of the underlying legislation, CCAGW finds these circumstances to be troublesome. Furthermore, CCAGW understands that, when asked to use litigation risk as a scoring factor for other legislation, CBO indicated that such an approach was inconsistent with their established procedures.

Therefore, without reference to the merits of the underlying legislation, CCAGW believes that, in the absence of a definitive score for this bill and given the precedent of two previous estimates that indicated ''no significant impact'' of virtually identical legislation, thus rendering CBO's latest scoring statement an outlier, passage of H.R. 308 should not reasonably be considered to increase spending.

Sincerely,

THOMAS SCHATZ.

NOVEMBER 12, 2015.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Office of the Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Office of the Democratic Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN AND LEADER PELOSI: As the elected leaders of towns and cities in the State of Arizona, we are writing to you to convey our support for H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act of 2015, and urge you to pass this bill as soon as possible.

In 2002, the people of Arizona voted to approve a tribal-state compact, which, among other things, prohibited additional casinos from being built in the Phoenix area through 2027. In exchange for this prohibition, tribes were granted the exclusive authority to conduct gaming within the state. H.R. 308 simply preserves and codifies the will of the Arizona people.

For us, this issue is about more than public policy. It is about preserving the integrity of our communities by keeping casinos from opening across the street from our schools, churches, and homes. It's also about maintaining the trust and integrity that was forged over a decade ago between tribes and our governments.

In 2002, a representative for a coalition of 17 Arizona tribes testified to the State Senate that the tribal-state gaming compact would not permit the construction of additional casinos in the Phoenix area beyond the number that existed at the time.

This promise—that there would be ''no additional casinos in the Phoenix metropolitan area''—had the full and complete backing of the Tohono O'odham Nation and other tribes and was widely publicized to Arizona voters who were asked to approve the compact in a state-wide referendum. Now, the Tohono O'odham Nation is building a new casino near Phoenix, in direct opposition to the promises it made, and which voters relied on when they went to the polls.

The Tohono O'odham Nation has purchased land across the street from a high school and is building a Las Vegas style casino 100 miles from its primary reservation. This is not what the Arizona voters and other tribes intended when they approved the State-tribal gaming compacts. And, more importantly, it is contrary to the statements that Tohono O'odham made to persuade the voters of Arizona to support tribal exclusivity for gaming in Arizona.

That's why this legislation has the support of the Governor, the State Legislature, numerous tribal governments, and almost the entire Arizona congressional delegation. Congress is the only entity that can address this issue. We ask that you move quickly to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

LINDA KAVANAGH,
Mayor, Fountain Hills, Arizona.
JOHN W. LEWIS,
Mayor, Town of Gilbert.
GAIL BARNEY,
Mayor, Town of Queen Creek.
JOHN S. INSALACO,
Mayor, City of Apache Junction.
TOM SCHOAF,
Mayor, City of Litchfield Park.
MARK W. MITCHELL,
Mayor, City of Tempe.
JOHN GILES,
Mayor, Town of Mesa.
W.J. ''JIM'' LANE,
Mayor, City of Scottsdale.
JAY TIBSHRAENY,
Mayor, City of Chandler.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act, seeks to prevent Las Vegas-style gaming in the Phoenix metropolitan area until the gaming compact, to which the Arizona tribes agreed and the Arizona voters approved, expires in 2027.

One Tucson area tribe is trying to build a major casino on lands that were deceptively purchased in the Phoenix metropolitan area at the very time that they were in negotiations with other tribes in the State to craft this gaming compact duly passed by the voters.

These actions are contrary to the public commitments that this particular tribe made between 2000 and 2002 to the other 16 Indian tribes in the State of Arizona and also to the State voters of Arizona.

This legislation was then publicly supported by the passage of Proposition 202, this compact, a State referendum to limit casino gaming in the Phoenix metropolitan area. All parties knew what we were agreeing to, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan cosponsors of H.R. 308 are simply trying to hold all the parties to their publicly stated commitment to the people of Arizona not to engage in gaming in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Contrary to the opposition's position, Congress does have a role in supervising tribal gaming. Congress has a long-established history of regulating, managing, and working with the tribes relative to tribal trust land.

Most astonishing, Mr. Speaker, is the opposition's argument that the courts have ''upheld'' the tribe's right to operate a casino on that parcel of land. Indeed, the court raised serious questions about the tribe's misconduct, but dismissed the litigation under the doctrine of sovereign immunity. This is not a ruling on the merits in favor or against any side, Mr. Speaker. It simply means the court could not or would not issue a ruling.

This bill passed the House twice before and it had a zero CBO score. In CBO's analysis of this exact bill last Congress, they acknowledged the uncertainty of future legal challenges, but did not score those. This is the standard practice. Today any ruling by them to the contrary is a precedent and sets the CBO up for being politically impacted in the future, politically driven in the future.

Astonishingly, the CBO recently scored an addition to the exact same bill this Congress of zero dollars to $1 billion. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker. The CBO added a score now to this same bill from zero last time to now zero to $1 billion.

Now, of course, they were lobbied to do that in an unprecedented way while admitting it had no basis to issue any conjecture about a possible lawsuit resulting from the passage of this bill.

CBO admits it had no basis to score litigation. The CBO has never scored potential litigation on other bills. This score should be ignored as useless and harmful if allowed as a precedent, Mr. Speaker.

This bill does not impact any tribe's ability to have any lands taken into trust, nor does it impact any water or land claims. Consistent with the intent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and Proposition 202, this bill merely restricts the ability of tribes to game on the very lands on which they themselves agreed they would not game.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that my colleagues join with me today and the Members of Arizona's delegation supporting this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO).

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with thousands of community voices and jobs in opposition to H.R. 308.

This legislation not only shortchanges our commitments to our tribal brothers and sisters, but it will do so at exorbitant costs to taxpayers according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Construction of the West Valley project has been an immense and welcome addition to communities across Phoenix and beyond. Once fully completed, the project will employ 3,000 people and support their families, jobs we need in our community as we continue to reel as one of the hardest hit areas in the Nation from the Great Recession.

Millions of dollars have flowed into the region. More than 45 companies

have been retained for the construction of this project both within Arizona and nationally. 1,300 construction workers are currently under contract, and those 1,300 jobs are just the beginning.

□ 1515

If you want proof, look no further than the job fair the tribe recently held on September 28. It drew over 3,000 applicants from the community, 400 of whom were hired on the spot. That number will rise to 500 employees when phase one of the project opens in December, and it will eventually climb to 3,000 full-time employees when the project is completed and staffed. These are new, permanent, good-paying jobs that are badly needed in the West Valley. This bill will unnecessarily put these hardworking men and women out of work while costing American taxpayers as much as $1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, our community supports these jobs and this project. We cannot afford to play politics when it comes to the bottom lines of our families and of our local economies.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for local jobs and join me in opposing this job-killing legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), one who has been involved in this issue for many, many years.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, for several years, I have been actively involved in a troubling, off-reservation gaming issue in my home State of Arizona regarding the Tohono O'odham Nation. TO has been attempting to open a Las Vegas-style casino—more than 60 miles from its ancestral lands and reservation in Tucson and in another tribe's former reservation in the Phoenix metropolitan area—for the sole purpose of gaming.

This comes after TO and 16 other Arizona tribes adopted a compact, approved by Arizona voters, which expressly promised there would be no additional casinos or gaming in the Phoenix metropolitan area until 2027. TO alone spent $1.8 million in urging Arizona voters to rely on this limitation. In exchange for this promise, the voters granted the tribes a statewide monopoly on gaming, and other tribes gave up significant rights.

Shockingly, a few months after Arizona voters approved Proposition 202, TO finalized a multiyear effort to violate this compact and used a shell organization to purchase land in Glendale for a casino. TO's dismissal of their promise to build no additional casinos in Phoenix is not something that Congress can ignore when the result will be so harmful to what has been a national model.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to critical evidence obtained from the litigation discovery in the State of Arizona v. Tohono O'odham Nation. Here are a few of the important quotations from tribal council meeting transcripts and minutes that were included in the underlying discovery:

5–18–01: VDI, a TO chartered and owned corporation, included in their meeting notes a description of a presentation delivered by Mark Curry, TO's lead negotiator in the gaming compact negotiations. The notes reflect ''107th Avenue-Stadium,'' ''gaming compact—unsure what will happen,'' ''put in a shell company—need to keep it quiet, especially when negotiations of compact are at stake.''

6–26–01: VDI meeting with TO's San Lucy District Council. ''We are also looking at another project . . . based on discussions we had and continue to have about a casino on the west end of Phoenix, and part of that discussion that we've had was that—we didn't want to publicize that because of the confidentiality in terms of that issue . . . and that's how we're holding it—as confidential—because we don't want, you know, people to know we are seriously considering this, because, if you do, I'm sure that there's going to be a lot of resistance from, you know, the general public.''

8–22–02: VDI meeting transcript discussing the West Phoenix casino project and whether Governor Hull's successor would also oppose additional Phoenix area casinos. The meeting transcript states:

''Max: Because, if that's going to be the position of the State, that they don't want any more casinos around the Phoenix area, then they're going to fight it, whoever the new Governor is, if he's going to go along—he or she go along with Jane Hull regarding taking a position.

''Jim: Which is why we really want to wait until the initiative passes before it gets out.''

2–23–03: VDI meeting transcript discussing potential political problems with the proposal:

''Male voice: I just hope that . . . in terms of the political—that's going be to coming—that some of the metro tribes over there don't come back and jump on us, too . . .

''Male voice: Might Gila River and Salt River indicate that it's a violation of Proposition 202—metropolitan area?

''Male voice: Well, that's what I said in terms of political impact, is that even—even those metro tribes, particularly those three that are right there, might—might say something.''

Shamefully, TO has falsely been claiming a victory in court. Let's be clear. TO won nothing in court. In fact, the U.S. District Court stated there was evidence that TO made false promises, but, unfortunately, TO's sovereign immunity barred the court from ruling on this case. In other words, the court ruled that the tribe cannot be sued in court because ''it can't be sued in court.'' Any ruling could not consider anything claimed under sovereignty by the tribe, i.e., the tribal minutes, notations in meetings.

That is the fundamental reason that H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act, is necessary. Only Congress has the authority to hold TO accountable for their shameful, deceitful, and criminal actions. This was confirmed again by the Supreme Court in 2014 in the case of Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community, when the Court stated that only Congress can act when a tribe raises sovereign immunity. TO acted immorally and covertly against its fellow tribes, the State, and the general public. We can't let TO get away with these horrific actions that violate a voter-approved compact and that could upend tribal gaming compacts throughout the Nation.

Vote ''yes'' on H.R. 308.

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

There have already been 18 court and Federal agency rulings favoring Tohono O'odham Nation on this issue, and we can dismiss those court decisions by Federal judges—the Ninth Circuit—State judges, administrative hearings with the Interior. We can dismiss them as not meaning anything. Obviously, the state of the law that was passed in 1986 means nothing. Obviously, these court cases and judicial decisions mean nothing because this legislation, H.R. 308, seeks to usurp the law in 1986 and to overrule judicial decisions that have been made.

We keep hearing about the fact that there is no standing in those decisions. The latest was a unanimous decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that confirmed, once again, the legality of the tribe's West Valley project.

We keep hearing the same myths about what the numerous legal outcomes actually mean for the nation. For instance, we heard just now that the nation won nothing on the merits and that all of the cases had merely been dismissed on the draconian doctrine of sovereign immunity.

It doesn't take a law degree to realize that, while the court dismissed some claims for this reason, the courts have, in fact, ruled on the merits of several of the claims in favor of the nation. For example, Judge David Campbell, a George W. Bush appointee, ruled:

''The parties did not reach such an agreement, and the nation's construction of a casino on the Glendale area land will not violate the compact.''

He ruled: ''No reasonable reading of the compact could lead a person to conclude that it has prohibited new casinos in the Phoenix area.''

He ruled: ''The Glendale area land acquired by the nation qualifies for gaming under the Indian Game and Regulatory Act.''

Judge Campbell also ruled: ''No other agreements or promises are valid or binding.''

The latest unanimous ruling from the Ninth Circuit found that Arizona State law, designed to block the Federal Government from taking land it purchased into trust on behalf of the nation, was unconstitutional and would frustrate the purpose of the law Congress passed to secure replacement lands for the nation.

The rulings further confirmed that, if H.R. 308 is enacted—the land that is

now in trust—the nation's contractual and statutory right to sue to use its land would be violated, and the U.S. taxpayer would be on the hook to pay the nation up to $1 billion in compensation.

We can't dismiss those decisions because it serves the narrative of those who want to keep a ''no competition'' zone in the Phoenix area.

With regard to the West Valley—and I represent a part of that area up in Maricopa—it is in deep need of stimulus and economic development. This would be a huge shot in the arm as evidenced by the support of the mayors and city councils of Peoria, Tolleson, and Glendale, which is where the casino would be located, representing 670,000 people in that West Valley area. So I would say that there is support in the area, and one cannot merely dismiss it as if there is not any.

I want to address the claim of reservation shopping head-on. The proponents of this bill love to throw around the term ''reservation shopping.'' They like to suggest the bad images associated with it. They invoke the ''boogeyman of tribal megacasinos'' outside of major cities, but that cannot be further from the truth for the Tohono O'odham Nation. This has nothing to do with reservation shopping, and the term is offensive at best. The Tohono O'odham Nation didn't ask for their land to be flooded and their economic resources to be destroyed. They didn't ask for their agricultural way of life to be taken away. They aren't looking to expand their land base. They are simply trying to replace the land that was destroyed by the Federal Government.

The Gila Bend Act, which authorized the land, is specific only to the Tohono O'odham Nation. The replacement land can only be purchased in one of three counties. In fact, the land in question is in the exact same county, Maricopa, where the flooded land was located, and the replacement land was to be specifically used—and I am quoting from the original Gila Bend Act here of which Senator MCCAIN was a cosponsor—''. . . for sustained economic use which is not principally farming and do not require Federal outlays for construction, and promote the economic self-sufficiency or the self-sufficiency of the O'odham Indian people.''

Nothing in this situation is off-reservation. This tribe simply has reservation lands in two places, thanks to being flooded by a Federal project. So let's please stop talking about ''reservation shopping'' and ''Las Vegas-style casinos'' when the casinos in these valleys are not Las Vegas-style casinos but something less than—maybe Reno-style casinos, maybe Atlantic City-style casinos.

The fact remains that this act and the land that we are talking about—for the O'odham and the Gila Bend Act—was a replacement to their losing 10,000 acres due to the Painted Hills Dam that was constructed by the Federal Government. All of the rights have been affirmed by the courts, and the right for use has been affirmed by the court. We can't dismiss those judicial decisions as merely inconveniences to some. They are legal decisions; they are binding; the land is in trust. For all intents and purposes, the reservation land and the complication of passing this bill and the complication of future liability for the Federal Government is very much part of the decision that is being made today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Arizona makes my exact point.

The discovery in the case of the State of Arizona v. TO prohibited the discovery of those minutes and tribal minutes in meetings from being allowed in the court. That is why the court said they had to find on behalf of TO, but they knew something was wrong.

As cited earlier in my testimony, the Supreme Court ruled once again that Congress—and only Congress—has the jurisdiction over tribal treaties and tribal entities when they claim sovereign immunity. Once again, for 2014, the gentleman from Arizona mis-cites that.

Last but not least, jobs have been utilized here, but they should not be utilized by criminal extortion and in violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. This has consequences far beyond that, not just for Arizona but across the country. When we passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, we expected good faith and to follow the proceedings and to not enhance criminal activity. Obviously, just by my citations in the record, it shows that there was a conspired, extortive extent to which the TO conspired to violate the compact that the voters of Arizona expected to be honored exactly.

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

I am not going to get into the points that were made about extortion and immorality.

What is going on here is that this piece of legislation, H.R. 308, seeks to target just one tribe, the Tohono O'odham Nation, in order to retroactively prohibit a specific casino which is on their reservation land and which is almost completely constructed and will soon be operational. Other wealthy special interests don't want the competition. It is as simple as that.

We have talked about the court cases, the agency's ruling, and the land's being taken into trust. The tribe is right in that their West Valley casino is well within the conditions of the Arizona Gaming Compact, and it has been upheld by the courts; but that hasn't stopped the special interests and the wealthy lobbyists from pushing this reckless bill year after year.

□ 1530

By supporting H.R. 308, I think the Members are setting a dangerous precedent. You are saying that no matter what the obligations are to our Native Nations by a previous Congress, no matter what was promised to them and agreed in law, no matter what was decided and ruled upon by a court, no matter the process undertaken by the administration—you are opening up a very, very dangerous area—that you can unilaterally undo, by the request of outside interests for one tribe, their ability to take full advantage of the law that was passed in 1986 and to make them whole again economically.

You are opening up an era of selective sovereignty where Congress can dictate the terms for how and when a tribe can assert its own self-determination and self-governance. That is akin to Congress being the sole determiner of recognizing who is a Native tribe and who isn't.

I believe that this bill, H.R. 308, is going to have serious ramifications for this Congress if it is passed and ever were to become law. The precedent set here is a dangerous precedent that extends beyond the one tribe that is being targeted now. It's the O'odham Nation being targeted now. What would prevent this same kind of situation in a different light, under different circumstances on a different issue from another tribe being targeted and limited as to the use of their land and under law?

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying that this controversial and potentially costly legislation really has no place on the suspension calendar. At the very least, Members deserve the opportunity to fully debate H.R. 308 and to offer amendments to address the serious concerns raised by the legislation.

For example, the bill should be amended to guarantee that any Federal liability resulting from litigation sparked by H.R. 308—liability that the CBO estimates could be as high as $1 billion—shall not result in a reduction in funding for any Bureau of Indian Affairs programs. We should not punish the rest of Indian country for the greed of a few.

Second, the legislation should be amended to clarify that this prohibition on gaming should not apply to land specifically authorized by Congress as compensation for trust lands destroyed by the Federal agency action. If the bill is designed to stop so-called off-reservation gaming and reservation shopping, it should clearly exempt reservation lands provided to a tribe to replace land that the Federal Government destroyed.

If the aim of H.R. 308 is to enforce Arizona's tribal-State gaming compact, this legislation should be amended to be clear that gaming can take place as

long as it is conducted pursuant to the compact.

Bringing H.R. 308 to the floor under suspension is unfair, and it only serves the interests of those who would rather not discuss the issues highlighted by these and other amendments.

Finally, let me reiterate that regardless of how you voted the last time around, this is a completely different situation. As of July 2014, the land is now in trust. It is now part of the Tohono O'odham Reservation. This casino is set to open for business next month. If this legislation was unfair before, it is now just shameful.

Mr. Speaker, there was only one promise that was made that needs to be kept; the solemn promise this government made to the Tohono O'odham Nation with the passage of the Gila Bend Act in 1986. H.R. 308 will break that promise. It will set a dangerous precedent for settled land claims and will forever be a black mark on the dealings with Indian nations.

I urge Members to oppose H.R. 308. I remind my colleagues that this piece of legislation, while tempered and promoted for interests, carries with it extensive liability, dangerous precedents, and deserves a full, regular order debate, which we are not going to have today.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). The gentleman has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This has been a good debate. Of course, I brought this bill to the floor on behalf of the mostly unanimous Arizona delegation. My role in this is that I am, in fact, the prime author of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act itself.

I would suggest that what is being proposed here and the opposition to it, H.R. 308 does not affect land into trust and is a temporary halt. All this bill does is stop the opening of this casino, which they did, I believe, under the guise of dishonesty to the general public. Promises made, promises kept.

When the Governor and all the tribes, including the Tohono O'odham Tribe, agreed and signed a compact not to expand gambling in the State of Arizona, as they were doing so, in signing the compact, they were in preparations to buy this land, not telling anybody, not acknowledging or thinking of another casino. At least they should have had the courage and the guts not to sign the compact.

It went to the public. Promises made to the public. It would never have passed. Gambling in Arizona would not be there if they did not have this understanding there would be no expansion.

Now we have a group—and don't talk about greed, et cetera. There are people in that group who are just as greedy, trying to take and establish a gambling place where they said they wouldn't do it. That was the compact. That was the understanding with the State. That was the State legislative body.

Then we hear on the other side we can't vote for this because it is going to take jobs away. Away from whom? Other Natives. Other American Indians.

Remember, these casinos were built on a platform, a model of how many people go in and how many people come out. That is how you make these casinos pay, and that was the understanding and the plan that all the tribes agreed to. They all signed it, and we have documentation of that.

It was voted on by the general public because the general public did not want an expansion of gambling within the State of Arizona. It passed in good faith, but the faith was not that good. It was not the spirit and intent of the Indian Gaming Act at all. It broke the compact with the State and the people of the State. That is what we have to think about.

There is a factor here that was not exposed during the conference and in negotiating with the State and with the tribes. It was not exposed yet. It was taking place, not in sincerity but, in fact, in dishonesty.

I don't like to get involved in these tribal wars, but what is being encouraged here is wrong with that compact. The promise made by the people for the people and with the people and with the tribes, and you are asking us not to stop that.

This is a good piece of legislation to make sure a dishonest act does not take place. A breaking of a promise while you are holding your hand behind your back with your fingers crossed when you have the other hand up swearing, that is what occurred.

So I am asking my colleagues to listen to the Arizona delegation and the Governor. I am asking my colleagues to think about a promise made should be kept and only the Congress will make sure it is kept.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act is a close call on the merits. However, as I have stated in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD before (for example on September 25, 2012), when a bill is controversial and a close call on the merits, we should not be considering it under suspension of the rules. Accordingly, I cannot vote to suspend the rules.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today the House is scheduled to consider H.R. 308, the "Keep the Promise Act of 2015" which would prohibit gaming on property near Glendale, Arizona that is owned by the Tohono O'odham Nation and held in trust by the United States. The Tohono O'odham Nation is currently constructing a resort and casino on this property and expects to begin operations within a year.

The Congressional Budget Office expects that if this legislation were enacted, the tribe would pursue litigation against the federal government to recover its financial losses from foregone gaming revenue. For this reason, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that possible compensation payments from the government could range from nothing to more than $1 billion. However, the Congressional Budget Office concludes that it has no basis for estimating the outcome of the future litigation.

Budget enforcement is among my top priorities for the 114th Congress. It is my intention to ensure compliance with the Congressional Budget Act and House Rules as they apply to budget enforcement on the floor. However, given the considerable uncertainty of the budget impact of this legislation as concluded by the Congressional Budget Office, it is my position that a definitive score for this legislation cannot be determined.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 308.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FAIRNESS TO VETERANS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1694) to amend MAP–21 to improve contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small business concerns, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1694

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

Section 1101(b) of MAP–21 (23 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term 'veteran-owned small business concern' has the meaning given the term 'small business concern owned and controlled by veterans' in section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q))."';

(2) in paragraph (3) by inserting "and veteran-owned small business concerns" before the period at the end; and

(3) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(A) in clause (ii) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in clause (iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) veterans.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) and

the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on H.R. 1694.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my deepest condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those killed in last Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris. My prayers go out to them, the French people, and all those lovers of freedom and peace who have been shaken by this very savage attack.

As Americans, we are too familiar with the specter of terrorism. Fourteen years ago, on September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked our homeland. 9/11 was a call to action for tens of thousands of men and women who enlisted and served in our Nation's Armed Forces in defense of the American ideals that we all hold so dear.

Now, each year, more than 250,000 of these post-9/11 veterans are returning home and transitioning into civilian life after service and continue to serve as leaders in our communities and in our economy. In fact, one quarter of these veterans say they are interested in starting or buying their own businesses. This is exactly, Mr. Speaker, the kind of entrepreneurial spirit that makes America work.

To support these heroic individuals and to put their unique skills and commitment to best use, the Federal Government has a role to play in empowering them to succeed in the private sector, especially in terms of Federal contracting. A number of agencies do.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the Veterans Administration has been a leader in engaging the veteran-owned small-business community within their agency, working on contracting and procurement and seeing the benefits of increased veteran involvement. In fact, this week, in my own State of Pennsylvania, the VA, in collaboration with other Federal agencies and partners, will host its fifth national veterans small-business engagement event. This event is expected to attract nearly 3,000 veteran businessowners and focus on promoting and supporting veteran-owned small businesses' access to economic opportunities. VA Secretary Robert McDonald said the event highlights the agency's ''commitment by offering veteran businessowners the tools they need to thrive in the Federal marketplace. We want to do all that we can to help our veterans be successful,'' he said.

However, while these veteran businessowners will be making valuable inroads into working within the Federal contracting and procurement programs, they won't be talking about rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure through competing for Federal contracts.

That is because even with the immense amount of work facing the Department of Transportation, its small-business contracting program doesn't put veteran small businesses on a level playing field when competing for contracts. That is a real problem, not only for missed opportunities for veteran-owned businesses but missed opportunities to put veteran-owned firms on the front lines of our battle to rebuild our infrastructure.

While I am a supporter of having a completely level playing field throughout Federal contracting for every small business, the fact is that today, some get a preference when doing business with the Federal Government where veterans do not. While 10 percent of federally funded infrastructure projects are set aside for small businesses, our veterans are excluded from competing equally. That is not fair, and that is why I rise today to offer bipartisan legislation to address it.

My bipartisan Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act is a simple, yet powerful update to current law. It would allow veteran-owned small businesses to compete in an existing infrastructure small-business program known as the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program or DBE. This simple legislation is critical to both the shared goal of creating and sustaining jobs for our veterans and rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure.

This bill is an idea that my constituents in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, know as fairness to veterans and they support it.

□ 1545

When I visit veteran-owned small businesses across my district which have received their veteran-owned small-business certification, it is easy to see its impact on their outlook. Connecting veteran-owned businesses to the contracting power of the Federal Government opens the door for increased production, the hiring of additional staff—oftentimes veterans themselves—and opens doors to national opportunities.

But it is not just Pennsylvania veterans who would benefit from this measure. Fairness to Veterans would level the playing field for more than 380,000 veteran-owned construction firms across the Nation. And it is not just construction firms that will benefit. There are, in fact, a variety of industries involved, such as personnel, administrative, engineering, landscaping, utilities, and information technology. So this is an issue that affects all veteran-owned small businesses.

With this obviously positive impact, it is easy to see why the American Legion—one of the foremost organizations advocating for veterans in the workforce—backs this bill. Its 2.3 million members support providing parity for veterans in all small-business government contracting programs.

Here is what they just said in a message to all of our offices:

''The Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015 is a bipartisan, commonsense, and 'no cost to the taxpayer' update of existing legislation that redresses the exclusion of veteran small businesses when the framework of the DBE program was originally drafted.

''Currently, only half of the States meet their DBE goals. Adding veteran small businesses to this program would increase the pool of eligible firms at the States' disposal. For States that already meet their goals, this bill does not affect them or the small-business contractors that they employ.

''We cannot in good conscience stand idle while our veterans are precluded from this Federal program.''

Members of this body from both sides of the aisle should see the positive impact that can be made by putting the most trained workforce in history on the job of rebuilding our Nation's roads and bridges. That is what the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act is all about.

As a member of the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus and an advocate for tens of thousands of veterans in my district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, flags throughout the Nation are at half staff, and, coincidentally, we have just celebrated our own Veterans Day. We particularly feel that celebration here in the District of Columbia where we have served our country since it was created and still have no vote on this floor, even though the residents of the city I represent pay the highest taxes per capita of any residents anywhere in the United States, including our veterans, who continue to go to war without a vote.

But this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Veterans Day, the House is considering several bills that will benefit the Nation's veterans. I strongly support much of this legislation. I believe that many of these bills will pass the House without a single dissenting vote.

Regrettably, that is not the case, Mr. Speaker, for H.R. 1694, which I cannot support because, as currently drafted, it may cause destructive harm to the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, or DBE, program, which helps combat historic discrimination against women and minority-owned small businesses.

The DBE program helps level the playing field and provides an opportunity for these small businesses to

fairly compete for highway and transit construction contracts. Regrettably, this bill could destroy the entire program, taking everything down with it, including the veterans it purports to add.

The U.S. Supreme Court has been very clear in determining that the DBE program must be subject to the highest standard of constitutional review by the courts, known as the strict scrutiny test, to be constitutional. Under the strict scrutiny test established by the U.S. Supreme Court, the DBE program must be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling governmental interest.

To meet these objectives, State Departments of Transportation and public transit agencies must certify individual DBE businesses and conduct extensive disparity studies to determine the appropriate goal for awarding contracts to the small businesses owned by women and minorities in a particular community or State. That is a very rigorous standard.

The bill before us today, however, adds all veteran-owned businesses without the constitutionally mandated study. I emphasize that service-connected disabled veterans are and always have been included. They are a narrowly tailored group of veterans. However, the change offered today threatens the constitutionality of the existing DBE program because it would no longer clearly meet one of the two essential elements of the Supreme Court test.

The most important is that the program be narrowly tailored to address the continued effects of discrimination, which the disparity study must have already shown. Thus, although the bill has a worthy objective, it has an unintended consequence of threatening the very program designed to help level the playing field for small businesses owned by women and minorities and, as would happen, veterans as well. It just would blow up the whole program.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and I have met extensively with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) to outline these concerns. Mr. CUMMINGS and I, in response, developed an alternative approach to create a veteran-owned business enterprise program within the Department of Transportation. Under that program, there would be a national goal to ensure that veteran-owned small businesses receive highway and transit construction contracts. Moreover, this program would not undermine the constitutionality of the existing DBE program.

Mr. CUMMINGS and I introduced that bill earlier today, and I had hoped, in the spirit of compromise that is necessary to save the program at this point, we could proceed with that compromise proposal that would achieve all of our objectives: Mr. FITZPATRICK's objectives and the objectives that have been in the bill since the 1980s. Regrettably, we have not yet reached any such agreement on this approach with the gentleman from Pennsylvania prior to today's consideration of H.R. 1694.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, only in the Nation's Capital, only in Washington, D.C., would somebody ever make the argument that adding veterans to any Federal program would make it weaker, but that is the argument we just heard. The fact is, of the hundreds of thousands of veteran-owned small businesses in the United States of America, the owners of many of them are women veterans, the owners are minority veterans.

I just want to address some of the arguments that my colleague from the District of Columbia has made, two in particular.

First, the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act does not presume that veterans are socially and economically disadvantaged for purposes of the DBE program. Instead, the veteran-owned small businesses are given the exact same definition that they have in other contracting programs through the Small Business Act. The DBE program was set up to assist certain classes of small businesses, and this bill does not affect those businesses, number one.

Number two, the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act uses existing Small Business Act definitions requiring that businesses be 51 percent owned or controlled by veterans. The certification process and the screening was put in place by the Department of Transportation regulations, a similar process that would apply to veteran-owned small businesses. Additionally, any business participating in the DBE program could also be publicly owned.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I do want to note that the gentleman is correct that women are covered. They are already covered. One-third of those covered under the DBE category of minority and ethnic groups are minorities. So we do have large numbers of women and minorities covered, and the disparity studies have been done as to them.

No disparity studies have been done as to veterans as a whole. If the gentleman wants to do such a study, we invite him to work with us in doing a disparity study on veterans rather than blowing up the whole program.

I now yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), a member of the committee and my good friend.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I also thank her for her leadership as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

This past week, our Nation paused to honor the extraordinary service of our Nation's veterans. The foundation of America's military is not ships or missiles, and it isn't tanks or jets. The foundation of our military is the men and women who voluntarily serve, the ones who give their blood, sweat, and tears to make sure that we have the freedom that we experience every day.

Too often those who have served our country, particularly after the terrible events of 9/11, have faced significant challenges finding civilian employment. Earlier this year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released a report on veterans' employment in 2014. According to the BLS, last year there were more than 21 million men and women who had served in our Armed Forces, or approximately 9 percent of our civilian population.

The BLS found that in 2014 the jobless rate for all veterans was 5.3 percent, while the unemployment rate for veterans who had served since 9/11 was 7.2 percent. The BLS also found that the unemployment rate for veterans in my home State of Maryland was 8.5 percent, the highest among all 50 States.

According to data drawn from the Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners in 2007, there were nearly 2½ million businesses in the United States of which veterans comprised the majority ownership. Together, these businesses had receipts of approximately $1.2 trillion. Nearly half a million of these businesses were also employers, with a combined annual payroll of approximately $210 billion.

Now, I agree with Representative FITZPATRICK that we must expand programs that help veterans find employment after their service ends and that we should expand contracting opportunities in the highway and transit programs for small businesses owned by veterans. I just don't think adding veterans to the existing DBE program is the right way to accomplish these goals.

Adding veteran-owned small businesses to the DBE program would force the veteran-owned businesses to compete with disadvantaged business enterprises already participating in the program for contracting opportunities. The best way to help veterans is to establish a Federal participation goal that is specifically for veteran-owned small businesses and business concerns separate and apart from the DBE program.

□ 1600

Today I and several of my colleagues introduced legislation to accomplish just that. Our bill, H.R. 3997, would amend the MAP–21 program to create a 10 percent aspirational goal for veteran-owned small-business concerns.

Setting a specific and separate goal for veteran-owned businesses would be

consistent with existing Federal contracting programs while ensuring that veterans do not have to compete with any other business under the aspirational goal.

Setting a separate goal would also ensure that we do not make changes to the DBE program that could open the program to new legal challenges that could limit the program's ability to serve either DBEs or veterans.

I hope that my colleagues across the aisle agree to work with us to create a program that will provide the maximum benefit to veterans, which is a Veterans Business Enterprise program with its own aspirational goals.

To that end, I join Ranking Member NORTON in urging Members to oppose the bill currently before us in favor of creating a program that will serve veterans and only veterans.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my colleagues. I would just indicate that this is not a bill that was just recently filed. This was filed and has been pending in the House since 2012, when I first filed the Fairness to Veterans Act, seeking to put our veterans to work as they are coming off the battlefield and coming back into a difficult economy, many of them starting businesses because they are entrepreneurial, because they are hard workers, and because they have those skills that they achieved while defending our Nation with our training. They want to put it back in the economy and help get their country's economy moving again.

Many of them found that, as they were competing for contracts, they were not on a level playing field. I indicated that for 5 years this policy has been pending and there have been too few meetings to try to forward the idea of helping our Nation's veterans compete.

For 5 years our Federal Government has been measuring the DBE program. On the 10 percent contracting goal that is set forth in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, for 5 years in a row, 25 of the 50 States—half of the States—never met their 10 percent goal.

So when we hear that we don't want our Nation's veterans competing against others within the 10 percent set-aside, first of all, half the 10 percent set-aside is not being met. Number two, I think we do want competition. I think we do want our Nation's veterans competing.

It will not only be good for our Nation's veterans, it will be good for all enterprises, all businesses, in this country. Competition is what built this country. Competition will help put our Nation's veterans back to work and get our roads and bridges rebuilt, which is a big and important job.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, with respect to that big and important job that our Nation's veterans are prepared for, I would say that we know that they are up to the challenge, and the statistics prove it.

There are 250,000 veterans transitioning each year from military to civilian life, and they are looking for their next mission. A quarter of them say they want to start or buy their own business in the future. That is something that we should celebrate, encourage, and support.

They join the nearly one in seven veterans who are self-employed or are small-business owners right now. The impact of veteran-owned businesses and entrepreneurs with a veteran background on our economy is impressive.

There are currently 3.7 million veteran-owned businesses in the United States, accounting for more than $1.6 trillion in receipts and employing 8.2 million people. Of them, there are more than 380,000 veteran-owned construction firms, 414,519 veteran-owned firms in the professional, scientific, and technical services, and over 10 percent of all manufacturing firms are veteran owned. These are the people that would stand to benefit from this commonsense bill.

Unfortunately, the numbers also show that 75 percent of current veteran business owners are over the age of 55. That means we need to support the next generation of veteran small-business owners. The Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Act lays that groundwork.

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

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

The gentleman said there haven't been enough meetings. I met with the gentleman more than once and then wrote an extensive memo on the problems with the bill.

You just can't divide veterans the day after Veterans Day. You can't divide this House on the question of veterans, not when we have offered an entire program for veterans.

So I don't know what is so sacred about being in this particular program. In fact, the gentleman mentioned that minorities and women were not, in fact, meeting all of their goals. Therefore, some of those goals are left on the table.

That is a very important point. Because being a minority or a woman is not enough to qualify you for this—and I don't even want to call it a set-aside for this goal is not a set-aside. So these minorities and women have to show equivalent skills with others who are competing. It is not an easy thing to do.

So it is not a question of whether there are some leftover points to be picked up by veterans. The DBE program has 30 years of history in the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, even with that history, every time this bill is passed the DBE program is challenged. Each time the Justice Department, under Democratic and Republican Presidents, have defended it as a narrowly tailored program.

Recognizing that history and the strict, narrowly tailored standard, the gentleman was offered a way for veterans to, in fact, be recognized in transportation and infrastructure programs.

He was offered a way that is probably even better than the program that unites minorities, women, and, I might add, service-disabled veterans, who are a narrowly tailored group that is already included.

But instead of accepting this offer, he has decided he wants to blow up the entire DBE program for veterans and everyone else. We can't agree to such a destructive approach, particularly when we have offered the gentleman a way for veterans to be recognized.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing to hear the motives behind my interest in putting our Nation's veterans back to work being mischaracterized on the floor, the 5-year effort from 2011 to 2015 where I patiently worked on both sides of the aisle, where I patiently introduced bills, where I patiently signed up sponsors and cosponsors on both sides of the aisle.

Only in Washington, D.C., would you say that, after 5 years' worth of legislative work on an issue to help our veterans, we are rushing something to the floor. That is what is being suggested here today.

In fact, this bill is the product of years of work, much of that work hand in hand with The American Legion. And, Mr. Speaker, this is what The American Legion has to say: On behalf of the 2.3 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express my support for H.R. 1694, the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act.

This bill passed as a resolution at the National Convention of The American Legion. They supported the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act. It was Resolution 339. It passed The American Legion's 2014 national convention.

It states that The American Legion ''supports legislation to ensure equal parity for all veterans in all small-business government contracting programs, thus ensuring no veteran procurement program is at a disadvantage in competing with any other government procurement program established by law.''

The American Legion supports the passage of this legislation. It also goes on to applaud the leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our Nation's servicemembers and veterans. Mr. Speaker, that is from Michael Helm, National Commander of The American Legion.

Let me add that we are not just talking about construction firms, as I said earlier. We are talking about a wide swath of veteran businesses that will be impacted.

This is what The American Legion pointed out at their national meeting. They pointed out that: This bipartisan, commonsense, and no cost to taxpayer update of existing legislation redresses the exclusion of veteran-owned small businesses when the framework of the DBE program was originally drafted, such as personnel, administrative, engineering, landscaping, utilities and information technology. So, again, this is an issue that affects all veteran-owned small businesses.

That is from Joe Sharpe, Director of The American Legion's Veterans Employment and Education Division.

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

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

The gentleman mentioned 5 years that he has put into his bill. His party has been in power the past 5 years. As far as I know, he never asked for a hearing so that these issues could be clarified. I am sure that, if he had, we might have been able to iron this out.

Even without a hearing, based on what the Supreme Court has said, we have no choice but to oppose the bill as he has offered it, in not differentiating among the veterans he is speaking about, but putting in a global group, which has never been done or approved.

We have barely been able to get the Supreme Court to agree to let such programs prevail, but we have always succeeded in getting the Court to understand that past discrimination has been shown through disparity studies. Without any disparity studies, the gentleman from Pennsylvania means to march straight up to the Supreme Court and say: We are veterans. Approve us anyway.

Nobody opposes veterans, particularly at this time, following what we have seen in Paris. The way to make sure that veterans are not left out is to sit down with us and figure it out, not to barnstorm the floor in the hope that, since you are in the majority, it will pass.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia indicated that there has not been a hearing in the House of Representatives in the relevant subcommittees or committees on the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act.

The fact is, for 5 years, this bill has been pending. Anybody on the committee, including Ms. HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia, could have asked for and had a hearing.

It is a shame that, after 5 years, there was no hearing. But we have a hearing now on the floor here on this bill.

In addition to the Transportation Committee, the bill was also referred to the Small Business Committee. The American Legion testified on the bill within one of their subcommittees.

So there was a hearing. There was testimony. There was an opportunity for all Members to question and to follow up on those questions and to submit material after the hearing was over.

So, after 5 years of debate, after 5 years of negotiation, after 5 years of working with committees and subcommittees, this bill was prepared to be voted on here today.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the letter from The American Legion dated April 22, 2015, signed by National Commander Michael D. Helm, in support of the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, April 22, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL FITZPATRICK,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FITZPATRICK: On behalf of the 2.3 million members of The American Legion I would like to express support for H.R. 1694, the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act.

Resolution 339, passed at The American Legion's 2014 National Convention states that The American Legion ''. . . supports legislation to ensure equal parity for all veterans in all small business government contracting programs, thus ensuring no veteran procurement program is at a disadvantage in competing with any other government procurement program established by law.''

This bill would work to achieve this end, by making veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) eligible for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs of the Department of Transportation (DoT). Veterans are not presumed to be socially or economically disadvantaged for purposes of DBE programs; instead the proposed legislation would make VOSBs independently eligible by establishing VOSBs as a separate entity who count for the purposes of the 10 percent goal as set by DoT.

Again, The American Legion supports passage of this legislation, and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's service members and veterans.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL D. HELM,
National Commander.

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

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

This is the first time I have ever heard a Member from the majority say that a Member from the minority should have asked for a hearing on his bill. If you are in the majority and you want a hearing on your bill, that is your obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), my good friend, for the purpose of a colloquy.

□ 1615

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me just say that we just finished celebrating Veterans Day, and as the ranking member, I support veterans 100 percent.

Also, as a minority, I have a question for the gentlewoman because we just celebrated the 1965 Voting Rights Act and, of course, minorities have had a tough time participating in many programs.

Can you tell me, if this amendment passed, how will this affect the MBA, the minority business program in transportation?

We have both been on this committee. I have been on it for over 23 years, and we know it has to be narrowly tailored, or else we will have no programs.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentlewoman for her question.

Unfortunately, there is some very rough history to prove what needs to be done. It is not as if we are speculating on what the constitutional standard is. The constitutional standard has been developed. The States have to do their disparity studies all over again to show that groups should still be included. Some groups may fall out.

This is delicate work, and in our constitutional government, we don't say every worthy group should have a preference. We need to make a showing, and if that showing isn't made, then the matter will not stand.

If you want to give a very, very painful example of that, let's take the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court of the United States overturned, about 5 years ago, the Voting Rights Act.

Guess why, Mr. Speaker? They said there had been some changes, and that people of color could now vote, as they couldn't always vote when the Voting Rights Act was passed. And so they threw it back to this Congress, and said: All right, you can have a Voting Rights Act but you must update the Act to show that there is still a disparity in voting. There are pending now three bills in order to do that.

But if the Supreme Court did that on the Voting Rights Act, where the discrimination was perhaps the most apparent, from poll taxes to lynching, you can imagine where we would be on DBE, and we have got 30 years of court history to show it.

We all want to do the best that we possibly can for our veterans. The way to do that is to sit down and design a bill that would, in fact, pass constitutional muster. We know how to do it.

This is not a matter of the ego of whoever introduces the bill. It is a matter of how you make sure that veterans, in fact, are designated, in a constitutional way, for participation in the soon-to-be-signed-by-the-President surface transportation bill.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 45 seconds remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we have done the best we could for our veterans in speaking for this bill today. We remain open to assuring that the veterans participate in the funds that are

about to come from the transportation and infrastructure bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we know that we must rebuild our crumbling infrastructure in this country. That is not a question.

In fact, in my home State of Pennsylvania, 15 percent of roads are in poor condition, and there are over 5,200 structurally deficient bridges. There is plenty of work to do, work which will be supported by the bipartisan passage of the other week's 6-year surface transportation bill.

What we can decide today, with my Fairness to Veterans Act, is if it will be in our Nation's interest that our veterans will help to lead that work.

Let's salute our veteran small-business owners by empowering them to rebuild America and passing the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act, a bipartisan, commonsense, no-cost-to-the-taxpayer update of existing legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this simple bipartisan proposal and pass this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1694.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FUNDS TO THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO ASSIST WITH CURATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3114) to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3114

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies are required to preserve and catalogue artifacts and other items of national historical significance that are uncovered during the course of their work (notably under part 79 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations).

(2) Uncatalogued artifacts within the care of Federal agencies are stored in hundreds of repositories and museums across the Nation.

(3) In October 2009, the Corps of Engineers, Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections, initiated the Veterans' Curation Program to employ and train Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in archaeological processing.

(4) The Veterans' Curation Program employs veterans and members of the Armed Forces in the sorting, cleaning, and cataloguing of artifacts managed by the Corps of Engineers.

(5) Employees of the Veterans' Curation Program gain valuable work skills, including computer database management, records management, photographic and scanning techniques, computer software proficiency, vocabulary and writing skills, and interpersonal communication skills, as well as knowledge and training in archaeology and history.

(6) Since 2009, a total of 241 veterans have participated in the Veterans' Curation Program, including the current class of 38 participants. Of the 203 graduates of the program, 87 percent have received permanent employment in a field related to training received under the program or chosen to continue their education.

(7) Experience in archaeological curation gained through the Veterans' Curation Program is valuable training and experience for the museum, forensics, administrative, records management, and other fields.

(8) Veterans' Curation Program participants may assist the Corps of Engineers in developing a more efficient and comprehensive collections management program and also may provide the workforce to meet the records management needs at other agencies and departments, including the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 2. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES IN CURATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

Using available funds, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall carry out a Veterans' Curation Program to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Secretary in carrying out curation and historic preservation activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3114.

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

There was no objection.

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

As our veterans return home, they deserve opportunities for employment in addition to our thanks for their brave sacrifice and service.

I believe one of the greatest responsibilities our government has is to ensure the members of our military, both Active and retired, and their families have opportunities upon returning home.

Our veterans gave a career of service to their country, risked their lives in combat, and experienced long periods of separation from their families.

The Veterans Curation Program was created to give veterans the opportunity to adjust to a civilian work environment and learn important skills while processing at-risk archeological collections belonging to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

By investing in servicemembers, the Veterans Curation Program is building on the skills that veterans acquire during military service, including leadership, teamwork, and attention to detail.

Working under the direct supervision of professionals in the field of archaeology, the veterans receive competitive pay and technical training in a peer-to-peer veterans environment. I urge all Members to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of H.R. 3114, as stated by my colleague, a bipartisan bill, introduced along with my colleague, Congressman RODNEY DAVIS from Illinois, to permanently authorize available funds from the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans for curation and historic preservation of archaeological sites, items of historical value during their excavation and during other related activities.

It is very notable that, on the legislative week immediately following Veterans Day, the House is considering important legislation to provide job training assistance to hire and train our veterans.

As part of our government's effort to protect our Nation's archaeological heritage, Federal agencies are required to provide curation and preservation services to professional museums and archival practices.

In 2009, the Army Corps of Engineers began training veterans in archaeological processing activities, using temporary funds provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, otherwise known as ARRA.

For 6 years, veterans have enrolled in the program, and have been acquiring valuable job skills, including but not limited to computer database management, records management, scanning, and photographing records and artifacts. These are skills further preparing our veterans for today's competitive job market by giving them valuable, hands-on experience.

As of earlier this year, 231 veterans have gone through the program, and currently they have 38 veterans in this current class.

As a direct result of the program, 139 veterans have obtained permanent employment; 39 have continued their education, either at colleges, universities, or in certificated programs.

Not only does the Corps' Veterans Curation Program educate, train, and employ veterans, the program's jobs are tailored to fit the capabilities of disabled veterans. The Corps undertakes these activities in three facilities across our country, located in Georgia, Virginia, and Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are grateful for the chance to provide our veterans an opportunity to continue

healing by carrying out meaningful work and job training that is helping them and their families reintegrate, become more productive, and that is so beneficial to our Nation.

I urge all my colleagues to support making this worthwhile program permanent and joining me in passing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a program that is very worthwhile. It is one of the agency's many efforts to continue helping our veterans be able to get job training, get job skills, and be able to sustain their families in a way that may make them feel whole again. I do ask all my colleagues to support this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3114, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PARTNERS FOR AVIATION SECURITY ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3144) to require consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee regarding modifications to the prohibited item list, require a report on the Transportation Security Oversight Board, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3144

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

The Act may be cited as the ''Partners for Aviation Security Act''.

SEC. 2. AVIATION SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTATION.

The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall consult, to the extent practicable, with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (established pursuant to section 44946 of title 49 of the United States Code) regarding any modification to the prohibited item list prior to issuing a determination about any such modification.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OVERSIGHT BOARD.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Transportation Security Oversight Board (established pursuant to section 115 of title 49, United States Code), the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes general information on how often the Board has met, the current composition of the Board, and what activities the Board has undertaken, consistent with the duties specified in subsection (c) of such section. The Administrator may include in such report recommendations for changes to such section in consideration of the provisions of section 44946 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TERMS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 44946(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(A) TERMS.—The term of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be two years but may continue until such time as a successor member begins serving on the Advisory Committee. A member of the Advisory Committee may be reappointed.''.

(b) CLARIFICATION.—Paragraph (5) of section 44946(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''under paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''under this subsection''.

SEC. 5. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''prohibited item list'' means the list of items passengers are prohibited from carrying as accessible property or on their persons through passenger screening checkpoints at airports, into sterile areas at airports, and on board passenger aircraft, pursuant to section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2015).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3144, the Partners for Aviation Security Act of 2015.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, this important bipartisan legislation ensures that the critical decisions affecting the transportation security of the United States are not made in a vacuum without the input and perspective of relevant transportation stakeholders.

Unfortunately, the Transportation Security Administration has a troublesome history when making sweeping policy changes at the expense of the traveling public and other affected parties, such as aviation workers, airports, airlines, vendors, and law enforcement.

Specifically, H.R. 3144 requires the Administrator of TSA to consult, when possible, with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee before determining whether to modify the prohibited items lists for passenger aircraft.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee on Transportation Security conducted oversight of efforts to modify the prohibited items list after TSA made a sweeping decision to do so without appropriate prior consultation with stakeholders. By codifying the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, or ASAC, the committee has a proven record of ensuring that TSA consults with stakeholders on important matters of transportation security when appropriate.

This commonsense legislation adds to this record. Another important provision of this bill requires that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit a report to both Congress and the Transportation Security Oversight Board, including important information on the Board's composition and activities. This report may include recommendations for Congress and the Department to improve the Board and ensure that it is meeting the original intent of providing review to transportation security-related regulations and making a meaningful contribution to the security of our Nation's critical transportation systems.

Each and every day, Mr. Speaker, there are new and evolving threats to the security of America's traveling public, and it is the important work of the Department of Homeland Security and TSA to ensure that travelers are safe and to mitigate threats against transportation. In this regard, it is of the highest importance that relevant partners in transportation security are engaged and included in ongoing dialogue on important policy matters being considered.

I wish to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL, as well as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. KATKO, for their work in bringing this bill to the floor today and conducting critical oversight efforts to secure America's transportation systems. Additionally, I wish to thank the bill's author, Congressman PAYNE, for his hard work and dedication to this issue. Finally, I would like to thank the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, for supporting this important legislation.

Collaboration is the key to effective security, and it is the prerogative of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that open lines of communication exist between stakeholders, TSA, and DHS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3144, the Partners for Aviation Security Act. I introduced H.R. 3144, the Partners for Aviation Security Act, to ensure that the Transportation Security Administration's key domestic partner for aviation security, the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, is

positioned to contribute to aviation security policy.

Before beginning, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those that were lost on the Metrojet flight originating from Egypt recently.

The safety and security of the traveling public is vital, and the work of the Transportation Security Subcommittee, of which I am a member, is extremely important, as we address issues and vulnerabilities that affect the Nation's aviation sector.

As many of you will recall, Mr. Speaker, in 2012, then-TSA Administrator John Pistole unilaterally made changes to the prohibited items list allowed onto passenger planes to include small knives and sporting goods equipment. Almost immediately, there was an outcry against this decision from a broad range of stakeholders. Our committee heard from flight attendants, pilots, passenger groups, and others about the security and safety risks associated with this change.

Like many Americans, I was pleased that TSA ultimately decided to withdraw its changes to the prohibited items list. However, I believe TSA should consult the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, or ASAC, before implementing new security protocols. Enactment of H.R. 3144 would ensure that such consultation occurs.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3144 also includes language to ensure that there is continuity in the ASAC's operations even when there are changes to its membership. In general terms, given that most of our Nation's critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector, it is important that DHS maintain close partnerships with the private sector to execute its missions and programs.

When it comes to aviation security, such partners are essential insofar as TSA cannot effectively carry outs its mission at our Nation's airports without buy-in from the air carriers, airport operators, labor unions, passenger groups, airport vendors, and technology companies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that this bill was approved unanimously in committee and thank our cosponsors; the chairman of our committee's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. KATKO; the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL; and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON. I am pleased that the committee has worked in a bipartisan fashion to advance this timely piece of legislation.

Together we send a strong message to TSA and the American flying public about our commitment to ensuring that sensible and effective security policies are in place at our Nation's airports. For these reasons, I urge Members to support H.R. 3144.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3144.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3144, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1073) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic threats, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1073

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Critical Infrastructure Protection Act'' or the ''CIPA''.

SEC. 2. EMP PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PREPAREDNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121) is amended—

(1) in section 2 (6 U.S.C. 101), by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(6a) EMP.—The term 'EMP' means—

''(A) an electromagnetic pulse caused by intentional means, including acts of terrorism; and

''(B) a geomagnetic disturbance caused by solar storms or other naturally occurring phenomena.'';

(2) in title V (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.), by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 526. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS AND EDUCATION.

''The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall, to the extent practicable—

''(1) include in national planning frameworks the threat of EMP events; and

''(2) conduct outreach to educate owners and operators of critical infrastructure, emergency planners, and emergency response providers at all levels of government of the threat of EMP events.'';

(3) in title III (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), by adding at the end of the following:

''SEC. 318. EMP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of domestic preparedness and response, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in consultation with other relevant agencies and departments of the Federal Government and relevant owners and operators of critical infrastructure, shall, to the extent practicable, conduct research and development to mitigate the consequences of EMP events.

''(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and development under subsection (a) shall include the following:

''(1) An objective scientific analysis of the risks to critical infrastructures from a range of EMP events.

''(2) Determination of the critical national security assets and vital civic utilities and infrastructures that are at risk from EMP events.

''(3) An evaluation of emergency planning and response technologies that would address the findings and recommendations of experts, including those of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack.

''(4) An analysis of technology options that are available to improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure to EMP.

''(5) The restoration and recovery capabilities of critical infrastructure under differing levels of damage and disruption from various EMP events.''; and

(4) in section 201(d) (6 U.S.C. 121(d)), by adding at the end the following:

''(26)(A) Prepare and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate—

''(i) a recommended strategy to protect and prepare the critical infrastructure of the American homeland against EMP events, including from acts of terrorism; and

''(ii) biennial updates on the status of the recommended strategy.

''(B) The recommended strategy shall—

''(i) be based on findings of the research and development conducted under section 318;

''(ii) be developed in consultation with the relevant Federal sector-specific agencies (as defined under Homeland Security Presidential Directive–7) for critical infrastructures;

''(iii) be developed in consultation with the relevant sector coordinating councils for critical infrastructures; and

''(iv) include a classified annex as needed.

''(C) The Secretary may, if appropriate, incorporate the recommended strategy into a broader recommendation developed by the Department to help protect and prepare critical infrastructure from terrorism and other threats if, as incorporated, the strategy complies with subparagraph (B).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended—

(1) by adding at the end of the items relating to title V the following:

''Sec. 526. National planning frameworks and education.'';

and

(2) by adding at the end of the items relating to title III the following:

''Sec. 318. EMP research and development.''.

(c) DEADLINE FOR RECOMMENDED STRATEGY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the recommended strategy required under the amendment made by subsection (a)(4) by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to Congress by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act describing the progress made in, and an estimated date by which the Department of Homeland Security will have completed—

(1) including EMP (as defined in the amendment made by subsection (a)(1)) threats in national planning frameworks;

(2) research and development described in the amendment made by subsection (a)(3);

(3) development of the comprehensive plan required under the amendment made by subsection (a)(4); and

(4) outreach to educate owners and operators of critical infrastructure, emergency planners and emergency response providers at all levels of government regarding the threat of EMP events.

SEC. 3. NO REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to grant any regulatory authority.

SEC. 4. NO NEW AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act, including the amendments made by this Act, may be carried out only by using funds appropriated under the authority of other laws.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1073, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2015.

The threats to the Nation's critical infrastructure continue to evolve. Threats today come in all forms: physical, cyber, and electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, events.

H.R. 1073 is a commonsense piece of legislation because it would ensure that DHS plans and addresses threats to critical infrastructure from EMP events. Specifically, this bill would require the Department of Homeland Security to include EMP events in national planning frameworks. It would also ensure DHS conducts outreach and educates owners and operators of critical infrastructure, emergency planners, and emergency responders about the threat of EMP events. Finally, this legislation requires the Secretary to conduct research and development to mitigate the consequences of EMP events.

I would like to thank my colleague from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for authoring this important legislation. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1073, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1073 would require the Department of Homeland Security to undertake research, planning, and educational activities to mitigate the potential consequences of electromagnetic pulses and geomagnetic disturbances on critical infrastructure such as public utilities and national security assets. As the Congressional Budget Office noted in its analysis, the Department is currently carrying out programs similar to those required by the bill.

Along those lines, I think it is important to identify the elements of EMP and GMD preparedness and response activities that are common to the existing preparedness and response efforts as set forth in the national planning frameworks. These national planning efforts identify roles and responsibilities for disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities, and this bill will include consideration of EMPs.

It is also important to distinguish between EMP, or electromagnetic pulses, and GMD, or geomagnetic disturbances. There are significant differences in the nature of the threats, the science behind their impacts, and the range of options for potential solutions.

EMP weapons are most generally recognized as thermonuclear weapons that may be launched on missiles designed to explode in the upper atmosphere and produce intense, short-duration, targeted energy that can impact a wide range of technologies and industries. An EMP blast could disrupt and potentially destroy electronic devices in the affected area with consequences extending to critical infrastructures that rely on microprocessor-based electronic devices.

In contrast, geomagnetic fluctuations, or GMDs, result from solar weather activity. Severe GMD events may produce varying effects on the power system depending on orientation of the solar storm, latitude, transmission line characteristics, the geology of an affected area, and the design of the power system. The effects of GMD are believed to be primarily limited to reliability of the bulk power system, while the effects of an EMP could cross multiple infrastructures and technologies.

Given that any EMP is likely to be the result of an international attack or warlike activity on the United States or its neighbors, DHS may need to partner with the Department of Defense. Going forward, I urge Members to be mindful of the broad range of preparedness demands on DHS.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I am sincerely grateful to all of those who have supported the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act. I am especially grateful to Chairman PETE SESSIONS for his cosponsorship and his committed partnership on this bill, as well as, of course, to Chairman MCCAUL and to the leadership team of this House for allowing this legislation to come to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is an especially appropriate time for us to pause and reflect on the tragedies that have occurred in France and to stand in solidarity with those people who are part of the free world and do the best they can to fight terrorism and to survive its effects. My prayers are with them, and it is ironic that today we are here dealing with legislation to try to help mitigate our own vulnerabilities to potential attacks that could come in the future.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, can be catalyzed by nonnuclear intentional electromagnetic interference, a major solar storm, or a high-altitude nuclear blast. EMP is an invisible force of ionized particles with the potential to overwhelm and destroy our present electrical power grids, which are a vital component of nearly every other critical infrastructure we have.

Reducing America's vulnerability to naturally occurring or weaponized electromagnetic pulse is a timely and critical matter of national security. During the past several decades, America has spent billions of dollars hardening many of our critical defense assets, including our nuclear triad and our missile defense components, against natural or weaponized electromagnetic pulse.

However, the Department of Defense relies upon the largely unprotected civilian grid for 99 percent of its electricity needs in the continental United States, without which it cannot affect its mission.

Twelve years ago, in August of 2003, an electromagnetic pulse knocked out a large portion of the electric grid across the eastern United States. Fifty million people were affected after 21 power plants shut down in just 3 minutes. Office workers streamed into parking lots and many commuters were stranded inside their trains.

In a matter of moments, the things that make up our critical infrastructure, from the electric grid to water pumps, to cell phone service, to computer systems, were disrupted. Lives suddenly changed that day in New York City, Cleveland, Detroit, and all the way into Canada. In New York City alone, this short blackout was estimated to cost more than a half billion dollars.

There are at least 11 major government reports now that have all come essentially to the same conclusion regarding our vulnerabilities to electromagnetic pulse. Some of America's most enlightened national security experts, as well as many of our enemies or potential enemies, consider a well-executed weaponized electromagnetic pulse against America to be a ''kill shot''—let me say that again—a ''kill shot'' to America.

However, our civilian grid remains fundamentally unprotected against severe EMP, and for it to remain so is an open invitation to our enemies to exploit this dangerous vulnerability.

Indeed, the National Intelligence University recently translated an Iranian military doctrine called ''Passive Defense.'' This doctrine stresses that electrical grids are vital to the national existence of major powers in the

world like America. It includes a formula for calculating the value of electrical power plants and for prioritizing the targeting of electric grid components and other critical infrastructures. Mr. Speaker, this Iranian military doctrine referenced the use of nuclear-generated electromagnetic pulse as an effective weapon more than 20 times.

Now that the Islamic Republic of Iran begins to enjoy the bounty of their nuclear negotiations, it should be a wake-up call to all of us that the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism is contemplating the concept of nuclear-generated electromagnetic pulse as an asymmetric weapon against America.

Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, we are here this day to pass the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, which, if signed into law, will represent the first time in history that Congress will be specifically addressing this dangerous threat of electromagnetic pulse.

This legislation will enhance the DHS threat assessments for EMP through research and reporting requirements. It will help the United States prevent and prepare for such an event by including large-scale blackouts into our critical existing national planning scenarios, including educational awareness for first responders to protect critical infrastructure. Most importantly, it requires a specific plan for protecting and recovering the electrical grid and other critical infrastructure from a dangerous electromagnetic pulse event.

Mr. Speaker, finally, there is a moment in the life of nearly every problem when it is big enough to be seen by reasonable people and still small enough to be addressed. Those of us in this Chamber and across America live in a time when there still may be opportunity for the free world to address and mitigate the vulnerability that naturally occurring or weaponized EMP represents to the mechanisms of our civilization. This is our moment.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the remarks by the gentleman from Arizona in reference to the solidarity in which we stand with the French people. As it has been stated now and called, this terrorist attack is their 9/11. I just wanted to be on the RECORD to acknowledge the comments of the gentleman from Arizona. We stand with the French people in solidarity.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my dear friend from Georgia, for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1073, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

Over the past decade, our Nation has seen an unprecedented expansion in the use of electronics, Mr. Speaker. These electronics have transformed our economy, our homes, our families, and, really, the way we do business and have become an integral part of our daily lives.

Unfortunately, this technology is also susceptible to new types of potential threats, threats that have been talked about on this floor by not only Mr. FRANKS, but also our friend, Mr. CARTER, and others.

Today electromagnetic pulses, known as EMPs, could dramatically disrupt electronic activity and severely damage our electrical grids and everything that stands under those grids. Examples of EMP threats include those generated from a geomagnetic solar flare, from a terrorist short-range missile, cybersecurity attacks, or from a physical assault on a utility or a power plant.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Act that we are talking about today and that we hope to pass is an important first step towards protecting our Nation from potential catastrophic nationwide blackouts.

I would like to recognize Frank Gaffney, the president and founder of the Center for Security Policy. Frank has provided the leadership not only by meeting with me, but also working with Mr. FRANKS and hundreds of other Members to let us know not only about this important critical infrastructure policy need, but also to make sure that we educate and spread awareness to not only our constituency, but other Members of Congress, regarding the new types of potential threats and occurrences, such as an electromagnetic pulse attack, that could dramatically alter our way of life.

I would also like to recognize, as I have previously done, our leader in Congress on this issue, my dear friend, Arizona Congressman TRENT FRANKS. Mr. FRANKS and I have spoken about this issue for years. We have worked hard with the chairman of Homeland Security, as well as leadership in this House, to make sure that we accomplish this legislation now.

Ultimately, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act is simply the first step towards getting the U.S. closer to protecting ourselves from a potentially catastrophic nationwide blackout. It is simply the first step, Mr. Speaker. I know this will begin a national dialogue, a dialogue that needs to take place and that has already been begun by such leaders as former Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the House today for taking up this important legislation, ask that my colleagues pay attention to understand this bill, and vote for it because support and passage of H.R. 1073, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, is important to the American people and our way of life.

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

In closing, I would like to note that H.R. 1073 puts focus on EMP and GMD preparedness response in a reasonable manner. It does so in a way that does not come at the detriment of preparing for other more likely or more potentially lethal events.

I would also reiterate that there are activities already underway at DHS to improve preparedness activities for an EMP event. For example, it is my understanding that DHS is looking at including EMP as an annex to the Federal Interagency Operational Plans currently in development.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1073.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1073.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1073, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2015.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security as well as the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Investigations, I am well aware of the importance of our nation's critical infrastructure and for this reason I support H.R. 1073.

The bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by adding the definition of "EMP" to mean: (1) an electromagnetic pulse caused by intentional means, including acts of terrorism; and (2) a geomagnetic disturbance caused by solar storms or other naturally occurring phenomena.

Directs DHS to: (1) include in national planning frameworks the threat of EMP events; and (2) conduct outreach to educate owners and operators of critical infrastructure, emergency planners, and emergency response providers of the threat of EMP events.

The bill also directs DHS to conduct research and development to mitigate the consequences of EMP events, including: an objective scientific analysis of the risks to critical infrastructures from a range of EMP events; determination of the critical national security assets and vital civic utilities and infrastructures that are at risk from EMP events; an evaluation of emergency planning and response technologies that would address the findings and recommendations of experts, including those of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack; an analysis of available technology options to improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure to EMP; and the restoration and recovery capabilities of critical infrastructure under differing levels of damage and disruption from various EMP events.

DHS will make recommendations to Congress on a strategy to protect and prepare the critical infrastructure of the nation against EMP events, and provide biennial updates on the status of developing a defense against EMP strategy.

Electricity and the national electric grid are of vital importance to our national and domestic security interest.

There were 3 strategic imperatives that dives the Federal approach to strengthen critical infrastructure security and resilience: refine and clarify functional relationships across

the Federal Government to advance the national unity of effort to strengthen critical infrastructure security and resilience; enable effective information exchange by identifying baseline data and systems requirements for the Federal Government; and implement an integration and analysis function to inform planning and operations decisions regarding critical infrastructure.

Effective security for our nation's critical infrastructure requires a national unity of effort based upon strategic guidance from the Secretary of Homeland Security.

I introduced H.R. 85, Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, which directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with critical infrastructure owners and operators and state, local, and territorial to take proactive steps to address All Hazards that would impact: national security; economic stability; public health and safety; and or any combination of these.

The Jackson Lee bill, just as H.R. 1703 is intended to do, would reduce vulnerabilities associated with potential terrorist attacks that target critical infrastructure by supporting a coordinated partnership among federal agencies; critical infrastructure owners and operators and local, state, and tribal authorities.

Last, Friday's terrible attacks in Paris only illustrates the inhumanity of those who are America's enemies—the enemies of all of those who cherish freedom.

I join my colleagues in the House in offering my deepest sympathies to the people of Paris especially to the families of those killed.

Our commitment to our national security should and must extend to the security needs of our allies in the struggle against violence and terrorism—France.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1703.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1073, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIGNIFIED INTERMENT OF OUR VETERANS ACT OF 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1338) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1338

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) complete a study on matters relating to the interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study required under paragraph (1).

(b) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters studied under subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

(1) Determining the scope of issues relating to unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans.

(2) Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for working with persons or entities having custody of unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(3) Assessing State and local laws that affect the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(4) Developing recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) METHODOLOGY.—

(1) NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.—In estimating the number of unclaimed remains of veterans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may review such subset of applicable entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, including a subset of funeral homes and coroner offices that possess unclaimed veterans remains.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.—In assessing State and local laws under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applicable State and local laws.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 703 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', of which, during fiscal year 2016, not more than an aggregate amount of $2,000,000 may be paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are members of the Senior Executive Service.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks or to add any extraneous material they may have on H.R. 1338, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do urge all Members to support H.R. 1338, the Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015.

This very important bill, which was introduced by my good friend, Mr. SHUSTER of Pennsylvania, would help ensure that deceased veterans are treated with respect and with dignity.

H.R. 1338, as amended, would require that the Department of Veterans Affairs conduct a study on the serious problem of unclaimed remains of deceased veterans. VA will provide a dignified burial in national cemeteries for those who die with no family to claim their remains or who did not have enough money to cover burial expenses.

Unfortunately, the remains of deceased veterans may end up on the shelf at a funeral home or the shelf of a coroner's office, and VA may not be aware that the veteran's remains were not interred.

In 2013, Congress passed legislation in an attempt to ensure that all deceased veterans are treated with the honor that they had earned. The Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 directed VA to work with Veterans Service Organizations and assist States, cities, and funeral directors to identify the unclaimed remains of veterans and to arrange for their burials in one of our national cemeteries.

Unfortunately, the law has not resolved this issue and too many veterans may not be receiving a dignified burial. That is unconscionable. The men and women who have served our Nation in uniform have the right to expect that our Nation will make every effort to treat them with honor and deference even after they pass away.

This study would determine the scope of the problem and identify any obstacles associated with claiming or interring veteran remains.

Additionally, VA would also be required to make recommendations on how we can better ensure that our Nation's heroes are properly laid to rest.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of my friend Mr. SHUSTER's Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act. This legislation will require the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the unclaimed remains of veterans.

Our Nation continues to be challenged by local and privately owned cemeteries that fail to identify and provide the VA with uninterred veterans' remains. It is our intent that the VA look into this issue and come up with some solutions to assist privately and locally owned cemetery homes with the information and the support they need to transfer those remains to the VA's National Cemetery Administration.

Our Nation's veterans have earned a proper and honorable burial for their

service. This legislation will help the VA to help our veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Everett, Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the original sponsor of this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the chairman for working with me on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the issue plaguing our Nation's veterans. Specifically, there are an estimated 47,000 cremated veterans' remains that are waiting to be interred because it was not possible to identify the next of kin.

Existing legislation directs the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Service Organizations, and funeral directors to work together in the claiming and interring of deceased veterans. Unfortunately, numerous barriers prevent the effective collaboration among these stakeholders. As it stands today, these barriers are not fully understood, which is preventing an effective solution to the problem from being found.

For instance, the Missing in America Project, a nonprofit service organization that was established to locate and bury unclaimed veterans' remains, identified 100 veterans who were awaiting burial within the State of Pennsylvania over the last couple of years. Some of those veterans waited more than 20 years for a dignified, military burial. We can speculate regarding the reason for this disgrace, but we cannot know for sure without giving this issue the attention it deserves.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 1338, the Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015. My bill requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the claiming and interring of unclaimed veterans' remains. The intent of the study is to confirm the scope of this problem, to uncover any barriers associated with claiming and interring veterans' remains, and to solicit recommendations from the Department of Veterans Affairs on potential solutions.

I would like to thank two of my constituents, Mr. Ron Metros and Mr. Lanny Golden, for working with me on this legislation.

When asked why he is so passionate about this issue, Mr. Golden, a Vietnam veteran, simply replied that his brothers in arms deserve to be buried alongside those who have walked the same path.

I fully agree with Mr. Golden, and I would like to say ''thank you'' to all of those who have served this great Nation.

I would also like to take this time to thank my colleagues Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member BROWN for working with me. Of course, I thank the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the 98 bipartisan cosponsors of the House for their support.

Also a special thanks to two people without whom I could not have done this. They are my military fellows. One is U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Anna Lloyd. She helped start the process. We then finished up with Air Force Major Cheri Guikema. Both of them provided an invaluable service in putting this bill forward, and I can't thank them enough for their help and also for their continued service to the United States military.

Now, more than ever, we need to stand together and show or veterans we care. None of our heroes should be forgotten, and this is a step forward in reaching that important goal.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge my colleagues to support the passing of H.R. 1338, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair will note that the time previously controlled by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) will now be controlled by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, the Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015.

In May of last year, reports emerged that the bodies of 52 veterans had remained unburied for over a year at the Los Angeles County Mortuary, located just outside of my district. Similar instances were discovered in 13 other States, demonstrating just how widespread this is. Stories of unburied veterans' bodies are deeply unsettling and the result of gaps in burial procedure policies at the VA. It has to be addressed. Our service men and women have made immense personal sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, and it is unacceptable for their remains to be treated with such a blatant lack of respect and dignity.

Like the gentleman from Pennsylvania and many of my colleagues in the House and Senate, I introduced legislation in an effort to solve this issue. The Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to study the burial of veterans' unclaimed remains in national cemeteries and to report the findings of such studies to Congress. This legislation is an important step toward acknowledging and, ultimately, solving the problem.

Last week, the Senate passed by unanimous consent the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act, which incorporated the House legislation, and I am happy to see that the companion legislation is now being voted on in the House of Representatives, bringing it one step closer to the President's signature.

We made a commitment to take care of our veterans in both life and death, and it is crucial that we follow through on it. I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to vote in support of the Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his work on this issue and the gentleman from Florida for his continued efforts as the House Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1338, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1338, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HONOR AMERICA'S GUARD-RESERVE RETIREES ACT

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1384) to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1384

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act''.

SEC. 2. PROVISION OF STATUS UNDER LAW BY HONORING CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS AS VETERANS.

(a) VETERAN STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 107 the following new section:

''§ 107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components

''Any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10 to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of this section.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 107 the following new item:

''107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components.''.

(b) CLARIFICATION REGARDING BENEFITS.—No person may receive any benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs solely by reason of section 107A

of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 1384.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 1384, the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act, which was introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ).

The National Guard and Reserve are vital to our Nation's defense. These brave men and women enlist while knowing they can be deployed with little notice, just like America's Active Duty servicemembers.

Despite the invaluable contributions of National Guard and Reserve personnel to our national security, Members may be surprised to learn that many of the men and women who served in the National Guard or Reserve for 20 years may not legally be considered ''veterans'' if they were never called up for Active Duty. This is not fair to these brave men and women who have demonstrated their patriotism through their willingness to wear the uniform and defend our Nation whenever and wherever they are needed.

H.R. 1384 would not provide any monetary benefit. It would simply honor the service and sacrifice of retired National Guard and Reserve personnel by giving them the prestigious title of ''veteran''—in my opinion, the most prestigious title that Congress can bestow.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I stand before this body to support legislation introduced by my friend and colleague from Minnesota, TIM WALZ. As a retired guardsman himself and as the highest ranking enlisted soldier to serve in Congress, I know this bill is near and dear to his heart.

The Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act closes a long-existing gap. Federal law has neglected to acknowledge our guardsmen and -women and reservists who have served fewer than 180 days of Active Duty service as ''veterans.'' This law would remedy this longstanding oversight by legally recognizing Guard and Reserve retirees as American veterans.

Our military is more dependent on Reserve components than they have been since the dawn of modern warfare. These are men and women who have stood ready and trained to serve our Nation at war. They have served a dedicated 20 years of service. At the very least, we should acknowledge the dedication of these servicemembers by legally recognizing them as American veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

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

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ).

Mr. WALZ. I thank the subcommittee chairman and the ranking member for the time. More importantly, I thank both of them and their respective staffs for the bipartisan and continuously exceptional effort to serve our veterans. I thank them for the opportunity to move this forward.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has passed the House multiple times over the last 8 years. It is very simple. It is less than 150 words, and it is very rare in that it costs nothing, but I would argue that it is very important. The men and women of the Reserve component, as you so eloquently heard by my colleagues who spoke prior, take the exact same oath of office and are held to the exact same standards as the Active component. They sacrifice their time and energy. They stand at the ready if called upon, whether it is assisting flood victims in Minnesota, fighting wildfires across the Western United States, or fighting overseas in the protection of our freedoms.

For those who have completed 20 years or more in the Guard or Reserve but who have not served a qualifying period of Title X Active Duty, we honor their service with health care benefits and monetary benefits, with one notable exception—they must call themselves ''military retirees'' and not ''veterans.'' As the gentleman from Pennsylvania noted, I think most Americans, when I talk to them, are unaware of this. Once they find out, they are appalled that we don't do it. This bill closes the loophole.

There are about 280,000 Americans who fall into this category. They have devoted their lives to our Nation—they have served honorably for 20 or 20-plus years—and this bill will recognize their service. It might be as simple as buying a hat that reads ''Army veteran'' or getting a license place for your car. It bestows no monetary benefits to these brave men and women, merely the title. Again, my colleague from Pennsylvania, I think, said it right in that it is a pretty important title—a veteran of the United States military.

It also does something else very important. In doing so, we recognize the integral role our National Guard and Reserve play in our Nation's defense. There is nothing quite so unifying or quintessentially American as the citizen soldier. Dating back to the founding of our Nation or serving overseas at a time of fighting terrorism, it is the mother who leaves her family and her law firm to serve her Nation, and it is the father who leaves his teaching job and his family to serve his Nation.

□ 1715

It is about recognizing that our All Volunteer Force would be unsustainable if it were not for the men and women who dedicated 20 years of their lives. And one of the most important things they did, most of those are cold war warriors who were responsible for the training of the current force that protects us.

So I thank the gentleman and the ranking member again for their commitment to our veterans.

I ask my colleagues—we are on the heels of Veterans Day here—to add these 280,000. Let's do what is right. Let's call them veterans and honor their service.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 1384.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I also urge Members to support H.R. 1384.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1384.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC CARE ACT

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 599) to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 599

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF MEDICAID EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 2707 of Public Law 111–148 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) LENGTH OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the demonstration project established under this section shall be conducted for a period of 3 consecutive years.

''(2) TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTED STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraph (4), a State selected as an eligible State to participate in the demonstration project on or prior to March 13, 2012, shall, upon the request of the State, be permitted to continue to participate in the demonstration project through September 30, 2016, if—

''(i) the Secretary determines that the continued participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

''(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that such extension for that State is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

''(B) NOTICE OF PROJECTIONS.—The Secretary shall provide each State selected to participate in the demonstration project on or prior to March 13, 2012, with notice of the determination and certification made under subparagraph (A) for the State.

''(3) EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

''(A) ADDITIONAL EXTENSION.—Taking into account the recommendations submitted to Congress under subsection (f)(3), the Secretary may permit an eligible State participating in the demonstration project as of the date such recommendations are submitted to continue to participate in the project through December 31, 2019, if, with respect to the State—

''(i) the Secretary determines that the continued participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

''(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that the continued participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

''(B) OPTION FOR EXPANSION TO ADDITIONAL STATES.—Taking into account the recommendations submitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (f)(3), the Secretary may expand the number of eligible States participating in the demonstration project through December 31, 2019, if, with respect to any new eligible State—

''(i) the Secretary determines that the participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

''(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that the participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

''(C) NOTICE OF PROJECTIONS.—The Secretary shall provide each State participating in the demonstration project as of the date the Secretary submits recommendations to Congress under subsection (f)(3), and any additional State that applies to be added to the demonstration project, with notice of the determination and certification made for the State under subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and the standards used to make such determination and certification—

''(i) in the case of a State participating in the demonstration project as of the date the Secretary submits recommendations to Congress under subsection (f)(3), not later than August 31, 2016; and

''(ii) in the case of an additional State that applies to be added to the demonstration project, prior to the State making a final election to participate in the project.

''(4) AUTHORITY TO ENSURE BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—The Secretary annually shall review each participating State's demonstration project expenditures to ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(i), (2)(A)(ii), (3)(A)(i), (3)(A)(ii), (3)(B)(i), and (3)(B)(ii) (as applicable). If the Secretary determines with respect to a State's participation in the demonstration project that the State's net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act has increased as a result of the State's participation in the project, the Secretary shall treat the demonstration project excess expenditures of the State as an overpayment under title XIX of the Social Security Act.''.

(b) FUNDING.—Subsection (e) of section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''5-YEAR''; and

(B) by striking ''through December 31, 2015'' and inserting ''until expended'';

(3) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(5) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking ''and the availability of funds'' and inserting ''(other than States deemed to be eligible States through the application of subsection (c)(4))''; and

(6) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting ''(other than a State deemed to be an eligible State through the application of subsection (c)(4))'' after ''eligible State''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)''; and

(B) by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''In addition to any payments made to an eligible State under the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall, during any period in effect under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (d), or during any period in which a law described in subsection (f)(4)(C) is in effect, pay each eligible State (including any State deemed to be an eligible State through the application of subsection (c)(4)), an amount each quarter equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage of expenditures in the quarter during such period for medical assistance described in subsection (a). Payments made to a State for emergency psychiatric demonstration services under this section during the extension period shall be treated as medical assistance under the State plan for purposes of section 1903(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(1)).''.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Subsection (f) of section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF PROJECT.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make available to the public recommendations based on an evaluation of the demonstration project, including the use of appropriate quality measures, regarding—

''(A) whether the demonstration project should be continued after September 30, 2016; and

''(B) whether the demonstration project should be expanded to additional States.

''(4) RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING PERMANENT EXTENSION AND NATIONWIDE EXPANSION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make available to the public recommendations based on an evaluation of the demonstration project, including the use of appropriate quality measures, regarding—

''(i) whether the demonstration project should be permanently continued after December 31, 2019, in 1 or more States; and

''(ii) whether the demonstration project should be expanded (including on a nationwide basis).

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any recommendation submitted under subparagraph (A) to permanently continue the project in a State, or to expand the project to 1 or more other States (including on a nationwide basis) shall include a certification from the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that permanently continuing the project in a particular State, or expanding the project to a particular State (or all States) is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

''(C) CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall not permanently continue the demonstration project in any State after December 31, 2019, or expand the demonstration project to any additional State after December 31, 2019, unless Congress enacts a law approving either or both such actions and the law includes provisions that—

''(i) ensure that each State's participation in the project complies with budget neutrality requirements; and

''(ii) require the Secretary to treat any expenditures of a State participating in the demonstration project that are excess of the expenditures projected under the budget neutrality standard for the State as an overpayment under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

''(5) FUNDING.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management account, $100,000 shall be available to carry out this subsection and shall remain available until expended.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting ''publicly or'' after ''institution for mental diseases that is'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''An eligible State'' and inserting ''Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4), an eligible State'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''A State shall'' and inserting ''Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4), a State shall''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) NATIONWIDE AVAILABILITY.—In the event that the Secretary makes a recommendation pursuant to subsection (f)(4) that the demonstration project be expanded on a national basis, any State that has submitted or submits an application pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be deemed to have been selected to be an eligible State to participate in the demonstration project.''; and

(3) in the heading for subsection (f), by striking ''AND REPORT'' and inserting '', REPORT, AND RECOMMENDATIONS''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today extends and expands the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

A longstanding policy under Medicaid, called the institutions for mental diseases, IMD, exclusion, prohibits the Federal Government from providing Federal Medicaid matching funds to States for services rendered to Medicaid-eligible individuals aged 21 to 64 who are patients in IMDs. IMDs are inpatient facilities with more than 16 beds that primarily treat people with mental health and substance abuse disorders. The original IMD exclusion is consistent with the goal of treating severe mental illness in the least restrictive setting feasible.

The IMD exclusion provided an incentive to shift the cost of care for mental illness to other care modalities and facilities where Medicaid matching funds were available. However, since the IMD exclusion was included with the creation of the Medicaid program in 1965, our mental healthcare system and overall healthcare system have evolved notably.

In recent years, we have seen a significant decrease in the number of publicly funded inpatient psychiatric beds available for emergency services. This has contributed to patients in need of critical mental health services facing psychiatric boarding in general hospital emergency departments.

Psychiatric boarding occurs when an individual with a mental health condition is kept in a hospital emergency department for several hours or admitted to medical wards or skilled nursing facilities without psychiatric expertise because appropriate mental health services were unavailable. This leads to potential serious consequences for psychiatric patients and unnecessary hospital costs.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act authorized a 3-year demonstration program to study the effects of allowing Federal Medicaid matching funds to pay for emergency psychiatric treatment for adults that is otherwise prohibited by the Medicaid IMD exclusion. The demonstration was funded with $75 million in FY 2011, and these funds were available for obligation through December 31, 2015.

The HHS Secretary selected 11 States and the District of Columbia to participate in the demonstration program in March of 2012, and the demonstration program began July 1, 2012. Due to significant State interest, patient need, and other factors, the demonstration project exhausted its Federal funding in April and was forced to terminate early.

S. 599 would temporarily extend the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration for States already participating in the demonstration through September 30, 2016, if the chief actuary of CMS certifies that this extension would not increase net Medicaid spending.

The bill also requires that, not later than September 30, 2016, the HHS Secretary report to Congress on whether the demonstration should be continued after such date and whether the demonstration should be expanded to additional States. If the chief actuary of CMS certifies that this extension would not increase net Medicaid spending, then the demonstration may continue not beyond 2019.

While I have strong concerns with the President's healthcare law, S. 599 would let States and CMS continue to test the provision of critical mental health services for patients in a manner that is responsible for the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 599, the Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act.

This legislation, sponsored by Senator BEN CARDIN and championed in the House by Representative JOHN SARBANES, will extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration protect. Since the creation of Medicaid 50 years ago, the program has excluded payment for institutions for mental diseases, IMDs, a designation that includes most residential treatment facilities for mental health and substance use disorders with more than 16 beds.

The original IMD exclusion is consistent with the goal of treating severe mental illness in the least restrictive setting possible. However, there have been some unintended consequences of this longstanding policy. States have an incentive to shift the cost of treating mental illness to other care settings where Medicaid matching funds are available. This contributed to a decrease in the number of publicly funded beds available for inpatient psychiatric emergency services. It also contributed to a rise in psychiatric boarding and recidivism in hospital emergency departments.

To develop data on whether modifying an IMD exclusion can improve health care for mental illness, the Affordable Care Act authorized $75 million over 3 years for the Medicare emergency psychiatric demonstration project. Administered by the CMS Innovation Center, the initiative aims to test whether the Medicaid program could provide higher quality care at a lower total cost by reimbursing private psychiatric hospitals for emergency care otherwise prohibited by the Medicaid IMD exclusion. The demonstration project is currently operating in 11 States and the District of Columbia.

This legislation extends the demonstration in a budget-neutral manner so that the Secretary of Health and Human Services can complete an evaluation and make an informed recommendation regarding its continuation and expansion.

Medicaid plays a central and critical role in covering treatment for individuals with mental illness. S. 599 holds promise for improving access to quality psychiatric care for this underserved and vulnerable population and the overall success of our mental healthcare system.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 599, and I thank the sponsors for their commitment to this important issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), a prime sponsor of the House companion bill and a member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of S. 599, the Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act. The bill is the companion to H.R. 3681, which I proudly introduced with my colleague, Congressman SARBANES from Maryland.

With the passage of this bill today, I am pleased that this meaningful mental health reform will head to the President's desk. Fortunately, this bipartisan, bicameral, and commonsense legislation is a great step toward enacting meaningful reforms to an incredibly challenging system.

Currently, CMS does not reimburse private psychiatric institutions or institutions for mental diseases for the services provided to Medicaid enrollees aged 21 to 64. Yet often serious mental illness manifests itself in those in their twenties, and they are not allowed to go with a severe psychiatric break to a psychiatric hospital.

Instead, they go and present at our ERs; and our ERs are already overburdened. Many of them often lack the resources and sometimes the expertise to deal with people who are suffering from a true mental crisis. When they find themselves in the ERs, it is not uncommon for them to have to sit for hours and for far too long while they are suffering.

This commonsense legislation extends the existing demonstration grant that lifts the IMD exclusion and will allow these important psychiatric clinics to receive Medicaid reimbursement

while giving people access to short-term direct care in psychiatric hospitals when they need it most.

I am proud to support the extension of this legislation that allows people to get the treatment that they need. As a lawyer, I have dealt with people who have been in a psychiatric crisis. Many of us have family members who have dealt with a psychiatric crisis. They need the help from the right experts at the right time.

I thank the gentleman for carrying this in the House, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES). He is also a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a member of our Health Subcommittee. I personally appreciate his commitment to mental health.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on the Health Subcommittee and on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I rise today in strong support of the Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act. I thank Representative BROOKS of Indiana for her support of this measure and certainly welcome the fact that this is a bipartisan piece of legislation.

What this bill would do is it would extend a demonstration project, as indicated, that ends the Federal prohibition on Medicaid matching payments to community psychiatric hospitals for emergency psychiatric cases. This demonstration project allows individuals with severe mental illness who are a threat to themselves or to others, including those with substance abuse disorders who have experienced overdoses, to get emergency inpatient treatment.

The background of this is as follows:

There has been a longstanding Medicaid provision, dating back to 1965, called the institutions for mental diseases, IMD, exclusion. Under that, the Federal Government is prohibited from providing Medicaid matching funds and reimbursement for the care of eligible individuals aged 21 to 64 if that care is provided in an inpatient facility that primarily treats people with mental health and substance abuse disorders and if that facility has more than 16 beds.

As was indicated, the effect of this exclusion has been to decrease the number of inpatient psychiatric beds that are available for emergency services. It has also been cited by the Government Accountability Office as a factor in emergency department overcrowding, which Congresswoman BROOKS just indicated.

Community-based psychiatric hospitals could help relieve these backups and provide much-needed emergency psychiatric care, but these hospitals cannot receive Federal matching payments for these services.

In 2010, Congress authorized a 3-year pilot called the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project, which expanded the number of emergency inpatient psychiatric beds available in communities by allowing Federal Medicaid matching payments to freestanding psychiatric hospitals for emergency psychiatric cases.

□ 1730

Eleven States, including my home State of Maryland, are participating in this demonstration, and the preliminary data is very promising. Of the total number of Medicaid beneficiaries admitted to these community-based psychiatric hospitals, fully 84 percent had just one admission during the entire first year of the demonstration. The average length of stay was only 8.2 days, and in 88 percent of the admissions, the beneficiaries were discharged to their homes or to self-care.

The demonstration project is set to end on December 31, 2015, but the final evaluation of the project is not expected to be completed until a year later.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this bill would build upon the success of the current demonstration project, which is providing timely and cost-effective care. It would also extend the current demonstration project by 1 year.

It would ensure budget neutrality by certifying that the extension is not projected to result in an increase in net Medicaid program spending, and it would allow the Secretary of HHS to extend the demonstration project for an additional 3 years, provided that the requirements regarding Medicaid spending are met.

The bill has already been passed in the Senate by unanimous consent. While I am a little bit disappointed that a very small change was made that is going to require it to go back to the Senate for reconsideration, I am confident that it will be supported there again with Senator CARDIN's leadership.

I urge support of this bipartisan effort to extend a demonstration project that allows individuals with severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders to get emergency inpatient treatment at community psychiatric hospitals.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), who is also a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, a member of the Subcommittee on Health, and, again, a champion of mental health.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act.

As we work to reform our broken mental healthcare system, it is critical that we build upon programs that provide resources to underserved and vulnerable populations at all points along the spectrum of care.

Today, with the passage of this bill, we have the opportunity to extend the vital Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project. This demonstration project, which recently expired, ensures greater access to essential emergency psychiatric care for Medicaid patients.

This bipartisan bill will ensure that hospitals across our Nation will be able to provide community members in need with inpatient psychiatric beds.

In my home district in Sacramento County, this demonstration project has provided great benefits to our system of care. Medi-Cal beneficiaries have greater access to mental health services, and there has been a reduction in readmission rates at local hospitals.

In fact, by the final year of the 3-year demonstration project, the number of individuals rehospitalized within 30 days of their initial stay decreased by 20 percent in Sacramento County.

The project has improved coordination of care for mental health patients by streamlining planning efforts between inpatient and outpatient providers. In addition, Sacramento County has been able to reinvest savings generated by the project into programs that build greater community alternatives for patients identified as high utilizers of inpatient and emergency departments.

All of these improvements add up to a community mental health system in California that is better able to focus on the whole spectrum of care for underserved patients, from prevention to treatment to the crisis stage.

There is still much more work to do to improve the mental health system, but we must not reverse our significant progress by failing to renew this demonstration project.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on S. 599, the Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act.

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending and expanding the Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act, which has already passed the Senate and for which identical legislation, H.R. 3681 has been introduced in the House with bipartisan support.

This legislation would extend, and expand if appropriate, the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration that was created by the Affordable Care Act.

While I will not oppose this legislation based on process, I must mention that I am not pleased that this legislation did not go through regular order here in the House as it should have, and as it did in the Senate. I also do not support a change made to require the $100,000 in administrative costs in the bill to come out of unobligated funds at CMS. To delay this legislation, slow it down even further and force the Senate to reconsider the bill for a one word change and an amount of money

that is less than the annual salary of any Member of Congress is a waste of time. However, despite these reservations, I support this legislation moving forward.

Since the enactment of Medicaid in 1965, so-called ''Institutions of Mental Disease'', or IMDs, have been prohibited by statute from receiving federal Medicaid matching funds for inpatient treatment provided to adults ages 21 to 64. This prohibition was rooted in the desirability of community-based care as an alternative to mass institutionalization of the mentally ill, often in horrific conditions.

However, as our healthcare system has grown and changed, there has been increasing concern about the perverse incentives created by the wholesale exclusion of IMDs from treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries; for instance, frequent boarding of psychiatric patients in emergency rooms and non-psychiatric beds of general hospitals has been reported to occur when specialized inpatient psychiatric beds are not available.

The days of mass institutionalization are over and we can never go back to those days—at the same time, so-called ''boarding'' of the seriously mentally ill in general hospitals, because the beds simply aren't available, is not an acceptable alternative.

Those Medicaid beneficiaries that are seriously mentally ill need the right treatment, at the right time. The demonstration project that we are extending here today allows states to test incorporation of IMD services for Medicaid beneficiaries in a way that insures other community-based services do not suffer. This legislation, which also aligns with CMS's recent proposal to allow for short-term IMD stays in Medicaid managed care plans, is the appropriate way to responsibly address the Medicaid IMD exclusion.

We've had immense success with this project thus far, and we can still learn more from it, which is exactly why this demonstration project must be extended and as appropriate, expanded. This legislation will allow the Secretary to do just that, and I urge my colleagues to support its swift passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 599, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING OUR INFANTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 799) to address problems related to prenatal opioid use.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 799

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. ADDRESSING PROBLEMS RELATED TO PRENATAL OPIOID USE.

(a) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall conduct a review of planning and coordination related to prenatal opioid use, including neonatal abstinence syndrome, within the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) STRATEGY.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop a strategy to address gaps in research and gaps, overlap, and duplication among Federal programs, including those identified in findings made by reports of the Government Accountability Office. Such strategy shall address—

(1) gaps in research, including with respect to—

(A) the most appropriate treatment of pregnant women with opioid use disorders;

(B) the most appropriate treatment and management of infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; and

(C) the long-term effects of prenatal opioid exposure on children;

(2) gaps, overlap, or duplication in—

(A) substance use disorder treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women; and

(B) treatment program options for newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome;

(3) gaps, overlap, or duplication in Federal efforts related to education about, and prevention of, neonatal abstinence syndrome; and

(4) coordination of Federal efforts to address neonatal abstinence syndrome.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report concerning the findings of the review conducted under subsection (a) and the strategy developed under subsection (b).

SEC. 3. DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTING AND TREATING PRENATAL OPIOID USE DISORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study and develop recommendations for preventing and treating prenatal opioid use disorders, including the effects of such disorders on infants. In carrying out this subsection the Secretary shall—

(1) take into consideration—

(A) the review and strategy conducted and developed under section 2; and

(B) the lessons learned from previous opioid epidemics; and

(2) solicit input from States, localities, and Federally recognized Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), and nongovernmental entities, including organizations representing patients, health care providers, hospitals, other treatment facilities, and other entities, as appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make available on the appropriate Internet Website of the Department of Health and Human Services a report on the recommendations under subsection (a). Such report shall address each of the issues described in subsection (c).

(c) CONTENTS.—The recommendations described in subsection (a) and the report under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) a comprehensive assessment of existing research with respect to the prevention, identification, treatment, and long-term outcomes of neonatal abstinence syndrome, including the identification and treatment of pregnant women or women who may become pregnant who use opioids or have opioid use disorders;

(2) an evaluation of—

(A) the causes of, and risk factors for, opioid use disorders among women of reproductive age, including pregnant women;

(B) the barriers to identifying and treating opioid use disorders among women of reproductive age, including pregnant and postpartum women and women with young children;

(C) current practices in the health care system to respond to, and treat, pregnant women with opioid use disorders and infants affected by such disorders;

(D) medically indicated uses of opioids during pregnancy;

(E) access to treatment for opioid use disorders in pregnant and postpartum women; and

(F) access to treatment for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; and

(G) differences in prenatal opioid use and use disorders in pregnant women between demographic groups; and

(3) recommendations on—

(A) preventing, identifying, and treating the effects of prenatal opioid use on infants;

(B) treating pregnant women who have opioid use disorders;

(C) preventing opioid use disorders among women of reproductive age, including pregnant women, who may be at risk of developing opioid use disorders; and

(D) reducing disparities in opioid use disorders among pregnant women.

SEC. 4. IMPROVING DATA AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE.

The Secretary may continue activities, as appropriate, related to—

(1) providing technical assistance to support States and Federally recognized Indian Tribes in collecting information on neonatal abstinence syndrome through the utilization of existing surveillance systems and collaborating with States and Federally recognized Indian Tribes to improve the quality, consistency, and collection of such data; and

(2) providing technical assistance to support States in implementing effective public health measures, such as disseminating information to educate the public, health care providers, and other stakeholders on prenatal opioid use and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today begins to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Over the past several years, opioid addiction has risen dramatically in the United States, reaching epidemic proportions. The death rate for heroin overdose doubled in just 2 years from 2010 to 2012.

One of the issues resulting from this epidemic is neonatal abstinence syndrome, known as NAS. Babies born with NAS are infants that are addicted to opioids and that suffer medical issues associated with drug withdrawal. Symptoms can last for weeks, keeping otherwise healthy infants confined to the hospital at the start of their lives.

NAS can result from the use of prescription drugs or from the use of illegal opioids. Sadly, over the past 15 years, the incidence of NAS has tripled in the United States. This is a rapidly growing problem that needs to be addressed for the safety of our mothers and children.

S. 799, Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, introduced in the Senate by Majority Leader MCCONNELL and led in the House by my colleagues, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. STIVERS, would address the increasing problem of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Preventing opioid abuse among pregnant women and women of childbearing age is crucial in addressing NAS. The Government Accountability Office has identified that more research is needed in this area to help treat babies born with NAS and mothers addicted to opioids.

This legislation would help fill this research gap by directing the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AHRQ, to conduct a study and develop recommendations for preventing and treating prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, the House companion to S. 799 was approved by a voice vote in the Subcommittee on Health and the full Committee on Energy and Commerce. Today we have a chance to approve this important bipartisan and bicameral legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 799, Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015. This legislation, sponsored by Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and championed in the House by Representative KATHERINE CLARK, would help combat prenatal opioid abuse epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, has found drug overdose to be the leading cause of injury death in the United States and declared prescription drug abuse to be an epidemic.

Prescription opioid use in pregnancy is strongly associated with neonatal complications. According to a recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine, the incidence rate of neonatal abstinence syndrome, NAS, quadrupled from 2004 to 2013, a fourfold increase in less than a decade.

NAS is a group of problems that occur in newborns who have been exposed to opioids while in the womb. The symptoms are often severe. Newborns with NAS require specialized care, typically in a neonatal intensive care unit.

In February 2015, the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, released a report entitled ''Prenatal Drug Use and Newborn Health: Federal Efforts Need Better Planning and Coordination.'' The report identified a number of different research gaps in the treatment of opioid use during pregnancy and in the treatment of infants with NAS.

S. 799 will help combat prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome. Addressing these issues is a critical part of our effort to fight the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic.

The legislation will facilitate the development and recommendations for the treatment of prenatal opioid abuse and NAS and coordinate a national strategy to close research program gaps. It will also require CDC to help States improve data collection and surveillance activities related to prenatal opioid abuse and NAS.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 799, the Protecting Our Infants Act, and I thank the sponsors for their commitment to this important issue.

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS), a leader on this issue.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, every day in hospitals across my district and the country, tragically, babies begin their lives suffering through drug withdrawal because they were exposed during pregnancy.

Sadly, the rates of babies with NAS have skyrocketed. NAS is a nationwide crisis. The Protecting Our Infants Act addresses the many gaps in the care and treatment of NAS babies.

How do I know there are gaps? Today, in a facility in my hometown that I helped start, Lily's Place is caring for 10—10—babies suffering the ravages of withdrawal.

It took years of working through the regulatory burdens and certification limitations just to do what is right for our most innocent. The gaps in care are real and so are the obstacles treating NAS babies.

This legislation will pave the way to consider new models of care, like Lily's Place, for our NAS babies.

I commend my colleagues, Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and Representatives KATHERINE CLARK and STEVE STIVERS, for helping to give every child a chance at a healthy start in life.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the House Democratic sponsor.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today 58 babies, 1 baby every 25 minutes, will be born suffering from the same pain adults describe as the worst pain of their lives, the pain of drug withdrawal.

Over the last decade, the number of infants born experiencing withdrawal from powerful drugs has grown nearly fivefold. It is a condition called neonatal abstinence syndrome. It results from prenatal exposure to opioids like heroin and prescription painkillers. In States like Massachusetts, we are seeing this happen at a rate three times the national average.

In addition to the human suffering, the costs associated with NAS births are staggering. They are five times more expensive than healthy births, totaling $1.5 billion for hospitals in 2012, with 80 percent being paid by Medicaid.

But despite the best efforts of doctors, nurses, and others, there is no coordinated response to this crisis. There are no clear best practices for treating these infants, and more research is needed to help understand the problem. That is why I have worked with my colleagues, researchers, doctors, and advocates to introduce the Protecting Our Infants Act, the first Federal bill to take proactive steps in addressing the rise of NAS births.

□ 1745

We were able to pass this bill in the House in September, thanks to the help of my partner on this bill, Representative STEVE STIVERS. A slightly modified version was passed a few weeks ago, due to the hard work of our Senate sponsors, Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Senator CASEY. With broad support in both Chambers, this is an opportunity for Congress to make a difference for moms and babies suffering because of the opioid epidemic.

The Protecting Our Infants Act will require the Department of Health and Human Services to develop recommendations to prevent and treat prenatal opioid abuse and NAS, and to develop a strategy in the Department to coordinate programs and research. This will help ease the suffering of the smallest victims of the opioid crisis. It will help hospitals and Medicaid save money, and ease the burden on doctors and nurses that are overwhelmed by this problem.

This is not controversial, partisan, or political. It is just good policy. I thank my Republican partner in the House, STEVE STIVERS, for his leadership in getting this bill to where it is today.

I ask the House to come together and help the thousands of babies and mothers who are fighting this epidemic, and I urge my colleagues to pass the bipartisan Protecting Our Infants Act and send this legislation to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important bipartisan, bicameral legislation.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 799—the Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015. This legislation addresses a sad reality of our country's opioid epidemic: prenatal

opioid abuse and the steep increase in the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome or NAS.

NAS occurs in newborns who were exposed to opiates while in their mother's womb and is associated with negative health outcomes such as preterm births, low birthweight, and respiratory distress. A recent study found the incidence of NAS quadrupled between 2004 and 2013. This legislation would respond to that dramatic increase by requiring HHS to create a comprehensive national strategy to address prenatal opioid abuse and NAS. That strategy would include a coordinated research and programming strategy to address the public health challenge of NAS and prenatal opioid abuse as well as develop a comprehensive set of recommendations for preventing and treating prenatal opioid use disorders and NAS.

I want to thank Rep. KATHERINE CLARK for her leadership on this critical and timely issue. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 799.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PROCESS REFORM ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2583) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2583

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. FCC PROCESS REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 13. TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY.

''(a) INITIAL RULEMAKING AND INQUIRY.—

''(1) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015, the Commission shall complete a rulemaking proceeding and adopt procedural changes to its rules to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR RULEMAKING.—The rules adopted under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) set minimum comment periods for comment and reply comment, subject to a determination by the Commission that good cause exists for departing from such minimum comment periods, for—

''(i) significant regulatory actions, as defined in Executive Order No. 12866; and

''(ii) all other rulemaking proceedings;

''(B) establish policies concerning the submission of extensive new comments, data, or reports towards the end of the comment period;

''(C) establish policies regarding treatment of comments, ex parte communications, and data or reports (including statistical reports and reports to Congress) submitted after the comment period to ensure that the public has adequate notice of and opportunity to respond to such submissions before the Commission relies on such submissions in any order, decision, report, or action;

''(D) establish procedures for, not later than 14 days after the end of each quarter of a calendar year (or more frequently, as the Commission considers appropriate), publishing on the Internet website of the Commission and submitting to Congress a report that contains—

''(i) the status of open rulemaking proceedings and proposed orders, decisions, reports, or actions on circulation for review by the Commissioners, including which Commissioners have not cast a vote on an order, decision, report, or action that has been on circulation for more than 60 days;

''(ii) for the petitions, applications, complaints, and other requests for action by the Commission that were pending at the Commission on the last day of such quarter (or more frequent period, as the case may be)—

''(I) the number of such requests, broken down by the bureau primarily responsible for action and, for each bureau, the type of request (such as a petition, application, or complaint); and

''(II) information regarding the amount of time for which such requests have been pending, broken down as described in subclause (I); and

''(iii) a list of the congressional investigations of the Commission that were pending on the last day of such quarter (or more frequent period, as the case may be) and the cost of such investigations, individually and in the aggregate;

''(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for—

''(i) in the case of a petition for a declaratory ruling under section 1.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, issuing a public notice of such petition;

''(ii) in the case of a petition for rulemaking under section 1.401 of such title, issuing a public notice of such petition; and

''(iii) in the case of a petition for reconsideration under section 1.106 or 1.429 of such title or an application for review under section 1.115 of such title, issuing a public notice of a decision on the petition or application by the Commission or under delegated authority (as the case may be);

''(F) establish guidelines (relative to the date of filing) for the disposition of petitions filed under section 1.2 of such title;

''(G) establish procedures for the inclusion of the specific language of the proposed rule or the proposed amendment of an existing rule in a notice of proposed rulemaking; and

''(H) require notices of proposed rulemaking and orders adopting a rule or amending an existing rule that—

''(i) create (or propose to create) a program activity to contain performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity; and

''(ii) substantially change (or propose to substantially change) a program activity to contain—

''(I) performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed); or

''(II) a finding that existing performance measures will effectively evaluate the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed).

''(3) INQUIRY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to seek public comment on whether and how the Commission should—

''(A) establish procedures for allowing a bipartisan majority of Commissioners to place an order, decision, report, or action on the agenda of an open meeting;

''(B) establish procedures for informing all Commissioners of a reasonable number of options available to the Commission for resolving a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding;

''(C) establish procedures for ensuring that all Commissioners have adequate time, prior to being required to decide a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding (including at a meeting held pursuant to section 5(d)), to review the proposed Commission decision document, including the specific language of any proposed rule or any proposed amendment of an existing rule;

''(D) establish procedures for publishing the text of agenda items to be voted on at an open meeting in advance of such meeting so that the public has the opportunity to read the text before a vote is taken;

''(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for disposition of applications for a license under section 1.913 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations;

''(F) assign resources needed in order to meet the deadlines described in subparagraph (E), including whether the Commission's ability to meet such deadlines would be enhanced by assessing a fee from applicants for such a license; and

''(G) publish each order, decision, report, or action not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of such order, decision, report, or action.

''(4) DATA FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Commission shall develop a performance measure or proposed performance measure required by this subsection to rely, where possible, on data already collected by the Commission.

''(5) GAO AUDIT.—Not less frequently than every 6 months, the Comptroller General of the United States shall audit the cost estimates provided by the Commission under paragraph (2)(D)(iii) during the preceding 6-month period.

''(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—On the date that is 5 years after the completion of the rulemaking proceeding under subsection (a)(1), and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall initiate a new rulemaking proceeding to continue to consider such procedural changes to its rules as may be in the public interest to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

''(c) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 552b of title 5, United States Code, a bipartisan majority of Commissioners may hold a meeting that is closed to the public to discuss official business if—

''(A) a vote or any other agency action is not taken at such meeting;

''(B) each person present at such meeting is a Commissioner, an employee of the Commission, a member of a joint board or conference established under section 410, or a person on the staff of such a joint board or conference or of a member of such a joint board or conference; and

''(C) an attorney from the Office of General Counsel of the Commission is present at such meeting.

''(2) DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Not later than 2 business days after the conclusion of a meeting held under paragraph (1), the Commission

shall publish a disclosure of such meeting, including—

''(A) a list of the persons who attended such meeting; and

''(B) a summary of the matters discussed at such meeting, except for such matters as the Commission determines may be withheld under section 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code.

''(3) PRESERVATION OF OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY ACTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the applicability of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, with respect to a meeting of Commissioners other than that described in paragraph (1).

''(d) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION ON COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.—The Commission shall provide direct access from the homepage of its website to—

''(1) detailed information regarding—

''(A) the budget of the Commission for the current fiscal year;

''(B) the appropriations for the Commission for such fiscal year; and

''(C) the total number of full-time equivalent employees of the Commission; and

''(2) the performance plan most recently made available by the Commission under section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code.

''(e) INTERNET PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN FCC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The chairman of the Commission shall—

''(1) publish on the Internet website of the Commission any policies or procedures of the Commission that—

''(A) are established by the chairman; and

''(B) relate to the functioning of the Commission or the handling of the agenda of the Commission; and

''(2) update such publication not later than 48 hours after the chairman makes changes to any such policies or procedures.

''(f) FEDERAL REGISTER PUBLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any document adopted by the Commission that the Commission is required, under any provision of law, to publish in the Federal Register, the Commission shall, not later than the date described in paragraph (2), complete all Commission actions necessary for such document to be so published.

''(2) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this paragraph is the earlier of—

''(A) the day that is 45 days after the date of the release of the document; or

''(B) the day by which such actions must be completed to comply with any deadline under any other provision of law.

''(3) NO EFFECT ON DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION IN OTHER FORM.—In the case of a deadline that does not specify that the form of publication is publication in the Federal Register, the Commission may comply with such deadline by publishing the document in another form. Such other form of publication does not relieve the Commission of any Federal Register publication requirement applicable to such document, including the requirement of paragraph (1).

''(g) CONSUMER COMPLAINT DATABASE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating and processing consumer complaints, the Commission shall present information about such complaints in a publicly available, searchable database on its website that—

''(A) facilitates easy use by consumers; and

''(B) to the extent practicable, is sortable and accessible by—

''(i) the date of the filing of the complaint;

''(ii) the topic of the complaint;

''(iii) the party complained of; and

''(iv) other elements that the Commission considers in the public interest.

''(2) DUPLICATIVE COMPLAINTS.—In the case of multiple complaints arising from the same alleged misconduct, the Commission shall be required to include only information concerning one such complaint in the database described in paragraph (1).

''(h) FORM OF PUBLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In complying with a requirement of this section to publish a document, the Commission shall publish such document on its website, in addition to publishing such document in any other form that the Commission is required to use or is permitted to and chooses to use.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The Commission shall by rule establish procedures for redacting documents required to be published by this section so that the published versions of such documents do not contain—

''(A) information the publication of which would be detrimental to national security, homeland security, law enforcement, or public safety; or

''(B) information that is proprietary or confidential.

''(i) TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO PERFORMANCE IN MEETING FOIA REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall take additional steps to inform the public about its performance and efficiency in meeting the disclosure and other requirements of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), including by doing the following:

''(1) Publishing on the Commission's website the Commission's logs for tracking, responding to, and managing requests submitted under such section, including the Commission's fee estimates, fee categories, and fee request determinations.

''(2) Releasing to the public all decisions made by the Commission (including decisions made by the Commission's Bureaus and Offices) granting or denying requests filed under such section, including any such decisions pertaining to the estimate and application of fees assessed under such section.

''(3) Publishing on the Commission's website electronic copies of documents released under such section.

''(4) Presenting information about the Commission's handling of requests under such section in the Commission's annual budget estimates submitted to Congress and the Commission's annual performance and financial reports. Such information shall include the number of requests under such section the Commission received in the most recent fiscal year, the number of such requests granted and denied, a comparison of the Commission's processing of such requests over at least the previous 3 fiscal years, and a comparison of the Commission's results with the most recent average for the United States Government as published on www.foia.gov.

''(j) PROMPT RELEASE OF STATISTICAL REPORTS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 15th of each year, the Commission shall identify, catalog, and publish an anticipated release schedule for all statistical reports and reports to Congress that are regularly or intermittently released by the Commission and will be released during such year.

''(k) ANNUAL SCORECARD REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 1-year period beginning on January 1st of each year, the Commission shall prepare a report on the performance of the Commission in conducting its proceedings and meeting the deadlines established under subsection (a)(2)(E) and the guidelines established under subsection (a)(2)(F).

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall contain detailed statistics on such performance, including, with respect to each Bureau of the Commission—

''(A) with respect to each type of filing specified in subsection (a)(2)(E) or (a)(2)(F)—

''(i) the number of filings that were pending on the last day of the period covered by such report;

''(ii) the number of filings described in clause (i) for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was not met and the average length of time such filings have been pending; and

''(iii) for filings that were resolved during such period, the average time between initiation and resolution and the percentage for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was met;

''(B) with respect to proceedings before an administrative law judge—

''(i) the number of such proceedings completed during such period; and

''(ii) the number of such proceedings pending on the last day of such period; and

''(C) the number of independent studies or analyses published by the Commission during such period.

''(3) PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall publish and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate each report required by paragraph (1) not later than the date that is 30 days after the last day of the period covered by such report.

''(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AMENDMENT.—The term 'amendment' includes, when used with respect to an existing rule, the deletion of such rule.

''(2) BIPARTISAN MAJORITY.—The term 'bipartisan majority' means, when used with respect to a group of Commissioners, that such group—

''(A) is a group of 3 or more Commissioners; and

''(B) includes, for each political party of which any Commissioner is a member, at least 1 Commissioner who is a member of such political party, and, if any Commissioner has no political party affiliation, at least one unaffiliated Commissioner.

''(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURE.—The term 'performance measure' means an objective and quantifiable outcome measure or output measure (as such terms are defined in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code).

''(4) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term 'program activity' has the meaning given such term in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, except that such term also includes any annual collection or distribution or related series of collections or distributions by the Commission of an amount that is greater than or equal to $100,000,000.

''(5) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms 'agency action', 'ex parte communication', and 'rule' have the meanings given such terms in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES AND IMPLEMENTING RULES.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Subsection (c) of section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall apply beginning on the first date on which all of the procedural changes to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission required by subsection (a)(1) of such section have taken effect.

(B) REPORT RELEASE SCHEDULES.—Subsection (j) of such section 13 shall apply with respect to 2016 and any year thereafter.

(C) ANNUAL SCORECARD REPORTS.—Subsection (k) of such section 13 shall apply with respect to 2015 and any year thereafter.

(D) INTERNET PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN FCC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—Subsection (e) of such section 13 shall apply beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RULES.—Except as otherwise provided in such section 13, the Federal Communications Commission shall promulgate any rules necessary to carry out such section not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. CATEGORIZATION OF TCPA INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS IN QUARTERLY REPORT.

In compiling its quarterly report with respect to informal consumer inquiries and complaints, the Federal Communications Commission may not categorize an inquiry or complaint with respect to section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) as being a wireline inquiry or complaint or a wireless inquiry or complaint unless the party whose conduct is the subject of the inquiry or complaint is a wireline carrier or a wireless carrier, respectively.

SEC. 4. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall relieve the Federal Communications Commission from any obligations under title 5, United States Code, except where otherwise expressly provided.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION OF ANTIDEFICIENCY ACT TO UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM.

Section 302 of Public Law 108–494 (118 Stat. 3998) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2016'' each place it appears and inserting ''December 31, 2020''.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON IMPROVING SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN FCC PROCEEDINGS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) actions that the Commission will take to improve the participation of small businesses in the proceedings of the Commission; and

(2) recommendations for any legislation that the Commission considers appropriate to improve such participation.

SEC. 7. EXCLUSION FROM PAYGO SCORECARDS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Today marks the third time in 4 years that a variation of the FCC Process Reform Act has come to the floor for a vote. This is a sign of how seriously in need of reform the FCC's procedures are and how seriously I, and the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, take the responsibility of helping put these reforms in place.

This bill is the product of a multiyear, bipartisan legislative process, bringing us to a place where we can at least begin to create a framework for more transparent and predictable rulemakings at the Federal Communications Commission.

There are few other industries that have shown such high levels of innovation and investment as the communications and technology sector. Think of the developments in smartphones alone over the past few years, Mr. Speaker. The only way to guarantee that this continues is to make sure that the agency that regulates the industry is accountable and transparent so that the regulatory tangles do not impede the steady march of new and exciting innovations and offerings.

The Subcommittee on Communications and Technology has spent a great deal of time on agency reform. In fact, tomorrow we will have the entire FCC before our committee once again. We have come to a consensus on how we can best improve the processes at the Federal Communications Commission without tying the agency's hands unnecessarily. It has been a focus of our work.

Our bipartisan compromise requires that the FCC undertake a rulemaking to adopt minimum time periods for comments and to adopt rules that prevent the introduction of large amounts of data—we call those data dumps, where enormous amounts of information come in at the last minute and nobody has a chance to understand what is in it or comment effectively on it, sometimes even catching commissioners by surprise—at the very end of a comment period.

The new Commission rules must put into place specific deadlines and timeframes for agency decisions or action on different types of filings before the agency. I know all too well what those deadlines and delays can be. My wife and I were broadcasters for more than two decades. We actually had applications sit at the FCC for nearly 10 years without any action. Finally, they were acted upon, and we were given 30 days to implement them. This isn't acceptable. There must be predictability and certainty for those who rely on the FCC to make decisions central to their businesses.

In addition to the rulemaking, the FCC must also conduct an inquiry into more complex issues, giving them flexibility in deciding whether and how to implement the reforms. We aren't looking to, again, hamstring this agency. We simply are providing them with goals and allowing them to determine the best way to achieve them. That is our job as the oversight committee over an agency.

Process reform is not about the actions of one party and it is not about the actions of one chairman. This is about putting rules into place that will carry over from one administration to the next, one party to the next, one chairman to the next, creating consistency and certainty for the many that are subject to the Commission's rules. I believe there must be some kind of accountability for our independent agencies and the decisions that they make. After all, it is the public's business that they are conducting.

While there is still much work needed to be done on reforming the procedures at this sometimes broken agency, this bill represents a vital first step in that process. The communications industry and, more importantly, the American people, deserve a transparent and accountable Federal agency, no matter who is in charge.

For the second consecutive Congress, I am proud to bring this bipartisan work to the House floor. I thank my Democratic colleague, Ranking Member PALLONE, who I know will speak on this bill; Ranking Member ESHOO, who has been a terrific partner as we have worked on this; Representatives MATSUI, CLARKE, and LOEBSACK for their contributions to this bill; and staff on both sides of the aisle, David Redl, Grace Koh, Kelsey Guyselman, Gene Fullano, David Goldman, Lori Maarbjerg, and David Grossman, for their hard work. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2583, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015.

The FCC has a role in regulating industries that make up one-sixth of our economy and whose services have been essential to consumers, and it is important that the FCC functions in a fast, efficient, and transparent way.

The FCC Chairman has made process reform a priority of his tenure, and he has made great strides in improving how the FCC functions. But it is the role of Congress to make adjustments like we are doing today. I believe that the final text of the bill we are considering today will achieve that goal, and I urge all Members to support it.

Not all of the issues in the FCC Process Reform Act are new. In fact, the base of the bill being considered here today is very similar to the bill that passed the House under suspension by voice vote last Congress. It requires the FCC to adopt procedural rule changes to maximize public participation and to look into other potential process changes, including whether to establish deadlines for application processing. It also includes the provisions of the FCC Collaboration Act, an issue championed by Representative ESHOO, which will allow commissioners to freely discuss FCC issues with sufficient safeguards to protect against abuse.

Democrats offered additional suggestions earlier this year when the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology considered this and other bills aimed at FCC process reform. The ideas of subcommittee members CLARKE, LOEBSACK, and MATSUI furthered our goal to help make the FCC fast, efficient, and transparent.

The simple suggestions were to, one, require the FCC to provide quarterly reports on pending items with the agency to ensure accountability and timely responses; two, require, the FCC to coordinate with the Small Business Administration to improve small-business participation in FCC proceedings; and, third, require the FCC Chairman to publicly post the agency's internal policies and procedures for greater transparency.

Although we could not agree on the policies offered by the Republicans and dissented from the version of the bill that was favorably reported from the Energy and Commerce Committee in June, we worked in a bipartisan manner to craft the language that we take up today. This version of the bill takes the bipartisan language from last Congress and includes most of the Democratic suggestions that improve the bill.

I appreciate Chairman UPTON and Chairman WALDEN's willingness to listen to our concerns and work with us to achieve a bipartisan result. It is a stronger bill because of it.

I also want to thank Communications and Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member ANNA ESHOO for her leadership on these issues, as well as Representatives CLARKE, LOEBSACK, and MATSUI, for their thoughtful considerations. I look forward to continuing to work with our Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Senate to help this bill become law. Again, I urge its passage.

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

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

I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey and his staff for the great work on this legislation. I also meant to thank Mr. KINZINGER from Illinois as well, who has been very active on our subcommittee. He has done great work on this measure and some of its very important provisions. I left him out earlier today. I want to thank him as well. I also thank the staff and my colleagues. I urge passage in the House.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I think this is a fine piece of work. I think it will result in the Federal Communications Commission being even better and more transparent as it conducts the public's business. I look forward to this bill moving on across the Chamber and to the Senate where, hopefully, this year they will take it up. So I ask for its approval.

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2583, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015, a bipartisan bill aimed at giving the FCC flexibility while promoting openness, transparency and accountability.

In the 113th Congress, the House of Representatives considered and passed similar legislation by voice vote. The bill before us adds to the previously included reforms by including three legislative proposals offered during the Energy & Commerce Committee's debate.

First, a proposal offered by Rep. CLARKE would require the FCC to report quarterly to Congress and to post, on its website, data on the total number of decisions pending, categorized by bureau, the type of request, the length of time pending, as well as a list of pending Congressional investigations and their costs to the agency.

Second, a proposal by Rep. LOEBSACK would require the Chairman to post the Commission's internal procedures on the FCC website and update the website when the Chairman makes any changes.

Third, the underlying bill includes a proposal offered by Rep. MATSUI which would require the FCC to coordinate with the Small Business Administration and issue recommendations to improve small business participation in FCC proceedings.

Collectively the proposals by Reps. CLARKE, LOEBSACK and MATSUI would modernize and enhance transparency at the FCC without jeopardizing regulatory certainty or opening the Commission to legal challenges on every agency action.

I'm also pleased that the bill incorporates the FCC Collaboration Act of 2015, a bipartisan bill I introduced earlier this year with Reps. SHIMKUS and DOYLE. For years, current and former FCC Commissioners have called on Congress to pass 'sunshine reform,' so that three or more Commissioners can hold nonpublic collaborative discussions, as long as no agency action is taken. While I remain disappointed that this provision will not take effect immediately upon enactment, I've concluded that any further delay in implementation is the unnecessary delay of a much needed reform.

I thank Chairman WALDEN for working with me and my staff to put forward a bipartisan bill and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2583.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2583, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2262) to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; REFERENCES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; references.
TITLE I—SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. International launch competitiveness.
Sec. 103. Indemnification for space flight participants.
Sec. 104. Launch license flexibility.
Sec. 105. Licensing report.
Sec. 106. Federal jurisdiction.
Sec. 107. Cross waivers.
Sec. 108. Space authority.
Sec. 109. Orbital traffic management.
Sec. 110. Space surveillance and situational awareness data.
Sec. 111. Consensus standards and extension of certain safety regulation requirements.
Sec. 112. Government astronauts.
Sec. 113. Streamline commercial space launch activities.
Sec. 114. Operation and utilization of the ISS.
Sec. 115. State commercial launch facilities.
Sec. 116. Space support vehicles study.
Sec. 117. Space launch system update.
TITLE II—COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING
Sec. 201. Annual reports.
Sec. 202. Statutory update report.
TITLE III—OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE
Sec. 301. Renaming of office of space commercialization.
Sec. 302. Functions of the office of space commerce.
TITLE IV—SPACE RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION
Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Title 51 amendment.
Sec. 403. Disclaimer of extraterritorial sovereignty.

(c) REFERENCES TO TITLE 51, UNITED STATES CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 51, United States Code.

TITLE I—SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Spurring Private Aerospace Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship Act of 2015'' or ''SPACE Act of 2015''.

SEC. 102. INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH COMPETITIVENESS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that it is in the public interest to update the methodology used to calculate the maximum probable loss from claims under section

50914 of title 51, United States Code, with a validated risk profile approach in order to consistently compute valid and reasonable maximum probable loss values.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the commercial space sector and insurance providers, shall—

(1) evaluate the methodology used to calculate the maximum probable loss from claims under section 50914 of title 51, United States Code, and, if necessary, develop a plan to update that methodology;

(2) in evaluating or developing a plan under paragraph (1)—

(A) ensure that the Federal Government is not exposed to greater costs than intended and that launch companies are not required to purchase more insurance coverage than necessary; and

(B) consider the impact of the cost to both the industry and the Government of implementing an updated methodology; and

(3) submit the evaluation, and any plan, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(c) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the date the evaluation is submitted under subsection (b)(3), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives an assessment of—

(1) the analysis and conclusions provided by the Secretary of Transportation in the evaluation, and any plan, under subsection (b);

(2) the implementation schedule proposed by the Secretary in the plan described in paragraph (1);

(3) the suitability of the plan described in paragraph (1) for implementation; and

(4) any further actions needed to implement the plan described in paragraph (1) or otherwise accomplish the purpose of this section.

(d) LAUNCH LIABILITY EXTENSION.—Section 50915(f) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2016'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

SEC. 103. INDEMNIFICATION FOR SPACE FLIGHT PARTICIPANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 509 is amended—

(1) in section 50914(a)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following:

''(E) space flight participants.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) Subparagraph (E) of paragraph (4) ceases to be effective September 30, 2025.''; and

(2) in section 50915(a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''a licensee or transferee under this chapter, a contractor, subcontractor, or customer of the licensee or transferee, or a contractor or subcontractor of a customer, but not against a space flight participant,'' and inserting ''a person described in paragraph (3)(A)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3)(A) A person described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) a licensee or transferee under this chapter;

''(ii) a contractor, subcontractor, or customer of the licensee or transferee;

''(iii) a contractor or subcontractor of a customer; or

''(iv) a space flight participant.

''(B) Clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) ceases to be effective September 30, 2025.''.

SEC. 104. LAUNCH LICENSE FLEXIBILITY.

Section 50906 is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''that will be launched or reentered'' and inserting ''or reusable launch vehicles that will be launched into a suborbital trajectory or reentered under that permit'';

(B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) research and development to test design concepts, equipment, or operating techniques;''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''prior to obtaining a license''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or vehicle'' after ''design of the rocket'';

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''suborbital rocket design'' and inserting ''suborbital rocket or suborbital rocket design, or for a particular reusable launch vehicle or reusable launch vehicle design,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or launch vehicle'' after ''the suborbital rocket'';

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

''(g) The Secretary may issue a permit under this section notwithstanding any license issued under this chapter. The issuance of a license under this chapter may not invalidate a permit issued under this section.''; and

(4) in subsection (h), by inserting ''or reusable launch vehicle'' after ''suborbital rocket''.

SEC. 105. LICENSING REPORT.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on approaches for streamlining the licensing and permitting process of launch vehicles, reentry vehicles, or components of launch or reentry vehicles, to enable non-launch flight operations related to space transportation. The report shall include approaches to improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary costs, resolve inconsistencies, remove duplication, and minimize unwarranted constraints. The report shall also include an assessment of existing private and government infrastructure, as appropriate, in future licensing activities.

SEC. 106. FEDERAL JURISDICTION.

Section 50914 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) FEDERAL JURISDICTION.—Any claim by a third party or space flight participant for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from an activity carried out under the license shall be the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal courts.''.

SEC. 107. CROSS WAIVERS.

Section 50914(b)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(1)(A) A launch or reentry license issued or transferred under this chapter shall contain a provision requiring the licensee or transferee to make a reciprocal waiver of claims with applicable parties involved in launch services or reentry services under which each party to the waiver agrees to be responsible for personal injury to, death of, or property damage or loss sustained by it or its own employees resulting from an activity carried out under the applicable license.

''(B) In this paragraph, the term 'applicable parties' means—

''(i) contractors, subcontractors, and customers of the licensee or transferee;

''(ii) contractors and subcontractors of the customers; and

''(iii) space flight participants.

''(C) Clause (iii) of subparagraph (B) ceases to be effective September 30, 2025.''.

SEC. 108. SPACE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, and the commercial space sector, shall—

(1) assess current, and proposed near-term, commercial non-governmental activities conducted in space;

(2) identify appropriate authorization and supervision authorities for the activities described in paragraph (1);

(3) recommend an authorization and supervision approach that would prioritize safety, utilize existing authorities, minimize burdens to the industry, promote the U.S. commercial space sector, and meet the United States obligations under international treaties; and

(4) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the activities described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(b) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in this section shall apply to the activities of the ISS national laboratory as described in section 504 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354), including any research or development projects utilizing the ISS national laboratory.

SEC. 109. ORBITAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that an improved framework may be necessary for space traffic management of United States Government assets and United States private sector assets in outer space and orbital debris mitigation.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Defense, shall enter into an arrangement with an independent systems engineering and technical assistance organization to study alternate frameworks for the management of space traffic and orbital activities.

(c) CONTENTS.—The study shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of current regulations, best practices, and industry standards that apply to space traffic management and orbital debris mitigation.

(2) An assessment of current statutory authorities granted to the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Commerce that apply to space traffic management and orbital debris mitigation and how those agencies utilize and coordinate those authorities.

(3) A review of all space traffic management and orbital debris requirements under treaties and other international agreements to which the United States is a signatory, and other nonbinding international arrangements in which the United States participates, and the manner and extent to which the Federal Government complies with those requirements and arrangements.

(4) An assessment of existing Federal Government assets used to conduct space traffic management and space situational awareness.

(5) An assessment of the risk to space traffic management associated with smallsats and any necessary Government coordination for their launch and utilization to avoid congestion of the orbital environment and improve space situational awareness.

(6) An assessment of existing private sector information sharing activities associated with space situational awareness and space traffic management.

(7) Recommendations related to the appropriate framework for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public and economic vitality of the space industry.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and

the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives the study required in subsection (b).

(e) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORITIES.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense plays a vital and unique role in protecting national security assets in space.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary of Defense as it relates to safeguarding the national security.

SEC. 110. SPACE SURVEILLANCE AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DATA.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation in concurrence with the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, study the feasibility of processing and releasing safety-related space situational awareness data and information to any entity consistent with national security interests and public safety obligations of the United States; and

(2) submit a report on the feasibility study to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 111. CONSENSUS STANDARDS AND EXTENSION OF CERTAIN SAFETY REGULATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 50905(c) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''IN GENERAL.—'' before ''The Secretary'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''REGULATIONS.—'' before ''Regulations'';

(3) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (10);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) FACILITATION OF STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall continue to work with the commercial space sector, including the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, or its successor organization, to facilitate the development of voluntary industry consensus standards based on recommended best practices to improve the safety of crew, government astronauts, and space flight participants as the commercial space sector continues to mature.

''(4) COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to discuss potential regulatory approaches, potential performance standards, or any other topic related to this subsection with the commercial space industry, including observations, findings, and recommendations from the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, or its successor organization, prior to the issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking. Such discussions shall not be construed to permit the Secretary to promulgate industry regulations except as otherwise provided in this section.

''(5) INTERIM VOLUNTARY INDUSTRY CONSENSUS STANDARDS REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2016, and every 30 months thereafter until December 31, 2021, the Secretary, in consultation and coordination with the commercial space sector, including the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, or its successor organization, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the progress of the commercial space transportation industry in developing voluntary industry consensus standards that promote best practices to improve industry safety.

''(B) CONTENTS.—The report shall include, at a minimum—

''(i) any voluntary industry consensus standards that have been accepted by the industry at large;

''(ii) the identification of areas that have the potential to become voluntary industry consensus standards that are currently under consideration by the industry at large;

''(iii) an assessment from the Secretary on the general progress of the industry in adopting voluntary industry consensus standards;

''(iv) any lessons learned about voluntary industry consensus standards, best practices, and commercial space launch operations;

''(v) any lessons learned associated with the development, potential application, and acceptance of voluntary industry consensus standards, best practices, and commercial space launch operations; and

''(vi) recommendations, findings, or observations from the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, or its successor organization, on the progress of the industry in developing voluntary industry consensus standards that promote best practices to improve industry safety.

''(6) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the SPACE Act of 2015, the Secretary, in consultation and coordination with the commercial space sector, including the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, or its successor organization, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report specifying key industry metrics that might indicate readiness of the commercial space sector and the Department of Transportation to transition to a safety framework that may include regulations under paragraph (9) that considers space flight participant, government astronaut, and crew safety.

''(7) REPORTS.—Not later than March 31 of each of 2018 and 2022, the Secretary, in consultation and coordination with the commercial space sector, including the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, or its successor organization, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that identifies the activities, described in this subsection and subsection (d) most appropriate for a new safety framework that may include regulatory action, if any, and a proposed transition plan for such safety framework.

''(8) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2022, an independent systems engineering and technical assistance organization or standards development organization contracted by the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives an assessment of the readiness of the commercial space industry and the Federal Government to transition to a safety framework that may include regulations. As part of the review, the contracted organization shall evaluate—

''(A) the progress of the commercial space industry in adopting voluntary industry consensus standards as reported by the Secretary in the interim assessments included in the reports under paragraph (5);

''(B) the progress of the commercial space industry toward meeting the key industry metrics identified by the report under paragraph (6), including the knowledge and operational experience obtained by the commercial space industry while providing services for compensation or hire; and

''(C) whether the areas identified in the reports under paragraph (5) are appropriate for regulatory action, or further development of voluntary industry consensus standards, considering the progress evaluated in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph.

''(9) LEARNING PERIOD.—Beginning on October 1, 2023, the Secretary may propose regulations under this subsection without regard to subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (2). The development of any such regulations shall take into consideration the evolving standards of the commercial space flight industry as identified in the reports published under paragraphs (5), (6), and (7).''; and

(6) in paragraph (10), as redesignated, by inserting ''RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—'' before ''Nothing''.

SEC. 112. GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUTS.

(a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.—Section 50901(15) is amended by inserting '', government astronauts,'' after ''crew'' each place it appears.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has a need to fly government astronauts (as defined in section 50902 of title 51, United States Code, as amended) within commercial launch vehicles and reentry vehicles under chapter 509 of that title. This need was identified by the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration due to the intended use of commercial launch vehicles and reentry vehicles developed under the Commercial Crew Development Program, authorized in section 402 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2820; Public Law 111–267). It is the sense of Congress that the authority delegated to the Administration by the amendment made by subsection (d) of this section should be used for that purpose.

(c) DEFINITION OF GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—Section 50902 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (22) as paragraphs (7) through (25), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) 'government astronaut' means an individual who—

''(A) is designated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20113(n);

''(B) is carried within a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle in the course of his or her employment, which may include performance of activities directly relating to the launch, reentry, or other operation of the launch vehicle or reentry vehicle; and

''(C) is either—

''(i) an employee of the United States Government, including the uniformed services, engaged in the performance of a Federal function under authority of law or an Executive act; or

''(ii) an international partner astronaut.

''(5) 'international partner astronaut' means an individual designated under Article 11 of the International Space Station Intergovernmental Agreement, by a partner to that agreement other than the United States, as qualified to serve as an International Space Station crew member.

''(6) 'International Space Station Intergovernmental Agreement' means the Agreement Concerning Cooperation on the International Space Station, signed at Washington January 29, 1998 (TIAS 12927).''.

(d) POWERS OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION IN PERFORMANCE OF FUNCTIONS.—Section 20113 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(n) IDENTIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUTS.—For purposes of a license issued or transferred by the Secretary of Transportation under chapter 509 to launch a launch vehicle or to reenter a reentry vehicle carrying a government astronaut (as defined in section 50902), the Administration shall designate a government astronaut in accordance with requirements prescribed by the Administration.''.

(e) DEFINITION OF LAUNCH.—Paragraph (7) of section 50902, as redesignated, is amended by striking ''and any payload, crew, or space flight participant'' and inserting ''and any payload or human being''.

(f) DEFINITION OF LAUNCH SERVICES.—Paragraph (9) of section 50902, as redesignated, is

amended by striking ''payload, crew (including crew training), or space flight participant'' and inserting ''payload, crew (including crew training), government astronaut, or space flight participant''.

(g) DEFINITION OF REENTER AND REENTRY.—Paragraph (16) of section 50902, as redesignated, is amended by striking ''and its payload, crew, or space flight participants, if any,'' and inserting ''and its payload or human beings, if any,''.

(h) DEFINITION OF REENTRY SERVICES.—Paragraph (17) of section 50902, as redesignated, is amended by striking ''payload, crew (including crew training), or space flight participant, if any,'' and inserting ''payload, crew (including crew training), government astronaut, or space flight participant, if any,''.

(i) DEFINITION OF SPACE FLIGHT PARTICIPANT.—Paragraph (20) of section 50902, as redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

''(20) 'space flight participant' means an individual, who is not crew or a government astronaut, carried within a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle.''.

(j) DEFINITION OF THIRD PARTY.—Paragraph (24)(E) of section 50902, as redesignated, is amended by inserting '', government astronauts,'' after ''crew''.

(k) RESTRICTIONS ON LAUNCHES, OPERATIONS, AND REENTRIES; SINGLE LICENSE OR PERMIT.—Section 50904(d) is amended by striking ''activities involving crew or space flight participants'' and inserting ''activities involving crew, government astronauts, or space flight participants''.

(l) LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS; APPLICATIONS.—Section 50905 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''crews and space flight participants'' and inserting ''crew, government astronauts, and space flight participants'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by striking ''crew or space flight participants'' and inserting ''crew, government astronauts, or space flight participants''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''crew and space flight participants'' and inserting ''crew, government astronauts, and space flight participants''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''to crew or space flight participants'' each place it appears and inserting ''to crew, government astronauts, or space flight participants''.

(m) MONITORING ACTIVITIES.—Section 50907(a) is amended by striking ''at a site used for crew or space flight participant training'' and inserting ''at a site not owned or operated by the Federal Government or a foreign government used for crew, government astronaut, or space flight participant training''.

(n) ADDITIONAL SUSPENSIONS.—Section 50908(d)(1) is amended by striking ''to crew or space flight participants'' each place it appears and inserting ''to any human being''.

(o) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER EXECUTIVE AGENCIES, LAWS, AND INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS; NONAPPLICATION.—Section 50919(g) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) NONAPPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—This chapter does not apply to—

''(A) a launch, reentry, operation of a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle, operation of a launch site or reentry site, or other space activity the Government carries out for the Government; or

''(B) planning or policies related to the launch, reentry, operation, or activity under subparagraph (A).

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The following activities are not space activities the Government carries out for the Government under paragraph (1):

''(A) A government astronaut being carried within a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle under this chapter.

''(B) A government astronaut performing activities directly relating to the launch, reentry, or other operation of the launch vehicle or reentry vehicle under this chapter.''.

SEC. 113. STREAMLINE COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH ACTIVITIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that eliminating duplicative requirements and approvals for commercial launch and reentry operations will promote and encourage the development of the commercial space sector.

(b) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms that the Secretary of Transportation, in overseeing and coordinating commercial launch and reentry operations, should—

(1) promote commercial space launches and reentries by the private sector;

(2) facilitate Government, State, and private sector involvement in enhancing U.S. launch sites and facilities;

(3) protect public health and safety, safety of property, national security interests, and foreign policy interests of the United States; and

(4) consult with the head of another executive agency, including the Secretary of Defense or the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as necessary to provide consistent application of licensing requirements under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation under section 50918 of title 51, United States Code, and subject to section 50905(b)(2)(C) of that title, shall consult with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the heads of other executive agencies, as appropriate—

(A) to identify all requirements that are imposed to protect the public health and safety, safety of property, national security interests, and foreign policy interests of the United States relevant to any commercial launch of a launch vehicle or commercial reentry of a reentry vehicle; and

(B) to evaluate the requirements identified in subparagraph (A) and, in coordination with the licensee or transferee and the heads of the relevant executive agencies—

(i) determine whether the satisfaction of a requirement of one agency could result in the satisfaction of a requirement of another agency; and

(ii) resolve any inconsistencies and remove any outmoded or duplicative requirements or approvals of the Federal Government relevant to any commercial launch of a launch vehicle or commercial reentry of a reentry vehicle.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the Secretary of Transportation determines no outmoded or duplicative requirements or approvals of the Federal Government exist, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the commercial space sector, and the heads of other executive agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(A) A description of the process for the application for and approval of a permit or license under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code, for the commercial launch of a launch vehicle or commercial reentry of a reentry vehicle, including the identification of—

(i) any unique requirements for operating on a United States Government launch site, reentry site, or launch property; and

(ii) any inconsistent, outmoded, or duplicative requirements or approvals.

(B) A description of current efforts, if any, to coordinate and work across executive agencies to define interagency processes and procedures for sharing information, avoiding duplication of effort, and resolving common agency requirements.

(C) Recommendations for legislation that may further—

(i) streamline requirements in order to improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary costs, resolve inconsistencies, remove duplication, and minimize unwarranted constraints; and

(ii) consolidate or modify requirements across affected agencies into a single application set that satisfies the requirements identified in paragraph (1)(A).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) any applicable definitions set forth in section 50902 of title 51, United States Code, shall apply;

(B) the terms ''launch'', ''reenter'', and ''reentry'' include landing of a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle; and

(C) the terms ''United States Government launch site'' and ''United States Government reentry site'' include any necessary facility, at that location, that is commercially operated on United States Government property.

SEC. 114. OPERATION AND UTILIZATION OF THE ISS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) maximum utilization of partnerships, scientific research, commercial applications, and exploration test bed capabilities of the ISS is essential to ensuring the greatest return on investments made by the United States and its international partners in the development, assembly, and operations of that unique facility; and

(2) every effort should be made to ensure that decisions regarding the service life of the ISS are based on the station's projected capability to continue providing effective and productive research and exploration test bed capabilities.

(b) CONTINUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 501 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351) is amended—

*(A) in the heading, by striking ''**THROUGH 2020**''; and*

(B) in subsection (a), by striking ''through at least 2020'' and inserting ''through at least 2024''.

(2) MAINTENANCE OF THE UNITED STATES SEGMENT AND ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.—Section 503 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18353) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''through at least September 30, 2020'' and inserting ''through at least September 30, 2024''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator'' and inserting ''The Administrator''.

(3) RESEARCH CAPACITY ALLOCATION AND INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH PAYLOADS.—Section 504(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354(d)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2020'' each place it appears and inserting ''at least September 30, 2024''.

(4) MAINTAINING USE THROUGH AT LEAST 2024.—Section 70907 is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70907. Maintaining use through at least 2024

''(a) POLICY.—The Administrator shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the International Space Station remains a viable and productive facility capable of potential United States utilization through at least September 30, 2024.

''(b) NASA ACTIONS.—In furtherance of the policy under subsection (a), the Administrator shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the International Space Station, as a designated national laboratory—

''(1) remains viable as an element of overall exploration and partnership strategies and approaches;

''(2) is considered for use by all NASA mission directorates, as appropriate, for technically appropriate scientific data gathering or technology risk reduction demonstrations; and

''(3) remains an effective, functional vehicle providing research and test bed capabilities for the United States through at least September 30, 2024.''.

(5) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TABLE OF CONTENTS OF 2010 ACT.—The item relating to section 501 in the table of contents in section 1(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2806) is amended by striking ''through 2020''.

(B) TABLE OF CONTENTS OF CHAPTER 709.—The table of contents for chapter 709 is amended by amending the item relating to section 70907 to read as follows:

''70907. Maintaining use through at least 2024.''.

SEC. 115. STATE COMMERCIAL LAUNCH FACILITIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) State involvement, development, ownership, and operation of launch facilities can enable growth of the Nation's commercial suborbital and orbital space endeavors and support both commercial and Government space programs;

(2) State launch facilities and the people and property in the affected launch areas of those facilities may be subject to risks resulting from an activity carried out under a license under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code; and

(3) to ensure the success of the commercial launch industry and the safety of the people and property in the affected launch areas of those facilities, States and State launch facilities should seek to take proper measures to protect themselves, to the extent of their potential liability for involvement in launch services or reentry services, and compensate third parties for possible death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from an activity carried out under a license under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code, to which the State or State launch facility is involved in the launch services or reentry services.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the potential inclusion of all government property, including State and municipal property, in the existing indemnification regime established under section 50914 of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 116. SPACE SUPPORT VEHICLES STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the use of space support vehicle services in the commercial space industry.

(b) CONTENTS.—This report shall include—

(1) the extent to which launch providers rely on such services as part of their business models;

(2) the statutory, regulatory, and market barriers to the use of such services; and

(3) recommendations for legislative or regulatory action that may be needed to ensure reduced barriers to the use of such services if such use is a requirement of the industry.

SEC. 117. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM UPDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 701 is amended—

(1) in the heading by striking ''**SPACE SHUTTLE**'' and inserting ''**SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM**'';

(2) in section 70101—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''**space shuttle**'' and inserting ''**space launch system**''; and

(B) by striking ''space shuttle'' and inserting ''space launch system'';

(3) by amending section 70102 to read as follows:

''§ 70102. Space launch system use policy

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Space Launch System may be used for the following circumstances:

''(1) Payloads and missions that contribute to extending human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and substantially benefit from the unique capabilities of the Space Launch System.

''(2) Other payloads and missions that substantially benefit from the unique capabilities of the Space Launch System.

''(3) On a space available basis, Federal Government or educational payloads that are consistent with NASA's mission for exploration beyond low-Earth orbit.

''(4) Compelling circumstances, as determined by the Administrator.

''(b) AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN ENTITIES.—The Administrator may plan, negotiate, or implement agreements with foreign entities for the launch of payloads for international collaborative efforts relating to science and technology using the Space Launch System.

''(c) COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not later than 30 days after the date the Administrator makes a determination under subsection (a)(4), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives written notification of the Administrator's intent to select the Space Launch System for a specific mission under that subsection, including justification for the determination.'';

(4) in section 70103—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''**SPACE SHUTTLE**'' and inserting ''**SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM**''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''space shuttle'' each place it appears and inserting ''space launch system''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 70104. Definition of Space Launch System

''In this chapter, the term 'Space Launch System' means the Space Launch System authorized under section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chapters of title 51 is amended by amending the item relating to chapter 701 to read as follows:

''701. Use of space launch system or alternatives ..... 70101''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS OF CHAPTER 701.—The table of contents of chapter 701 is amended—

(A) in the item relating to section 70101, by striking ''space shuttle'' and inserting ''space launch system'';

(B) in the item relating to section 70102, by striking ''Space shuttle'' and inserting ''Space launch system'';

(C) in the item relating to section 70103, by striking ''space shuttle'' and inserting ''space launch system''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''70104. Definition of Space Launch System.''.

(3) REQUIREMENT TO PROCURE COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.—Section 50131(a) of chapter 51 is amended by inserting ''or in section 70102'' after ''in this section''.

TITLE II—COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING

SEC. 201. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 601 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 60126. Annual reports

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act, and annually thereafter, on—

''(1) the Secretary's implementation of section 60121, including—

''(A) a list of all applications received in the previous calendar year;

''(B) a list of all applications that resulted in a license under section 60121;

''(C) a list of all applications denied and an explanation of why each application was denied, including any information relevant to the interagency adjudication process of a licensing request;

''(D) a list of all applications that required additional information; and

''(E) a list of all applications whose disposition exceeded the 120 day deadline established in section 60121(c), the total days overdue for each application that exceeded such deadline, and an explanation for the delay;

''(2) all notifications and information provided to the Secretary under section 60122; and

''(3) a description of all actions taken by the Secretary under the administrative authority granted by paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of section 60123(a).

''(b) CLASSIFIED ANNEXES.—Each report under subsection (a) may include classified annexes as necessary to protect the disclosure of sensitive or classified information.

''(c) SUNSET.—The reporting requirement under this section terminates effective September 30, 2020.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of chapter 601 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 60125 the following:

''60126. Annual reports.''.

SEC. 202. STATUTORY UPDATE REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on statutory updates necessary to license private remote sensing space systems. In preparing the report, the Secretary shall take into account the need to protect national security while maintaining United States private sector leadership in the field, and reflect the current state of the art of remote sensing systems, instruments, or technologies.

TITLE III—OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE

SEC. 301. RENAMING OF OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCIALIZATION.

(a) CHAPTER HEADING.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—The heading for chapter 507 is amended by striking ''**COMMERCIALIZATION**'' and inserting ''**COMMERCE**''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating to chapter 507 in the table of chapters for title 51 is amended by striking ''Commercialization'' and inserting ''Commerce''.

(b) DEFINITION OF OFFICE.—Section 50701 is amended by striking ''Commercialization'' and inserting ''Commerce''.

(c) RENAMING.—Section 50702(a) is amended by striking ''Commercialization'' and inserting ''Commerce''.

SEC. 302. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

Section 50702(c) is amended by striking ''Commerce.'' and inserting ''Commerce, including—

''(1) to foster the conditions for the economic growth and technological advancement of the United States space commerce industry;

''(2) to coordinate space commerce policy issues and actions within the Department of Commerce;

''(3) to represent the Department of Commerce in the development of United States policies and

in negotiations with foreign countries to promote United States space commerce;

''(4) to promote the advancement of United States geospatial technologies related to space commerce, in cooperation with relevant interagency working groups; and

''(5) to provide support to Federal Government organizations working on Space-Based Positioning Navigation, and Timing policy, including the National Coordination Office for Space-Based Position, Navigation, and Timing.''.

TITLE IV—SPACE RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act of 2015''.

SEC. 402. TITLE 51 AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle V is amended by adding at the end the following:

''CHAPTER 513—SPACE RESOURCE COMMERCIAL EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION

''Sec.
''51301. Definitions.
''51302. Commercial exploration and commercial recovery.
''51303. Asteroid resource and space resource rights.

''§ 51301. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) ASTEROID RESOURCE.—The term 'asteroid resource' means a space resource found on or within a single asteroid.

''(2) SPACE RESOURCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'space resource' means an abiotic resource in situ in outer space.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'space resource' includes water and minerals.

''(3) UNITED STATES CITIZEN.—The term 'United States citizen' has the meaning given the term 'citizen of the United States' in section 50902.

''§ 51302. Commercial exploration and commercial recovery

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through appropriate Federal agencies, shall—

''(1) facilitate commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources by United States citizens;

''(2) discourage government barriers to the development in the United States of economically viable, safe, and stable industries for commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources in manners consistent with the international obligations of the United States; and

''(3) promote the right of United States citizens to engage in commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources free from harmful interference, in accordance with the international obligations of the United States and subject to authorization and continuing supervision by the Federal Government.

''(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the President shall submit to Congress a report on commercial exploration for and commercial recovery of space resources by United States citizens that specifies—

''(1) the authorities necessary to meet the international obligations of the United States, including authorization and continuing supervision by the Federal Government; and

''(2) recommendations for the allocation of responsibilities among Federal agencies for the activities described in paragraph (1).

''§ 51303. Asteroid resource and space resource rights

''A United States citizen engaged in commercial recovery of an asteroid resource or a space resource under this chapter shall be entitled to any asteroid resource or space resource obtained, including to possess, own, transport, use, and sell the asteroid resource or space resource obtained in accordance with applicable law, including the international obligations of the United States.''.

(b) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chapters for title 51 is amended by adding at the end of the items for subtitle V the following:

''513. Space resource commercial exploration and utilization ..... 51301''.

SEC. 403. DISCLAIMER OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY.

It is the sense of Congress that by the enactment of this Act, the United States does not thereby assert sovereignty or sovereign or exclusive rights or jurisdiction over, or the ownership of, any celestial body.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

America is a Nation uniquely called to explore the final frontier. We are born adventurers with a spirit of freedom and curiosity unmatched in human history. And that spirit is aided by the wealth of intelligence so deep that we continue to lead the world in advancement of technology and science.

□ 1800

When the Wright brothers flew over the beaches of Kitty Hawk and Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier, they were supported by the spirit of freedom and a structure of laws that urged them to realize their dreams and change the world at the same time.

But the work of realizing our full potential is only just beginning. We are still paying Russia $70 million every time we send one of our astronauts to the Space Station. Our commercial pioneers can and want to fulfill this role, but they need our help.

The SPACE Act will help. This bill will unite law with innovation, allowing the next generation of pioneers to experiment, learn, and succeed without being constrained by premature regulatory action. It ensures that anyone or anything impacted by flight or flight experiments are protected, and it keeps us competitive by providing much needed flexibility in permitting and licensing, facilitating an environment that allows for swift and effective improvements in safety and reliability.

With this law, I have great hope for the future of space exploration. Whenever I visit the Mojave Air and Space Port, where so many of our advancements are happening, I am overwhelmed by the feeling that the future is now.

Upon the firm foundation of the SPACE Act, I know they and others will lead us far and that our limits are only bounded by what we can imagine as we continue our journey to the stars.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support the growing commercial space transportation industry, and I support the stated goal of the SPACE Act, to ''encourage private sector investment and create more stable and predictable regulatory conditions.''

The commercial space industry is emerging, it is growing, it is preparing for the 21st century and research and technology and entrepreneurship and exploration. It employs thousands of workers.

The bill does some useful things. It extends the life of the International Space Station at least through 2024, giving us a springboard for a pathway to Mars.

It provides for a clear definition of government astronauts as separate from crew and other spaceflight participants, recognizing the historic and unique and necessary place in the spectrum for government astronauts.

But I must also point out my concerns that we support policies that consider the safety of those who will use the commercial services we are seeking to encourage, especially commercial human spaceflight services.

I am concerned that the length of the moratorium, 8 years, on FAA's ability to even start proposing regulations for human occupants on commercial human spaceflight systems, the so-called learning period, is longer than it needs to be for an industry that, as has been described, is moving at quite a rapid pace.

I am concerned that this bill requires spaceflight participants, those who will buy tickets to fly on commercial and human spaceflight systems, to waive their rights to sue the launch provider and related parties for claims.

It is unclear, for example, what the parameters are for instances of negligence and gross negligence or malfeasance, and we needed the bill to clarify these issues.

I am concerned that we are rushing to establish policy on space resource mining and utilization without having vetted the range of issues associated with it and without having carried out the necessary due diligence to inform legislation that relates to our international treaty obligations with our international partners.

Mr. Speaker, I supported the original Senate-passed bill, S. 1297, which includes a 5-year learning period and 4-year extension of commercial launch indemnification. A formal conference would have, of course, allowed Members the opportunity to fully explore and discuss the issues that I have described and resolve most, if not all, of our differences. Unfortunately, such a

process was not followed in this case, and so we are left with a bill that I believe exceeds its risks.

That said, I believe that we should continue to support the emerging commercial space industry, though we must do so with an eye toward protecting all those who use it.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the esteemed chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for yielding me time. And I also want to thank the majority leader, KEVIN MCCARTHY, an honorary member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, for sponsoring this important legislation.

This bill encourages the private sector to launch rockets, take risks, and shoot for the stars. H.R. 2262, the SPACE Act, facilitates a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space sector.

It creates more stable regulatory conditions and improves safety, which, in turn, attracts private investment.

This bill secures American leadership in space and fosters the development of advanced space technologies.

It preserves the Federal Aviation Administration's ability to regulate commercial human spaceflight in order to protect national security, public health, and safety. It also preserves the FAA's ability to regulate spaceflight participants and crew safety in the event of an accident.

The SPACE Act allows the commercial space industry to develop standards and coordinate with the FAA so the industry can grow in a stable regulatory environment without the threat of arbitrary regulations that would adversely impact their ability to innovate.

International law places liability for damages that result from space accidents on the launching country. All spacefaring nations require some form of third-party liability insurance for launching entities.

The current U.S. risk-sharing structure expires in 2016. This act extends indemnification to 2025, and this provision prevents U.S. space companies from going overseas where other nations have much more favorable liability protection.

The SPACE Act also closes a statutory loophole that negates an experimental permit once a launch license is issued for the same vehicle design. This fosters greater innovation and allows an experimental permit holder to continue its tests while a license holder conducts operations.

Current law only allows for two categories of individuals carried on a spacecraft: crew and spaceflight participants. Now that NASA allows other astronauts to travel to the International Space Station, a new category is necessary to outline the roles, responsibilities, and protections for astronauts on a commercial human spaceflight launch.

This bill closes a loophole that carved out an exception for spaceflight participants from indemnification coverage. By including these individuals in the indemnification provision, spaceflight participants who participate in a launch as a result of a contest or for other reasons are not exposed to liability more than anyone else involved in the launch.

Current law requires that all parties involved in a launch waive claims against each other. This bill adds spaceflight participants to the cross-waiver requirement to ensure consistency and reinforce the informed consent requirements.

Many bipartisan provisions recently considered by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee are included in this legislation. These provisions establish in United States domestic law that U.S. citizens are entitled to explore, use, and take possession of space resources. They also streamline the regulatory process for commercial remote sensing and update the Office of Space Commerce.

Numerous space companies have expressed support for this bill. They include SpaceX; Virgin Galactic; Blue Origin; World View Enterprises; XCOR Aerospace; Mojave Air and Space Port; Planetary Resources; Moon Express; Spaceport America; Spaceport Camden, Georgia; Midland Development Corporation; Masten Space Systems; the Satellite Industry Association; and the Commercial Spaceflight Federation, which represents more than 50 commercial space companies across the United States.

This bill is the product of over 3 years of work, 14 committee hearings, multiple markups, a rule on the House floor that allowed amendments, and input from industry, education groups, and grassroots citizen advocacy groups. Virtually every space stakeholder group supports this bill. And, in fact, it passed the Senate unanimously last week.

H.R. 2262 keeps America at the forefront of the aerospace technology, promotes American jobs, reduces red tape, promotes safety, and inspires the next generation of explorers. It provides the boost America's private space partners need as they lead the world into the future.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached this point because of the persistence, over many weeks, of very able staff members. I especially thank the Space Subcommittee Staff Director, Tom Hammond; Science Committee Senior Adviser and Legislative Director, Chris Wydler; and Chief of Staff Jennifer Brown for their work on this legislation.

I also want to thank Majority Leader MCCARTHY again, for his initiative on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, nothing excites me more than to discuss and to have witnessed much of the space exploration research.

The bill we are considering today is a missed opportunity to enact sensible policies. It is a bill that, if enacted, will do harm to American taxpayers, to the long-term interests of the commercial space industry itself.

It is a bill that displays the inconsistent and contradictory approach that this Congress has taken toward this industry. On the one hand, Congress and the industry has been saying that the commercial launch industry is so mature that we are ready to send our NASA astronauts on the International Space Station as passengers on commercial spacecraft.

On the other hand, the bill before us today says that the industry is still so immature that the FAA shouldn't be allowed to impose any safety regulations to protect passengers who fly on any of the commercial spacecraft until well into the next decade; this, despite the fact that our country has more than a half century of experience in human spaceflight, and we understand very well what is needed to maintain passenger safety.

This contradictory posture makes no sense to me. NASA will insist on the insight and oversight necessary to be convinced that the vehicles its astronauts fly on will be as safe as they can be. However, with this bill, ordinary citizens who fly on commercial spacecraft won't have any similar protections.

I must point out that I am not talking in the abstraction. In just this past 13 months, we have witnessed three different commercial launch providers experience catastrophic failures. One of those failures resulted in the death of a test pilot. Another caused millions of dollars of damage to the launch facility.

With these major accidents as a backdrop, I think it is unconscionable that we are here today moving this bill in its current form.

The bill before us also goes against the interests of the American taxpayer. By extending the current licensing and indemnification regime without any updating of its provisions, it shifts more and more of the third-party liability financial risk in the event of an accident, and we know there will be accidents, from the companies to the taxpayers.

Each year that the current, outdated indemnification regime is extended, the financial exposure of the taxpayer grows, and that of the companies are reduced. I can think of no other industry where we are willing to have the government—and ultimately the American taxpayer—assume an increasing share of the financial risk of an industry as it matures.

Of course, some of my majority colleagues will argue that we have to provide that preferential treatment to our domestic commercial space transportation industry because foreign governments are providing it to theirs. Yet I would note that many of those same Members rejected that same argument when it was applied to the renewal of the Ex-Im Bank. I guess consistency is not always seen as a virtue in this party.

Mr. Speaker, I will not belabor the point. I opposed this bill when an earlier version passed the House. Unfortunately, negotiations with the Senate did not result in any significant improvements.

That is not to say there are no good provisions in the bill. There are.

□ 1815

But they are outweighed by the provisions that in one way or another say that we as a Congress are concerned with protecting the interests of the commercial space transportation industry but not the safety of the Americans who will fly on their commercial spacecraft.

Mr. Speaker, when the inevitable accident with significant loss of life occurs, whether it is 1 year from now or 5 years from now, the American public will look back at what we are doing today and ask how we could be so shortsighted. I would urge my colleagues to take a step back from this path that we are on so that we can take the time to craft legislation that will help this industry grow in a responsible manner while still protecting our citizens.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the chairman of the Space Subcommittee.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2262. This bill is the result of bipartisan negotiations with our Senate colleagues over the last several months. Just last week, the Senate passed this bill unanimously.

Over the last 3 years, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee has held 14 hearings on issues related to commercial space, with dozens of witnesses from government, industry, academia, and grassroots organizations. We have met with countless stakeholders and considered this bill in committee with markups, on the House floor under a rule that allowed for amendments, and successfully negotiated a bipartisan, bicameral bill with the Senate. By all measures, this is how the legislative process should work. I commend my colleagues both in this House and in the Senate on a job well done.

That isn't to say that this is a perfect bill, but in some instances I don't think the bill goes quite far enough. But that is the nature of our legislative process, and the bill before us moves the ball down the field in the right direction, enabling a strong American commercial space industry to flourish. This bill reflects the most significant piece of legislation relating to commercial space since 1988.

I am also very proud that our final product looks remarkably similar to the bill we approved in the House, with strong bipartisan support, earlier. We were able to convince our Senate colleagues of the importance of extending the regulatory learning period beyond 5 years to 8 years; we were able to extend indemnification to 10 years as opposed to 5 years as called for in the Senate bill; and we were able to include many additional launch provisions from the original House bill. These are important provisions that will build a strong American space industry.

I am also very pleased that the Senate agreed to include three other critical titles in this bill that were introduced and advanced by members of the committee. These include the Commercial Remote Sensing Act, sponsored by Representative BRIDENSTINE; the Office of Space Commerce Act, sponsored by Representative ROHRABACHER; and the Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act, sponsored by Representative POSEY. Their tireless advocacy ensured these provisions stayed in the bill. These provisions will pave the way for new industries to blossom in the United States, allowing our Nation to remain the world leader in space. We want the United States to be the place where the world comes for space.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan, bicameral agreement facilitates a progrowth environment for the developing commercial space sector and creates more stable regulatory conditions.

None of this could have been possible without the tireless leadership of Majority Leader MCCARTHY and Chairman LAMAR SMITH, who sponsored the bill. Throughout the process, they helped navigate and chart a course for our private sector space community. I thank them for their leadership and recommend a yes vote on this important legislation.

PLANETARY RESOURCES,
Richmond, VA, November 15, 2015.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY AND CHAIRMAN SMITH: I want to thank you for your vision in taking up H.R. 2262, the Commercial Space Launch and Competitiveness Act. Planetary Resources strongly supports H.R. 2262, as amended, and commends you for your leadership in passing this vital legislation.

The bill provides a critically important element of legal certainty regarding property rights in asteroid resources. This will help companies like ours continue to unlock private support for resource exploration in space.

Thank you for your foresight and perseverance.

Sincerely,

CHRIS LEWICKI,
CEO, Planetary Resources.

MIDLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
Midland, TX, November 13, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am writing to express our support for the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act. We appreciate your leadership in developing this important legislation.

The Midland International Air and Space Port (MAF) received its FAA license last year to operate as a commercial space launch site, also known as a spaceport. Although there are other spaceports in the United States, MAF is the only commercial service airport to have this designation. The Midland Development Corporation has been active in working closely with the City of Midland in making the spaceport successful.

Our initial plans are going well and our long-term vision is to have Midland serve as an important center for the world's growing commercial space industry. Since we are still in the early stages of commercial human spaceflight, the CSLCA is needed to assist the industry in continuing to develop and move forward and we are grateful for your efforts to have this legislation enacted.

We in Midland will continue to do all that we can to ensure that Texas and the United States are at the leading edge of commercial space developments. We look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

PAMELA WELCH,
Executive Director.

MOON EXPRESS,
Cape Canaveral, FL, November 16, 2015.

Chairman LAMAR SMITH,
House Science Committee, Washington, DC.

Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
House Science Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEMBER JOHNSON: Moon Express applauds the House and Senate negotiators for the tremendous work and effort put into crafting the bipartisan, bicameral "U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act" (CSLCA, or H.R. 2262 as amended). This new legislation sets the stage for the continued growth and expansion of the commercial space industry, and incentivizes further investments in innovation and the development of spaceflight capabilities that will benefit all Americans.

Moon Express wishes to focus particular praise on the House and Senate negotiators for Title IV of CSLCA, the "Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act of 2015", that provides the first ever codification of rights under United States law for the private sector extraction and utilization of space resources obtained from a celestial body. This landmark legislation provides a unified vision for the growth of the private sector space resources industry and will help spur new investments into this bold new field that's vital to America's future competitiveness, prosperity and security.

Moon Express, Bigelow Aerospace, and many other companies are applauding the Senate for supporting the creation of a stable and predictable environment for private sector development while encouraging investments into the bold new field of outer space resource exploration and utilization. This legislation protects and supports U.S. interests as private sector companies expand the economic sphere of Earth to the Moon and beyond.

The opportunities for the private sector to explore and utilize space resources are substantial, and Moon Express welcomes the

CSLCA and particularly the landmark legislation of its Title IV ''Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act of 2015'' that recognizes and promotes the rights of United States companies to engage in the exploration and extraction of space resources from the Moon and other celestial bodies.

For these reasons, and many more, Moon Express calls on Congress to quickly pass H.R. 2262 as amended, the bipartisan bill that will ensure that America remains the leader in space.

Sincerely,

ROBERT (BOB) RICHARDS,
Founder and CEO.

MASTEN,
Mojave, CA, November 16, 2015.

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of Masten Space Systems Inc., an American rocket technology company, we would like to express our sincerest thanks for your continued support in America's continued leadership in space exploration through the development and passing of the CSLCA bill.

Your leadership, unwavering commitment, and forward leaning legislation allows companies like ours to continue safely pursuing the reaches of space while we grow an American space company. Your bi-partisan efforts and work with the Senate has been critical to the maturation the commercial space market.

We look forward to another great year of success with the passing of this legislation and your stanch support in keeping this country on track to remain the trailblazers in the difficult endeavors of exploring this universe.

SEAN MAHONEY,
Chief Executive Officer,
Masten Space Systems Inc.

SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES,
Hawthorne, CA, November 16, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Science, Space & Technology Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) writes to share its support for passing H.R. 2262, the *U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act*, as passed by the U.S. Senate on November 9, 2015.

This bill represents a bipartisan, bicameral effort to update and extend key provisions of the Commercial Space Launch Act (CSLA), which governs the U.S. commercial space launch industry, including SpaceX's operational flights with U.S. astronauts to the Space Station that are scheduled for 2017. Along with a number of beneficial changes, this bill provides an important clarification of the legal framework for flying government astronauts and extends liability and insurance protections for space flight participants.

Thank you, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and your fellow cosponsors for leading this effort in the House. We also appreciate the hard work by Senate Commerce, Science and Technology Chairman John Thune, Ranking Member Bill Nelson, and Space, Science, and Competitiveness Subcommittee Chairman Ted Cruz and Ranking Member Gary Peters and the Senate cosponsors who contributed to this thoughtful legislation.

We hope H.R. 2262 passes the U.S. House of Representatives and is quickly signed into law. Again, thank you and your colleagues for working together on this significant legislation.

Sincerely,

GWYNNE SHOTWELL,
President.

MOJAVE AIR AND SPACE PORT,
Mojave, CA, November 13, 2015.

Subject: H.R. 2262; Support for passage

Hon. CHAIRMAN SMITH,
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Congratulations on a marvelous demonstration of leadership for our industry!

Today Mojave Air and Space Port rises in support of H.R. 2262 and requests all Members of the United States House of Representatives to join in unanimous support by voting to pass this landmark legislation. H.R. 2262 moves America away from dependence on competitive countries for our space ambitions and returns America to the forefront of space exploration and exploitation.

Again, Mr. Chairman, your personal involvement in this effort made a difference and we cannot thank you enough. Please extend our wishes to all Members of Congress and call upon us anytime as we all work together in a collective effort to return America to greatness.

Very Respectfully,

STUART O. WITT,
CEO.

MOJAVE AIR AND SPACE PORT,
Mojave, California, 13 Nov 2015.

Subject H.R. 2262; Support for passage

Hon. Majority Leader MCCARTHY,
Washington, DC.

LEADER MCCARTHY: Congratulations on an incredible demonstration of technical and political leadership for our industry!

Today Mojave Air and Space Port rises in support of H.R. 2262 and requests all Members of the United States House of Representatives to join in unanimous support by voting to pass this landmark legislation. H.R. 2262 moves America away from dependence on competitive countries for our space ambitions and returns America to the forefront of space exploration and exploitation. Your leadership on creating and moving H.R. 2262 through the legislative process will likely have the most impact on our industry since the original bill of 1984.

Mr. McCarthy, your personal involvement in our industry continues to make a difference and we cannot thank you enough. Please extend our wishes to all Members of Congress and call upon us anytime as we all work together in a collective effort to return America to greatness.

Very Respectfully,

STUART O. WITT,
CEO.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology, Washington, DC.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEMBER JOHNSON: I am writing to offer Virgin Galactic's strong support for H.R. 2262, the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act. This legislation addresses many of the policy hurdles facing the private space sector since the most recent update of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act in 2004, and creates a regulatory environment that continues to support the national objective of expanding human spaceflight.

The commercial spaceflight industry has seen incredible growth in the past few years, as we strive to make access to space ever more safe, reliable, and routine. With the passage of this bill, the industry can continue to innovate and develop the technologies that will take us to the edge of space and beyond. Virgin Galactic thanks you, your staff, and your colleagues on the Committee for your hard work on this legislation, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Sincerely,

GEORGE T. WHITESIDES,
Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Galactic.

BLUE ORIGIN,
Kent, WA, November 16, 2015.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY AND CHAIRMAN SMITH: Blue Origin strongly supports the Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act (H.R. 2262 as amended) and thanks you both for your steadfast support and efforts leading to the passage of this bill through the House of Representatives. Since its original enactment in 1984 this legislation has shaped the commercial space transportation industry, and this reauthorization paves the way for continued growth and advancement by companies like Blue Origin. This bipartisan bill enables companies like ours to increase the safety of spaceflight while opening the horizons of space to everyone. The expanded protections for spaceflight participants and opportunities for expansion in new commercial space applications guarantees a promising future for this industry. We also applaud the leadership and support of Chairman Brian Babin, and Representatives Steven Palazzo, Jim Bridenstine, Randy Hultgren, Steve Knight, Frank Lucas, Michael McCaul, John Moolenaar, Bill Posey, Dana Rohrabacher and Randy Weber, for their co-sponsorship of this important legislation.

ROBERT MEYERSON,
President, Blue Origin.

SPACEPORT CAMDEN,
Woodbine, GA, November 14, 2015.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Chairman LAMAR SMITH,
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY AND CHAIRMAN SMITH: Spaceport Camden County, a proposed spaceport along the south Georgia Coast, is fully supportive of the passage by the House of Representatives of the Commercial Space Launch Act, as recently amended by House and Senate actions.

We note that the CSLA was last updated in 2004, and that initial action created a regulatory framework for commercial human spaceflight that resulted in a wave of investment, innovation, jobs and economic growth for the U.S. Since 2004, there has been numerous successful companies formed (or expanded), citizens employed, revenues generated and significant private risk capital committed and spent to develop new approaches to space technology, utilization, services, and economic development. These developments have also captured the country's attention and spurred a renewed emphasis on the pursuit of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies by students from 5–85 years young.

The new legislation under consideration by the House sets the stage for the continued growth and expansion of the space transportation industry, while enabling rapid advances in safety for spaceflight participants. It also promotes investments in new commercial space applications, promising future spaceflight capabilities that will benefit all Americans. The bill facilitates a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging continued and

enhanced private sector investment, creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and improving safety.

We encourage the full House to vote in the affirmative for the new legislation!

Sincerely,

STEVE L. HOWARD, ICMA–CM, CPM, CPPO,
County Administrator.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE).

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I am fully convinced of the potential economic growth and innovation the commercial space industry represents. We already rely on commercial space for so much, and in the coming years, we will see this industry continuing to expand worldwide Internet coverage, advanced communication architectures, remote sensing and weather architectures, affordable access to space for science and commerce, permanent habitats in space, utilization of space resources, and the list goes on.

We must make sure that we as members of Congress do not do anything that could stifle this world-changing industry. That is why the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act is crucial. The most important aspect of this legislation is the extension of the so-called learning period or moratorium on regulations for commercial human spaceflight. We need a learning period so we can eventually create a regulatory environment based on real data, not just speculation.

The bill also extends launch indemnification to keep American space companies competitive against international companies, clarifies that a launch license and experimental permit can be issued for the same design, and enables private companies to explore and mine celestial resources by incorporating the Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act of 2015 introduced by my friends BILL POSEY and DEREK KILMER here in this body. These provisions will go a long way toward encouraging a continued growth of the commercial space industry.

I would also like to address a few provisions of this bill that I worked to include myself, and I am pleased that we were able to keep them as the Senate worked to keep them in the final bill.

Section 116 of the bill will require a GAO report to capture the role of space support vehicles in the commercial space industry, regulatory and statutory barriers to the services these vehicles offer, and recommendations for updates that will address these barriers. People will need to be trained to fly, and vehicle designs will not remain static, which is why this provision is so important. This section will help us address situations that will become more prevalent as the commercial space industry continues to expand and diversify.

Additionally, title II of this bill incorporates H.R. 2261, the Commercial Remote Sensing Act, bipartisan legislation I introduced with my friend from Colorado, ED PERLMUTTER. This title sets metrics to give Congress a full picture of the workload facing the Department of Commerce when licensing remote-sensing activities and what issues are preventing them from meeting statutory deadlines. Title II also recognizes the importance of seeking input from the Advisory Committee for Commercial Remote Sensing, which is largely made up of industry representatives. This legislation will be crucial as industry expands beyond traditional remote-sensing satellites and activities and as Congress looks to update the statutes governing these activities for the first time since the 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to thank the majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, the sponsor of this legislation, and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee chairman, Mr. SMITH, for their continued leadership on commercial space issues.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2262 is critically important to the future of American leadership, and I urge my colleagues to pass the bill.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the historic U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act. This legislation continues to lay the groundwork for a vibrant commercial space industry in the United States of America.

I would like to thank the majority leader, KEVIN MCCARTHY, and Chairman LAMAR SMITH for all their work on the legislation.

I include in the RECORD several items.

SPACEPORT AMERICA,
Las Cruces, NM, November 16, 2015.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chair, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY AND CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am writing to offer Spaceport America's strong endorsement of H.R. 2262, as amended, the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act.

This bill represents one of the most significant modernizations of commercial space policy and regulatory legislation since the original Commercial Space Launch (CSLA) was enacted in 1984. The CSLA was last updated in 2004, creating a regulatory framework for commercial human spaceffight that resulted in a wave of investment, innovation, jobs and economic growth for the U.S. This new legislation sets the stage for the continued growth and expansion of the space transportation industry, while enabling rapid advances in safety for spaceflight participants. It also promotes investments in new commercial space applications, promising future spaceflight capabilities that will benefit all Americans.

This bill is a fair and equitable compromise that resulted from months of hard work and negotiations among Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate to harmonize language from the House-passed SPACE Act of 2015 with provisions from S. 1297, the Senate's commercial space legislation. It reflects your shared vision for commercial spaceflight, while addressing issues raised by Democratic leaders during deliberations on the bill.

Last week the Senate passed this compromise bill without a single objection, indicating broad support for this legislation across the political spectrum. In May, your original SPACE Act passed the House 284–133—a 68 percent margin that included 236 Republicans and 48 Democrats. Now that the Senate has unanimously supported this bipartisan compromise, we would hope that all 435 House Members could vote in the national interest to approve this historic legislation.

Spaceport America applauds both of you for your leadership and vision in developing and shepherding this much-needed and comprehensive bill through the Congress. We thank you, your colleagues, and all of your staff for the many contributions and the perseverance in advancing this bipartisan legislation that will ensure America remains the leading force in the economic development of space.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE ANDERSON,
Chief Executive Officer.

COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2015.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chair, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY AND CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am writing to offer the Commercial Spaceflight Federation's strong endorsement of H.R. 2262, as amended, the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act. This bill represents one of the most significant modernizations of commercial space policy and regulatory legislation since the original Commercial Space Launch (CSLA) was enacted in 1984. The CSLA was last updated in 2004, creating a regulatory framework for commercial human spaceflight that resulted in a wave of investment, innovation, jobs and economic growth for the U.S. This new legislation sets the stage for the continued growth and expansion of the space transportation industry, while enabling rapid advances in safety for spaceflight participants. It also promotes investments in new commercial space applications, promising future spaceflight capabilities that will benefit all Americans.

This bill is a fair and equitable compromise that resulted from months of hard work and negotiations among Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate to harmonize language from the House-passed SPACE Act of 2015 with provisions from S. 1297, the Senate's commercial space legislation. It reflects your shared vision for commercial spaceflight, while addressing issues raised by Democratic leaders during deliberations on the bill.

Last week week the Senate passed this compromise bill without a single objection, indicating broad support for this legislation across the political spectrum. In May, your original SPACE Act passed the House 284–133—a 68 percent margin that included 236 Republicans and 48 Democrats. Now that the Senate has unanimously supported this bipartisan compromise, we would hope that all 435 House Members could vote in the national interest to approve this historic legislation.

CSF's many companies and organizations, and their employees and stakeholders, applaud both of you for your leadership and vision in developing and shepherding this much-needed and comprehensive bill through the Congress. We thank you, your colleagues, and all of your staff for the many contributions and the perseverance in advancing this bipartisan legislation that will ensure America remains the leading force in the economic development of space.

Sincerely,

ERIC W. STALLMER,
President.

SATELLITE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS CONGRESS FOR PASSING LONG-TERM EXTENSION OF COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH INDEMNIFICATION

[News: For Immediate Release—November 16, 2015]

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) today applauded the passage of a bill by the House of Representatives that will extend the existing commercial space launch indemnification regime through 2025. The indemnification provision was included as a part of the Spurring Private Aerospace Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship (SPACE) Act of 2015. The Senate has already passed identical legislation, so the measure will now be sent to the White House for signature or veto.

''Extending the launch indemnification regime for a further 10 years ensures the continuation of a long-standing provision needed for the global competitiveness of U.S. launch services companies,'' said Tom Stroup, President of SIA. ''SIA applauds this action by Congress. It is an important step to maintaining U.S. innovation and leadership in satellite launch while aiding the broader domestic and global satellite industry.''

SIA has long supported extending commercial space launch indemnification regime, which offers government indemnification for any such damages in excess of the required private launch insurance limits. The regime has never been drawn upon, but allows U.S. commercial launch service providers to compete on a level playing field with foreign providers, all of which enjoy similar indemnification from 3rd party liability damage related to launch failures.

WORLD VIEW,
November 16, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology, Washington, DC.

HONORABLE LAMAR SMITH AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: I am writing to offer World View Enterprise's strong support for the passage of H.R. 2262. The bill is a culmination of bipartisan work that promotes competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space sector.

Under H.R. 2262 innovators such as World View will develop new technologies and strong international markets, creating jobs and growing the economy right here in America. We are a company with a unique mission: to give scientists and non-astronaut spaceflight participants the opportunity to voyage to the edge of space. Our proprietary high-altitude balloons will take Voyagers on a luxury suborbital spaceflight, where they will gently soar in a comfortable, smartly outfitted, specially designed space capsule. Participants will gaze upon the spectacular, even life-changing vistas of the Earth in the vast blackness of space, as they sail along the frontiers of space.

This important policy framework, will help pave the way for American leadership in space exploration, create new opportunities for American businesses, and will help harness the tremendous potential of our space exploration industry. We anticipate significant job growth and the advent of a whole new support industry in the months and years ahead.

Thank you in advance for your support and ongoing leadership to bring this bill to fruition, and for your continued service to our nation.

Sincerely,

JANE POYNTER,
CEO, World View Enterprises.

MOON EXPRESS,
Cape Canaveral, FL, November 16th, 2015.

Chairman LAMAR SMITH,
House Science Committee, Washington, DC.
Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
House Science Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEMBER JOHNSON: Moon Express applauds the House and Senate negotiators for the tremendous work and effort put into crafting the bipartisan, bicameral ''U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act'' (CSLCA, or H.R. 2262 as amended). This new legislation sets the stage for the continued growth and expansion of the commercial space industry, and incentivizes further investments in innovation and the development of spaceflight capabilities that will benefit all Americans.

Moon Express wishes to focus particular praise on the House and Senate negotiators for Title IV of CSLCA, the ''Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act of 2015'', that provides the first ever codification of rights under United States law for the private sector extraction and utilization of space resources obtained from a celestial body. This landmark legislation provides a unified vision for the growth of the private sector space resources industry and will help spur new investments into this bold new field that's vital to America's future competitiveness, prosperity and security.

Moon Express, Bigelow Aerospace, and many other companies are applauding the Senate for supporting the creation of a stable and predictable environment for private sector development while encouraging investments into the bold new field of outer space resource exploration and utilization. This legislation protects and supports U.S. interests as private sector companies expand the economic sphere of Earth to the Moon and beyond.

The opportunities for the private sector to explore and utilize space resources are substantial, and Moon Express welcomes the CSLCA and particularly the landmark legislation of its Title IV ''Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act of 2015'' that recognizes and promotes the rights of United States companies to engage in the exploration and extraction of space resources from the Moon and other celestial bodies.

For these reasons, and many more, Moon Express calls on Congress to quickly pass H.R. 2262 as amended, the bipartisan bill that will ensure that America remains the leader in space.

Sincerely,

ROBERT (BOB) RICHARDS,
Founder and CEO.

PLANETARY RESOURCES APPLAUDS U.S. CONGRESS IN RECOGNIZING ASTEROID RESOURCE PROPERTY RIGHTS

REDMOND, WASH.—November 10, 2015—Planetary Resources, Inc., the asteroid mining company, praises the members of Congress who promoted historic legislation (H.R. 2262) that recognizes the right of U.S. citizens to own asteroid resources they obtain as property and encourages the commercial exploration and recovery of resources from asteroids, free from harmful interference.

This legislation creates a pro-growth environment for the development of the commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and ensuring a more stable and predictable regulatory regime. This law is important for the industry and is integral to protecting and supporting U.S. interests as the commercial space sector continues to expand.

''We are proud to have the support of Congress. Throughout history, governments have spurred growth in new frontiers by instituting sensible legislation. Long ago, The Homestead Act of 1862 advocated for the search for gold and timber, and today, H.R. 2262 fuels a new economy that will open many avenues for the continual growth and prosperity of humanity. This off-planet economy will forever change our lives for the better here on Earth,'' said Chris Lewicki, President and Chief Engineer, Planetary Resources, Inc.

''Planetary Resources is grateful for the leadership shown by Congress in crafting this legislation and looks forward to President Obama signing the language into law. We applaud the members of Congress who have led this effort and actively sought stakeholder input to ensure a vibrant economy and prosperous way of life now and for centuries to come. Patty Murray (D–WA), Kevin McCarthy (R–CA), Lamar Smith (R–TX), Bill Posey (R–FL) and Derek Kilmer (D–WA) have been unwavering in their support and leadership for the growth of the U.S. economy into the Solar System. Their forward-looking stance and active role in enabling the development of an economically and strategically valuable new marketplace will ensure our country's continued leadership in space,'' said Peter Marquez, Vice President of Global Engagement, Planetary Resources, Inc.

Senator Murray said, ''I am glad that we've taken this important step forward to update our federal policies to make sure they work for innovative businesses creating jobs in Washington state. Washington state leads in so many ways, and I'm proud that local businesses are once again at the forefront of new industries that will help our economy continue to grow.''

Congressman Posey said, ''This bipartisan, bicameral legislation is a landmark for American leadership in space exploration. Recognizing basic legal protections in space will help pave the way for exciting future commercial space endeavors. Asteroids and other objects in space are excellent potential sources of rare minerals and other resources that can be used to manufacture a wide range of products here on Earth and to support future space exploration missions. Americans willing to invest in space mining operations need legal certainty that they can keep the fruits of their labor, and this bill provides that certainty.''

Congressman Kilmer said, ''The commercial space industry in Washington state is leading the way in developing the cutting edge technology necessary to support human space exploration. The U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act will give these ventures the framework they need to continue to innovate, and to keep the United States at the head of this growing, global industry. I congratulate the Senate for taking this step, and I look forward to the House quickly sending this bill to President Obama's desk.''

Eric Anderson, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman, Planetary Resources, Inc., said, ''Many years from now, we will view this pivotal moment in time as a major step toward humanity becoming a multi-planetary species. This legislation establishes the same supportive framework that created the great economies of history, and it will foster the sustained development of space.''

NEW LEGISLATION ENABLES COMMERCIAL EXPLORATION AND USE OF SPACE RESOURCES—DEEP SPACE INDUSTRIES CONGRATULATES U.S. CONGRESS ON LANDMARK LEGISLATION

MOFFETT FIELD, CA—Deep Space Industries (DSI) congratulates the members of the United States Senate for passing legislation that significantly advances the cause of opening space resources to humanity. Title IV of S. 1297, also referred to as the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitive Act of 2015, promotes the right of U.S. citizens to engage in commercial exploration for, and commercial recovery of, space resources in accordance with international obligations and subject to supervision by the U.S. government.

''We are pleased to see the beginnings of legal clarity in the field of space resource utilization,'' said Rick Tumlinson, Chair of Deep Space Industries. ''This bill is a historic step forward and demonstrates that Congress can effectively and quickly pass legislation that is important to the country's economic future. The hardworking legislators and their staff on Capitol Hill are to be commended.''

Title IV will spur an influx of capital into the industry and encourage entities to further develop plans and technologies to extract minerals from the vast numbers of asteroids and other resource-rich bodies in the solar system.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, title IV of this bill includes language from H.R. 1508, the Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act. I introduced this bipartisan, bicameral bill with my colleague from the State of Washington, DEREK KILMER, and with support from many members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I appreciate the work and the research of Senators PATTY MURRAY and MARCO RUBIO to introduce identical legislation in the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 1508 provides legal clarity that if a company mines resources from an asteroid in outer space, it has the right of ownership to those resources. It does so consistent with U.S. international obligations.

The right to explore and use outer space is found in article I of the Outer Space Treaty. Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty explicitly recognizes that nongovernmental entities, such as private corporations, may explore and use outer space, including the right to remove, take possession, and use in situ natural resources from celestial bodies.

In drafting and negotiating title IV, there was a challenge in determining the best language to use to recognize this right. The term ''obtain'' was ultimately chosen because it was technically and politically neutral. It is our intention that only through actually physically recovering a resource does a company have the right of ownership of those resources.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitive Act is a critical piece of legislation to the future of our commercial space industry and space exploration efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues again for their work on this bill, and I urge passage of this important legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind our colleagues because this is really important legislation moving forward, and I think that as the ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON, has indicated and as I have, that it is not for lack of concern and support of the commercial space industry and sector that we raise concerns. This is an industry that is growing by leaps and bounds, that employs thousands of workers all across this country, and that is at the hub of entrepreneurship, research, and exploration.

It really is the 21st century future. It is really a question of what the rules of the game are going to be going forward, how to best protect the interests of taxpayers, how to protect the interests of the industry, and to see it grow in a healthy way. So I would hope that the majority would take into consideration some of the concerns that have been expressed and let's use an opportunity over these next several months and years to make sure that we get it right for the industry that is a part of our future.

I would note that, even with the reservations that have been expressed, we pointed out a number of areas where there is strength in this legislation, but we haven't gotten it all right. I would also remind the majority that, with respect to mining of asteroids, we are not doing that tomorrow, so all the more reason we should pay attention to the international treaties of which we are a part and to the needs and concerns of our international partners as we move forward; that is, we don't have to rush to judgment where it concerns mining asteroids, as we are not doing that tomorrow.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would close by just saying that I believe that there is a great future in this industry, and I am excited about it. But I also know that we have to balance a lot of our interests to make sure that we pay attention, again, to safety and that we do it in the right kind of way.

As I began, I applaud the gentlewoman from Texas for making sure that the points of concern are on the record. I do not intend to oppose the bill, and I hope that we can move forward in the future to make sure that we really can provide for the kind of strength that the industry needs.

I want to take an opportunity to thank the staff: Pam Whitney of our Space Subcommittee, who has put in tireless work on this bill; Allen Li; Russell Norman and John Piazza, our counsel. Dick Obermann, our chief of staff on the committee, has put in tireless hours to try to get it right. I think for all of those who are part of the commercial space industry, we want you to go forward, we want you to succeed, and we want to make sure that the American public, that the American taxpayer, gets the benefit of the bargain.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, today America stands at the beginning of a new era of innovation and adventure. Scientists, engineers, astronauts, and entrepreneurs are working in the deserts of California to embark on the next phase of our journey into space, and today we have the opportunity to aid them in that journey. Completing consideration of the SPACE Act in this Chamber today will help ensure America remains the leader in space exploration and innovation in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today thanks to the hard work of Chairman SMITH, his committee and their staff, especially Chris Wydler and Tom Hammond. I want to especially thank George Caram from my staff for his work as well. Because of their commitment after months of negotiations following the House passage of the original bill earlier this year, the SPACE Act passed out of the Senate unanimously. I look forward to the passage of this bill on the House floor today with similarly strong bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to vote with me to move America into the future.

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

□ 1830

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2262.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1356

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike the matter following the resolving clause and insert the following:

That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1356, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) Amend the title so as to read: ''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.''.

(2) In the table of contents in section 2, in the item relating to section 1242, amend ''Ukrainian Republic'' so as to read ''Ukraine''.

(3) In the table of contents for title XII before section 1201, in the item relating to section 1242, amend ''Ukrainian Republic'' so as to read ''Ukraine''.

*(4) In the section heading of section 1242, amend ''**UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC**'' so as to read ''**UKRAINE**''.*

(5) In section 1242, amend ''the Ukrainian Republic'' so as to read ''Ukraine'' each place it appears in subsections (a)(1) and (b).

(6) Strike section 4201 and insert the following:

''SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION.

''SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY		
		BASIC RESEARCH		
001	0601101A	IN-HOUSE LABORATORY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH	13,018	13,018
002	0601102A	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	239,118	259,118
		Basic research program increase		[20,000]
003	0601103A	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	72,603	72,603
004	0601104A	UNIVERSITY AND INDUSTRY RESEARCH CENTERS	100,340	100,340
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	***425,079***	***445,079***
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
005	0602105A	MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY	28,314	28,314
006	0602120A	SENSORS AND ELECTRONIC SURVIVABILITY	38,374	38,374
007	0602122A	TRACTOR HIP	6,879	6,879
008	0602211A	AVIATION TECHNOLOGY	56,884	56,884
009	0602270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	19,243	19,243
010	0602303A	MISSILE TECHNOLOGY	45,053	53,053
		A2/AD Anti-Ship Missile Study		[8,000]
011	0602307A	ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	29,428	29,428
012	0602308A	ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND SIMULATION	27,862	27,862
013	0602601A	COMBAT VEHICLE AND AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY	68,839	68,839
014	0602618A	BALLISTICS TECHNOLOGY	92,801	92,801
015	0602622A	CHEMICAL, SMOKE AND EQUIPMENT DEFEATING TECHNOLOGY	3,866	3,866
016	0602623A	JOINT SERVICE SMALL ARMS PROGRAM	5,487	5,487
017	0602624A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY	48,340	48,340
018	0602705A	ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES	55,301	55,301
019	0602709A	NIGHT VISION TECHNOLOGY	33,807	33,807
020	0602712A	COUNTERMINE SYSTEMS	25,068	25,068
021	0602716A	HUMAN FACTORS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	23,681	23,681
022	0602720A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY	20,850	20,850
023	0602782A	COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	36,160	36,160
024	0602783A	COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY	12,656	12,656
025	0602784A	MILITARY ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	63,409	63,409
026	0602785A	MANPOWER/PERSONNEL/TRAINING TECHNOLOGY	24,735	24,735
027	0602786A	WARFIGHTER TECHNOLOGY	35,795	35,795
028	0602787A	MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	76,853	76,853
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	***879,685***	***887,685***
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
029	0603001A	WARFIGHTER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	46,973	46,973
030	0603002A	MEDICAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	69,584	69,584
031	0603003A	AVIATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	89,736	89,736
032	0603004A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	57,663	57,663
033	0603005A	COMBAT VEHICLE AND AUTOMOTIVE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	113,071	113,071
034	0603006A	SPACE APPLICATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	5,554	5,554
035	0603007A	MANPOWER, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	12,636	12,636
037	0603009A	TRACTOR HIKE	7,502	7,502
038	0603015A	NEXT GENERATION TRAINING & SIMULATION SYSTEMS	17,425	17,425
039	0603020A	TRACTOR ROSE	11,912	11,912
040	0603125A	COMBATING TERRORISM—TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	27,520	27,520
041	0603130A	TRACTOR NAIL	2,381	2,381
042	0603131A	TRACTOR EGGS	2,431	2,431
043	0603270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	26,874	26,874
044	0603313A	MISSILE AND ROCKET ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	49,449	49,449
045	0603322A	TRACTOR CAGE	10,999	10,999
046	0603461A	HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	177,159	177,159
047	0603606A	LANDMINE WARFARE AND BARRIER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	13,993	13,993
048	0603607A	JOINT SERVICE SMALL ARMS PROGRAM	5,105	5,105
049	0603710A	NIGHT VISION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	40,929	40,929
050	0603728A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	10,727	10,727
051	0603734A	MILITARY ENGINEERING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	20,145	20,145
052	0603772A	ADVANCED TACTICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE AND SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	38,163	38,163
053	0603794A	C3 ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	37,816	37,816
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	***895,747***	***895,747***
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
054	0603305A	ARMY MISSLE DEFENSE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	10,347	10,347
055	0603308A	ARMY SPACE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	25,061	25,061
056	0603619A	LANDMINE WARFARE AND BARRIER—ADV DEV	49,636	49,636
057	0603627A	SMOKE, OBSCURANT AND TARGET DEFEATING SYS-ADV DEV	13,426	13,426
058	0603639A	TANK AND MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION	46,749	46,749
060	0603747A	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY	6,258	6,258
061	0603766A	TACTICAL ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM—ADV DEV	13,472	13,472
062	0603774A	NIGHT VISION SYSTEMS ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	7,292	7,292
063	0603779A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY—DEM/VAL	8,813	8,813

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
065	0603790A	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	6,075	6,075
067	0603804A	LOGISTICS AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT—ADV DEV	21,233	21,233
068	0603807A	MEDICAL SYSTEMS—ADV DEV	31,962	31,962
069	0603827A	SOLDIER SYSTEMS—ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	22,194	22,194
071	0604100A	ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES	9,805	9,805
072	0604115A	TECHNOLOGY MATURATION INITIATIVES	40,917	40,917
073	0604120A	ASSURED POSITIONING, NAVIGATION AND TIMING (PNT)	30,058	30,058
074	0604319A	INDIRECT FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITY INCREMENT 2–INTERCEPT (IFPC2)	155,361	155,361
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	**498,659**	**498,659**
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION		
076	0604201A	AIRCRAFT AVIONICS	12,939	12,939
078	0604270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	18,843	18,843
079	0604280A	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO	9,861	9,861
080	0604290A	MID-TIER NETWORKING VEHICULAR RADIO (MNVR)	8,763	8,763
081	0604321A	ALL SOURCE ANALYSIS SYSTEM	4,309	4,309
082	0604328A	TRACTOR CAGE	15,138	15,138
083	0604601A	INFANTRY SUPPORT WEAPONS	74,128	80,628
		Army requested realignment		[1,500]
		Soldier Enhancement Program		[5,000]
085	0604611A	JAVELIN	3,945	3,945
087	0604633A	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	10,076	10,076
088	0604641A	TACTICAL UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE (TUGV)	40,374	40,374
089	0604710A	NIGHT VISION SYSTEMS—ENG DEV	67,582	67,582
090	0604713A	COMBAT FEEDING, CLOTHING, AND EQUIPMENT	1,763	1,763
091	0604715A	NON-SYSTEM TRAINING DEVICES—ENG DEV	27,155	27,155
092	0604741A	AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, CONTROL AND INTELLIGENCE—ENG DEV	24,569	24,569
093	0604742A	CONSTRUCTIVE SIMULATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	23,364	23,364
094	0604746A	AUTOMATIC TEST EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT	8,960	8,960
095	0604760A	DISTRIBUTIVE INTERACTIVE SIMULATIONS (DIS)—ENG DEV	9,138	9,138
096	0604780A	COMBINED ARMS TACTICAL TRAINER (CATT) CORE	21,622	21,622
097	0604798A	BRIGADE ANALYSIS, INTEGRATION AND EVALUATION	99,242	99,242
098	0604802A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS—ENG DEV	21,379	21,379
099	0604804A	LOGISTICS AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT—ENG DEV	48,339	48,339
100	0604805A	COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS—ENG DEV	2,726	2,726
101	0604807A	MEDICAL MATERIEL/MEDICAL BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE EQUIPMENT—ENG DEV	45,412	45,412
102	0604808A	LANDMINE WARFARE/BARRIER—ENG DEV	55,215	55,215
104	0604818A	ARMY TACTICAL COMMAND & CONTROL HARDWARE & SOFTWARE	163,643	163,643
105	0604820A	RADAR DEVELOPMENT	12,309	12,309
106	0604822A	GENERAL FUND ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEM (GFEBS)	15,700	15,700
107	0604823A	FIREFINDER	6,243	6,243
108	0604827A	SOLDIER SYSTEMS—WARRIOR DEM/VAL	18,776	18,776
109	0604854A	ARTILLERY SYSTEMS—EMD	1,953	1,953
110	0605013A	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	67,358	67,358
111	0605018A	INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM-ARMY (IPPS-A)	136,011	121,011
		Restructure program		[–15,000]
112	0605028A	ARMORED MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE (AMPV)	230,210	230,210
113	0605030A	JOINT TACTICAL NETWORK CENTER (JTNC)	13,357	13,357
114	0605031A	JOINT TACTICAL NETWORK (JTN)	18,055	18,055
115	0605032A	TRACTOR TIRE	5,677	5,677
116	0605035A	COMMON INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES (CIRCM)	77,570	101,570
		Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement		[24,000]
117	0605051A	AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY DEVELOPMENT	18,112	78,112
		Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement		[60,000]
118	0605350A	WIN-T INCREMENT 3—FULL NETWORKING	39,700	39,700
119	0605380A	AMF JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM (JTRS)	12,987	12,987
120	0605450A	JOINT AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE (JAGM)	88,866	74,966
		EMD contract delays		[–13,900]
121	0605456A	PAC–3/MSE MISSILE	2,272	2,272
122	0605457A	ARMY INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AIAMD)	214,099	214,099
123	0605625A	MANNED GROUND VEHICLE	49,247	39,247
		Funding ahead of need		[–10,000]
124	0605626A	AERIAL COMMON SENSOR	2	2
125	0605766A	NATIONAL CAPABILITIES INTEGRATION (MIP)	10,599	10,599
126	0605812A	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE (JLTV) ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT PH.	32,486	32,486
127	0605830A	AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	8,880	8,880
128	0210609A	PALADIN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT (PIM)	152,288	152,288
129	0303032A	TROJAN—RH12	5,022	5,022
130	0304270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	12,686	12,686
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	**2,068,950**	**2,120,550**
		RDT&E MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
131	0604256A	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	20,035	20,035
132	0604258A	TARGET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	16,684	16,684
133	0604759A	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	62,580	62,580
134	0605103A	RAND ARROYO CENTER	20,853	20,853
135	0605301A	ARMY KWAJALEIN ATOLL	205,145	205,145
136	0605326A	CONCEPTS EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAM	19,430	19,430
138	0605601A	ARMY TEST RANGES AND FACILITIES	277,646	277,646

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
139	0605602A	ARMY TECHNICAL TEST INSTRUMENTATION AND TARGETS	51,550	51,550
140	0605604A	SURVIVABILITY/LETHALITY ANALYSIS	33,246	33,246
141	0605606A	AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION	4,760	4,760
142	0605702A	METEOROLOGICAL SUPPORT TO RDT&E ACTIVITIES	8,303	8,303
143	0605706A	MATERIEL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS	20,403	20,403
144	0605709A	EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN ITEMS	10,396	10,396
145	0605712A	SUPPORT OF OPERATIONAL TESTING	49,337	49,337
146	0605716A	ARMY EVALUATION CENTER	52,694	52,694
147	0605718A	ARMY MODELING & SIM X-CMD COLLABORATION & INTEG	938	938
148	0605801A	PROGRAMWIDE ACTIVITIES	60,319	60,319
149	0605803A	TECHNICAL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES	28,478	28,478
150	0605805A	MUNITIONS STANDARDIZATION, EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY	32,604	24,604
		Program reduction		[–8,000]
151	0605857A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY MGMT SUPPORT	3,186	3,186
152	0605898A	MANAGEMENT HQ—R&D	48,955	48,955
		SUBTOTAL RDT&E MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	**1,027,542**	**1,019,542**
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
154	0603778A	MLRS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	18,397	18,397
155	0603813A	TRACTOR PULL	9,461	9,461
156	0607131A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	4,945	4,945
157	0607133A	TRACTOR SMOKE	7,569	7,569
158	0607135A	APACHE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	69,862	69,862
159	0607136A	BLACKHAWK PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	66,653	66,653
160	0607137A	CHINOOK PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	37,407	37,407
161	0607138A	FIXED WING PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	1,151	1,151
162	0607139A	IMPROVED TURBINE ENGINE PROGRAM	51,164	51,164
163	0607140A	EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FROM NIE	2,481	2,481
164	0607141A	LOGISTICS AUTOMATION	1,673	1,673
166	0607665A	FAMILY OF BIOMETRICS	13,237	13,237
167	0607865A	PATRIOT PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT	105,816	105,816
169	0202429A	AEROSTAT JOINT PROJECT—COCOM EXERCISE	40,565	40,565
171	0203728A	JOINT AUTOMATED DEEP OPERATION COORDINATION SYSTEM (JADOCS)	35,719	35,719
172	0203735A	COMBAT VEHICLE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	257,167	354,167
		Stryker Lethality Upgrades		[97,000]
173	0203740A	MANEUVER CONTROL SYSTEM	15,445	15,445
175	0203752A	AIRCRAFT ENGINE COMPONENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	364	364
176	0203758A	DIGITIZATION	4,361	4,361
177	0203801A	MISSILE/AIR DEFENSE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	3,154	3,154
178	0203802A	OTHER MISSILE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	35,951	35,951
179	0203808A	TRACTOR CARD	34,686	34,686
180	0205402A	INTEGRATED BASE DEFENSE—OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEV	10,750	10,750
181	0205410A	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT	402	402
183	0205456A	LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AMD) SYSTEM	64,159	64,159
184	0205778A	GUIDED MULTIPLE-LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM (GMLRS)	17,527	17,527
185	0208053A	JOINT TACTICAL GROUND SYSTEM	20,515	20,515
187	0303028A	SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES	12,368	12,368
188	0303140A	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	31,154	31,154
189	0303141A	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	12,274	12,274
190	0303142A	SATCOM GROUND ENVIRONMENT (SPACE)	9,355	9,355
191	0303150A	WWMCCS/GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	7,053	7,053
193	0305179A	INTEGRATED BROADCAST SERVICE (IBS)	750	750
194	0305204A	TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES	13,225	13,225
195	0305206A	AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	22,870	22,870
196	0305208A	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	25,592	25,592
199	0305233A	RQ–7 UAV	7,297	7,297
201	0310349A	WIN-T INCREMENT 2—INITIAL NETWORKING	3,800	3,800
202	0708045A	END ITEM INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES	48,442	48,442
202A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	4,536	4,536
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	**1,129,297**	**1,226,297**
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY	**6,924,959**	**7,093,559**
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY		
		BASIC RESEARCH		
001	0601103N	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	116,196	125,196
		Defense University Research Instumentation Program increase		[9,000]
002	0601152N	IN-HOUSE LABORATORY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH	19,126	19,126
003	0601153N	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	451,606	479,106
		Basic research program increase		[27,500]
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	**586,928**	**623,428**
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
004	0602114N	POWER PROJECTION APPLIED RESEARCH	68,723	68,723
005	0602123N	FORCE PROTECTION APPLIED RESEARCH	154,963	154,963
006	0602131M	MARINE CORPS LANDING FORCE TECHNOLOGY	49,001	49,001
007	0602235N	COMMON PICTURE APPLIED RESEARCH	42,551	42,551
008	0602236N	WARFIGHTER SUSTAINMENT APPLIED RESEARCH	45,056	45,056
009	0602271N	ELECTROMAGNETIC SYSTEMS APPLIED RESEARCH	115,051	115,051
010	0602435N	OCEAN WARFIGHTING ENVIRONMENT APPLIED RESEARCH	42,252	62,252
		Service Life Extension for the AGOR Ship		[20,000]
011	0602651M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS APPLIED RESEARCH	6,119	6,119

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
012	0602747N	UNDERSEA WARFARE APPLIED RESEARCH	123,750	142,350
		Accelerate undersea warfare research		[18,600]
013	0602750N	FUTURE NAVAL CAPABILITIES APPLIED RESEARCH	179,686	179,686
014	0602782N	MINE AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE APPLIED RESEARCH	37,418	37,418
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	**864,570**	**903,170**
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
015	0603114N	POWER PROJECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	37,093	37,093
016	0603123N	FORCE PROTECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	38,044	38,044
017	0603271N	ELECTROMAGNETIC SYSTEMS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	34,899	34,899
018	0603640M	USMC ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION (ATD)	137,562	137,562
019	0603651M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	12,745	12,745
020	0603673N	FUTURE NAVAL CAPABILITIES ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	258,860	258,860
021	0603680N	MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	57,074	57,074
022	0603729N	WARFIGHTER PROTECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	4,807	4,807
023	0603747N	UNDERSEA WARFARE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	13,748	13,748
024	0603758N	NAVY WARFIGHTING EXPERIMENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS	66,041	66,041
025	0603782N	MINE AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	1,991	1,991
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	**662,864**	**662,864**
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
026	0603207N	AIR/OCEAN TACTICAL APPLICATIONS	41,832	41,832
027	0603216N	AVIATION SURVIVABILITY	5,404	5,404
028	0603237N	DEPLOYABLE JOINT COMMAND AND CONTROL	3,086	3,086
029	0603251N	AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS	11,643	11,643
030	0603254N	ASW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	5,555	5,555
031	0603261N	TACTICAL AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE	3,087	3,087
032	0603382N	ADVANCED COMBAT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY	1,636	1,636
033	0603502N	SURFACE AND SHALLOW WATER MINE COUNTERMEASURES	118,588	113,588
		LDUUV development growth		[–5,000]
034	0603506N	SURFACE SHIP TORPEDO DEFENSE	77,385	77,385
035	0603512N	CARRIER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	8,348	8,348
036	0603525N	PILOT FISH	123,246	123,246
037	0603527N	RETRACT LARCH	28,819	28,819
038	0603536N	RETRACT JUNIPER	112,678	112,678
039	0603542N	RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL	710	710
040	0603553N	SURFACE ASW	1,096	1,096
041	0603561N	ADVANCED SUBMARINE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	87,160	93,360
		Accelerate unmanned underwater vehicle development		[10,000]
		Universal launch and recovery module unfunded outyear tail		[–3,800]
042	0603562N	SUBMARINE TACTICAL WARFARE SYSTEMS	10,371	10,371
043	0603563N	SHIP CONCEPT ADVANCED DESIGN	11,888	11,888
044	0603564N	SHIP PRELIMINARY DESIGN & FEASIBILITY STUDIES	4,332	4,332
045	0603570N	ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS	482,040	482,040
046	0603573N	ADVANCED SURFACE MACHINERY SYSTEMS	25,904	25,904
047	0603576N	CHALK EAGLE	511,802	511,802
048	0603581N	LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP (LCS)	118,416	118,416
049	0603582N	COMBAT SYSTEM INTEGRATION	35,901	35,901
050	0603595N	OHIO REPLACEMENT	971,393	971,393
051	0603596N	LCS MISSION MODULES	206,149	206,149
052	0603597N	AUTOMATED TEST AND RE-TEST (ATRT)	8,000	8,000
053	0603609N	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS	7,678	7,678
054	0603611M	MARINE CORPS ASSAULT VEHICLES	219,082	219,082
055	0603635M	MARINE CORPS GROUND COMBAT/SUPPORT SYSTEM	623	623
056	0603654N	JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	18,260	18,260
057	0603658N	COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT	76,247	76,247
058	0603713N	OCEAN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	4,520	4,520
059	0603721N	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	20,711	20,711
060	0603724N	NAVY ENERGY PROGRAM	47,761	47,761
061	0603725N	FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT	5,226	5,226
062	0603734N	CHALK CORAL	182,771	182,771
063	0603739N	NAVY LOGISTIC PRODUCTIVITY	3,866	3,866
064	0603746N	RETRACT MAPLE	360,065	360,065
065	0603748N	LINK PLUMERIA	237,416	237,416
066	0603751N	RETRACT ELM	37,944	37,944
067	0603764N	LINK EVERGREEN	47,312	47,312
068	0603787N	SPECIAL PROCESSES	17,408	17,408
069	0603790N	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	9,359	9,359
070	0603795N	LAND ATTACK TECHNOLOGY	887	887
071	0603851M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS TESTING	29,448	29,448
072	0603860N	JOINT PRECISION APPROACH AND LANDING SYSTEMS—DEM/VAL	91,479	91,479
073	0603925N	DIRECTED ENERGY AND ELECTRIC WEAPON SYSTEMS	67,360	67,360
074	0604112N	GERALD R. FORD CLASS NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIER (CVN 78—80)	48,105	127,205
		Full ship shock trials for CVN–78		[79,100]
075	0604122N	REMOTE MINEHUNTING SYSTEM (RMS)	20,089	20,089
076	0604272N	TACTICAL AIR DIRECTIONAL INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES (TADIRCM)	18,969	18,969
077	0604279N	ASE SELF-PROTECTION OPTIMIZATION	7,874	7,874
078	0604292N	MH-XX	5,298	5,298
079	0604454N	LX (R)	46,486	75,486
		LX(R) Acceleration		[29,000]
080	0604653N	JOINT COUNTER RADIO CONTROLLED IED ELECTRONIC WARFARE (JCREW)	3,817	3,817
081	0604659N	PRECISION STRIKE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	9,595	9,595

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
082	0604707N	SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE (SEW) ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING SUPPORT	29,581	25,246
		Maritime concept generation and development growth		[–4,335]
083	0604786N	OFFENSIVE ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE WEAPON DEVELOPMENT	285,849	285,849
084	0605812M	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE (JLTV) ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT PH.	36,656	36,656
085	0303354N	ASW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT—MIP	9,835	9,835
086	0304270N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT—MIP	580	580
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	**5,024,626**	**5,129,591**
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION		
087	0603208N	TRAINING SYSTEM AIRCRAFT	21,708	21,708
088	0604212N	OTHER HELO DEVELOPMENT	11,101	11,101
089	0604214N	AV–8B AIRCRAFT—ENG DEV	39,878	39,878
090	0604215N	STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT	53,059	53,059
091	0604216N	MULTI-MISSION HELICOPTER UPGRADE DEVELOPMENT	21,358	21,358
092	0604218N	AIR/OCEAN EQUIPMENT ENGINEERING	4,515	4,515
093	0604221N	P–3 MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	1,514	1,514
094	0604230N	WARFARE SUPPORT SYSTEM	5,875	5,875
095	0604231N	TACTICAL COMMAND SYSTEM	81,553	81,553
096	0604234N	ADVANCED HAWKEYE	272,149	264,149
		Cost growth		[–8,000]
097	0604245N	H–1 UPGRADES	27,235	27,235
098	0604261N	ACOUSTIC SEARCH SENSORS	35,763	35,763
099	0604262N	V–22A	87,918	87,918
100	0604264N	AIR CREW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	12,679	12,679
101	0604269N	EA–18	56,921	56,921
102	0604270N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	23,685	23,685
103	0604273N	EXECUTIVE HELO DEVELOPMENT	507,093	507,093
104	0604274N	NEXT GENERATION JAMMER (NGJ)	411,767	403,767
		Contract delays		[–8,000]
105	0604280N	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM—NAVY (JTRS-NAVY)	25,071	25,071
106	0604307N	SURFACE COMBATANT COMBAT SYSTEM ENGINEERING	443,433	421,133
		Aegis development support growth		[–22,300]
107	0604311N	LPD–17 CLASS SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	747	747
108	0604329N	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB (SDB)	97,002	84,644
		F–18 integration contract delay		[–12,358]
109	0604366N	STANDARD MISSILE IMPROVEMENTS	129,649	129,649
110	0604373N	AIRBORNE MCM	11,647	11,647
111	0604376M	MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE (MAGTF) ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) FOR AVIATION	2,778	2,778
112	0604378N	NAVAL INTEGRATED FIRE CONTROL—COUNTER AIR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	23,695	23,695
113	0604404N	UNMANNED CARRIER LAUNCHED AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE AND STRIKE (UCLASS) SYSTEM.	134,708	484,708
		Competitive air vehicle risk reduction activities		[300,000]
		Government and industry source selection preparation		[50,000]
114	0604501N	ADVANCED ABOVE WATER SENSORS	43,914	43,914
115	0604503N	SSN–688 AND TRIDENT MODERNIZATION	109,908	109,908
116	0604504N	AIR CONTROL	57,928	57,928
117	0604512N	SHIPBOARD AVIATION SYSTEMS	120,217	120,217
118	0604522N	AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE RADAR (AMDR) SYSTEM	241,754	241,754
119	0604558N	NEW DESIGN SSN	122,556	122,556
120	0604562N	SUBMARINE TACTICAL WARFARE SYSTEM	48,213	60,213
		Accelerate submarine combat and weapon system modernization		[12,000]
121	0604567N	SHIP CONTRACT DESIGN/ LIVE FIRE T&E	49,712	49,712
122	0604574N	NAVY TACTICAL COMPUTER RESOURCES	4,096	4,096
123	0604580N	VIRGINIA PAYLOAD MODULE (VPM)	167,719	167,719
124	0604601N	MINE DEVELOPMENT	15,122	15,122
125	0604610N	LIGHTWEIGHT TORPEDO DEVELOPMENT	33,738	33,738
126	0604654N	JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	8,123	8,123
127	0604703N	PERSONNEL, TRAINING, SIMULATION, AND HUMAN FACTORS	7,686	7,686
128	0604727N	JOINT STANDOFF WEAPON SYSTEMS	405	405
129	0604755N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (DETECT & CONTROL)	153,836	153,836
130	0604756N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (ENGAGE: HARD KILL)	99,619	99,619
131	0604757N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (ENGAGE: SOFT KILL/EW)	116,798	116,798
132	0604761N	INTELLIGENCE ENGINEERING	4,353	4,353
133	0604771N	MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT	9,443	9,443
134	0604777N	NAVIGATION/ID SYSTEM	32,469	32,469
135	0604800M	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF)—EMD	537,901	537,901
136	0604800N	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF)—EMD	504,736	504,736
137	0604810M	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FOLLOW ON DEVELOPMENT—MARINE CORPS	59,265	20,800
		Program delay		[–38,465]
138	0604810N	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FOLLOW ON DEVELOPMENT—NAVY	47,579	21,244
		Program delay		[–26,335]
139	0605013M	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	5,914	5,914
140	0605013N	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	89,711	89,711
141	0605212N	CH–53K RDTE	632,092	632,092
142	0605220N	SHIP TO SHORE CONNECTOR (SSC)	7,778	7,778
143	0605450N	JOINT AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE (JAGM)	25,898	25,898
144	0605500N	MULTI-MISSION MARITIME AIRCRAFT (MMA)	247,929	247,929
145	0204202N	DDG–1000	103,199	103,199
146	0304231N	TACTICAL COMMAND SYSTEM—MIP	998	998
147	0304785N	TACTICAL CRYPTOLOGIC SYSTEMS	17,785	17,785
148	0305124N	SPECIAL APPLICATIONS PROGRAM	35,905	35,905

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	**6,308,800**	**6,555,342**
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
149	0604256N	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	30,769	30,769
150	0604258N	TARGET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	112,606	112,606
151	0604759N	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	61,234	61,234
152	0605126N	JOINT THEATER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION	6,995	6,995
153	0605152N	STUDIES AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT—NAVY	4,011	4,011
154	0605154N	CENTER FOR NAVAL ANALYSES	48,563	48,563
155	0605285N	NEXT GENERATION FIGHTER	5,000	5,000
157	0605804N	TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICES	925	925
158	0605853N	MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	78,143	78,143
159	0605856N	STRATEGIC TECHNICAL SUPPORT	3,258	3,258
160	0605861N	RDT&E SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT	76,948	76,948
161	0605863N	RDT&E SHIP AND AIRCRAFT SUPPORT	132,122	132,122
162	0605864N	TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	351,912	351,912
163	0605865N	OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION CAPABILITY	17,985	17,985
164	0605866N	NAVY SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE (SEW) SUPPORT	5,316	5,316
165	0605867N	SEW SURVEILLANCE/RECONNAISSANCE SUPPORT	6,519	6,519
166	0605873M	MARINE CORPS PROGRAM WIDE SUPPORT	13,649	13,649
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	**955,955**	**955,955**
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
174	0101221N	STRATEGIC SUB & WEAPONS SYSTEM SUPPORT	107,039	107,039
175	0101224N	SSBN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	46,506	46,506
176	0101226N	SUBMARINE ACOUSTIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	3,900	4,700
		Accelerate combat rapid attack weapon		[800]
177	0101402N	NAVY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	16,569	16,569
178	0203761N	RAPID TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION (RTT)	18,632	11,132
		TIPS program growth		[–7,500]
179	0204136N	F/A–18 SQUADRONS	133,265	133,265
181	0204163N	FLEET TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TACTICAL)	62,867	51,067
		Joint aerial layer network growth		[–11,800]
182	0204228N	SURFACE SUPPORT	36,045	36,045
183	0204229N	TOMAHAWK AND TOMAHAWK MISSION PLANNING CENTER (TMPC)	25,228	25,228
184	0204311N	INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	54,218	54,218
185	0204413N	AMPHIBIOUS TACTICAL SUPPORT UNITS (DISPLACEMENT CRAFT)	11,335	11,335
186	0204460M	GROUND/AIR TASK ORIENTED RADAR (G/ATOR)	80,129	65,629
		Block II test assets early to need		[–14,500]
187	0204571N	CONSOLIDATED TRAINING SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	39,087	39,087
188	0204574N	CRYPTOLOGIC DIRECT SUPPORT	1,915	1,915
189	0204575N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) READINESS SUPPORT	46,609	46,609
190	0205601N	HARM IMPROVEMENT	52,708	16,164
		AARGM extended range program growth		[–36,544]
191	0205604N	TACTICAL DATA LINKS	149,997	149,997
192	0205620N	SURFACE ASW COMBAT SYSTEM INTEGRATION	24,460	24,460
193	0205632N	MK–48 ADCAP	42,206	47,706
		Accelerate torpedo upgrades		[5,500]
194	0205633N	AVIATION IMPROVEMENTS	117,759	117,759
195	0205675N	OPERATIONAL NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS	101,323	101,323
196	0206313M	MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	67,763	67,763
197	0206335M	COMMON AVIATION COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (CAC2S)	13,431	13,431
198	0206623M	MARINE CORPS GROUND COMBAT/SUPPORTING ARMS SYSTEMS	56,769	48,669
		Project delays		[–8,100]
199	0206624M	MARINE CORPS COMBAT SERVICES SUPPORT	20,729	20,729
200	0206625M	USMC INTELLIGENCE/ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS (MIP)	13,152	13,152
201	0206629M	AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE	48,535	48,535
202	0207161N	TACTICAL AIM MISSILES	76,016	76,016
203	0207163N	ADVANCED MEDIUM RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE (AMRAAM)	32,172	32,172
208	0303109N	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (SPACE)	53,239	53,239
209	0303138N	CONSOLIDATED AFLOAT NETWORK ENTERPRISE SERVICES (CANES)	21,677	21,677
210	0303140N	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	28,102	28,102
211	0303150M	WWMCCS/GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	294	294
213	0305160N	NAVY METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEAN SENSORS-SPACE (METOC)	599	599
214	0305192N	MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM (MIP) ACTIVITIES	6,207	6,207
215	0305204N	TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES	8,550	8,550
216	0305205N	UAS INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABILITY	41,831	41,831
217	0305208M	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	1,105	1,105
218	0305208N	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	33,149	33,149
219	0305220N	RQ–4 UAV	227,188	227,188
220	0305231N	MQ–8 UAV	52,770	52,770
221	0305232M	RQ–11 UAV	635	635
222	0305233N	RQ–7 UAV	688	688
223	0305234N	SMALL (LEVEL 0) TACTICAL UAS (STUASL0)	4,647	4,647
224	0305239M	RQ–21A	6,435	6,435
225	0305241N	MULTI-INTELLIGENCE SENSOR DEVELOPMENT	49,145	49,145
226	0305242M	UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) PAYLOADS (MIP)	9,246	9,246
227	0305421N	RQ–4 MODERNIZATION	150,854	150,854
228	0308601N	MODELING AND SIMULATION SUPPORT	4,757	4,757
229	0702207N	DEPOT MAINTENANCE (NON-IF)	24,185	24,185
231	0708730N	MARITIME TECHNOLOGY (MARITECH)	4,321	4,321
231A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,252,185	1,252,185

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	**3,482,173**	**3,410,029**
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	**17,885,916**	**18,240,379**
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF		
		BASIC RESEARCH		
001	0601102F	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	329,721	352,221
		Basic research program increase		[22,500]
002	0601103F	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	141,754	141,754
003	0601108F	HIGH ENERGY LASER RESEARCH INITIATIVES	13,778	13,778
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	**485,253**	**507,753**
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
004	0602102F	MATERIALS	125,234	125,234
005	0602201F	AEROSPACE VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES	123,438	123,438
006	0602202F	HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS APPLIED RESEARCH	100,530	100,530
007	0602203F	AEROSPACE PROPULSION	182,326	182,326
008	0602204F	AEROSPACE SENSORS	147,291	147,291
009	0602601F	SPACE TECHNOLOGY	116,122	116,122
010	0602602F	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS	99,851	99,851
011	0602605F	DIRECTED ENERGY TECHNOLOGY	115,604	115,604
012	0602788F	DOMINANT INFORMATION SCIENCES AND METHODS	164,909	164,909
013	0602890F	HIGH ENERGY LASER RESEARCH	42,037	42,037
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	**1,217,342**	**1,217,342**
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
014	0603112F	ADVANCED MATERIALS FOR WEAPON SYSTEMS	37,665	47,665
		Metals Affordability Initiative		[10,000]
015	0603199F	SUSTAINMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)	18,378	18,378
016	0603203F	ADVANCED AEROSPACE SENSORS	42,183	42,183
017	0603211F	AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY DEV/DEMO	100,733	100,733
018	0603216F	AEROSPACE PROPULSION AND POWER TECHNOLOGY	168,821	168,821
019	0603270F	ELECTRONIC COMBAT TECHNOLOGY	47,032	47,032
020	0603401F	ADVANCED SPACECRAFT TECHNOLOGY	54,897	54,897
021	0603444F	MAUI SPACE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (MSSS)	12,853	12,853
022	0603456F	HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	25,448	25,448
023	0603601F	CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	48,536	48,536
024	0603605F	ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	30,195	30,195
025	0603680F	MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	42,630	52,630
		Maturation of advanced manufacturing for low-cost sustainment		[10,000]
026	0603788F	BATTLESPACE KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	46,414	46,414
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	**675,785**	**695,785**
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
027	0603260F	INTELLIGENCE ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	5,032	5,032
029	0603438F	SPACE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY	4,070	4,070
030	0603742F	COMBAT IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY	21,790	21,790
031	0603790F	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	4,736	4,736
033	0603830F	SPACE SECURITY AND DEFENSE PROGRAM	30,771	30,771
034	0603851F	INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE—DEM/VAL	39,765	39,765
036	0604015F	LONG RANGE STRIKE	1,246,228	556,228
		Delayed EMD contract award		[–690,000]
037	0604317F	TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	3,512	8,512
		Technology transfer program increase		[5,000]
038	0604327F	HARD AND DEEPLY BURIED TARGET DEFEAT SYSTEM (HDBTDS) PROGRAM	54,637	54,637
040	0604422F	WEATHER SYSTEM FOLLOW-ON	76,108	51,108
		Unjustified increase and analysis of alternatives		[–25,000]
044	0604857F	OPERATIONALLY RESPONSIVE SPACE	6,457	19,957
		SSA, Weather, or Launch Activities		[13,500]
045	0604858F	TECH TRANSITION PROGRAM	246,514	246,514
046	0605230F	GROUND BASED STRATEGIC DETERRENT	75,166	75,166
049	0207110F	NEXT GENERATION AIR DOMINANCE	8,830	8,830
050	0207455F	THREE DIMENSIONAL LONG-RANGE RADAR (3DELRR)	14,939	14,939
051	0305164F	NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (USER EQUIPMENT) (SPACE)	142,288	142,288
052	0306250F	CYBER OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	81,732	96,732
		Increase USCC Cyber Operations Technology Development		[15,000]
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	**2,062,575**	**1,381,075**
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION		
055	0604270F	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	929	929
056	0604281F	TACTICAL DATA NETWORKS ENTERPRISE	60,256	60,256
057	0604287F	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT	5,973	5,973
058	0604329F	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB (SDB)—EMD	32,624	32,624
059	0604421F	COUNTERSPACE SYSTEMS	24,208	24,208
060	0604425F	SPACE SITUATION AWARENESS SYSTEMS	32,374	32,374
061	0604426F	SPACE FENCE	243,909	243,909
062	0604429F	AIRBORNE ELECTRONIC ATTACK	8,358	8,358
063	0604441F	SPACE BASED INFRARED SYSTEM (SBIRS) HIGH EMD	292,235	292,235
064	0604602F	ARMAMENT/ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	40,154	40,154
065	0604604F	SUBMUNITIONS	2,506	2,506
066	0604617F	AGILE COMBAT SUPPORT	57,678	57,678
067	0604706F	LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS	8,187	8,187

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
068	0604735F	COMBAT TRAINING RANGES	15,795	15,795
069	0604800F	F–35—EMD	589,441	589,441
071	0604853F	EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM (SPACE)—EMD	84,438	184,438
		EELV Program—Rocket Propulsion System Development		[100,000]
072	0604932F	LONG RANGE STANDOFF WEAPON	36,643	16,143
		Contract delay		[–20,500]
073	0604933F	ICBM FUZE MODERNIZATION	142,551	142,551
074	0605213F	F–22 MODERNIZATION INCREMENT 3.2B	140,640	140,640
075	0605214F	GROUND ATTACK WEAPONS FUZE DEVELOPMENT	3,598	3,598
076	0605221F	KC–46	602,364	402,364
		Program decrease		[–200,000]
077	0605223F	ADVANCED PILOT TRAINING	11,395	11,395
078	0605229F	CSAR HH–60 RECAPITALIZATION	156,085	156,085
080	0605431F	ADVANCED EHF MILSATCOM (SPACE)	228,230	228,230
081	0605432F	POLAR MILSATCOM (SPACE)	72,084	72,084
082	0605433F	WIDEBAND GLOBAL SATCOM (SPACE)	56,343	52,343
		Excess to need		[–4,000]
083	0605458F	AIR & SPACE OPS CENTER 10.2 RDT&E	47,629	47,629
084	0605931F	B–2 DEFENSIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	271,961	271,961
085	0101125F	NUCLEAR WEAPONS MODERNIZATION	212,121	212,121
086	0207171F	F–15 EPAWSS	186,481	186,481
087	0207701F	FULL COMBAT MISSION TRAINING	18,082	18,082
088	0305176F	COMBAT SURVIVOR EVADER LOCATOR	993	993
089	0307581F	NEXTGEN JSTARS	44,343	44,343
091	0401319F	PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT (PAR)	102,620	102,620
092	0701212F	AUTOMATED TEST SYSTEMS	14,563	14,563
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	**3,847,791**	**3,723,291**
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
093	0604256F	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	23,844	23,844
094	0604759F	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	68,302	73,302
		Airborne Sensor Data Correlation Project		[5,000]
095	0605101F	RAND PROJECT AIR FORCE	34,918	34,918
097	0605712F	INITIAL OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION	10,476	10,476
098	0605807F	TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	673,908	673,908
099	0605860F	ROCKET SYSTEMS LAUNCH PROGRAM (SPACE)	21,858	21,858
100	0605864F	SPACE TEST PROGRAM (STP)	28,228	28,228
101	0605976F	FACILITIES RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION—TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	40,518	40,518
102	0605978F	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT—TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	27,895	27,895
103	0606017F	REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS AND MATURATION	16,507	16,507
104	0606116F	SPACE TEST AND TRAINING RANGE DEVELOPMENT	18,997	18,997
106	0606392F	SPACE AND MISSILE CENTER (SMC) CIVILIAN WORKFORCE	185,305	176,727
		Excess to need		[–8,578]
107	0308602F	ENTEPRISE INFORMATION SERVICES (EIS)	4,841	4,841
108	0702806F	ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	15,357	15,357
109	0804731F	GENERAL SKILL TRAINING	1,315	1,315
111	1001004F	INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES	2,315	2,315
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	**1,174,584**	**1,171,006**
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
112	0603423F	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM III—OPERATIONAL CONTROL SEGMENT	350,232	350,232
113	0604233F	SPECIALIZED UNDERGRADUATE FLIGHT TRAINING	10,465	10,465
114	0604445F	WIDE AREA SURVEILLANCE	24,577	24,577
117	0605018F	AF INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM (AF-IPPS)	69,694	10,694
		Forward financing, excluding funding for audit readiness		[–59,000]
118	0605024F	ANTI-TAMPER TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE AGENCY	26,718	26,718
119	0605278F	HC/MC–130 RECAP RDT&E	10,807	10,807
121	0101113F	B–52 SQUADRONS	74,520	74,520
122	0101122F	AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE (ALCM)	451	451
123	0101126F	B–1B SQUADRONS	2,245	2,245
124	0101127F	B–2 SQUADRONS	108,183	108,183
125	0101213F	MINUTEMAN SQUADRONS	178,929	178,929
126	0101313F	STRAT WAR PLANNING SYSTEM—USSTRATCOM	28,481	28,481
127	0101314F	NIGHT FIST—USSTRATCOM	87	87
128	0101316F	WORLDWIDE JOINT STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	5,315	5,315
131	0105921F	SERVICE SUPPORT TO STRATCOM—SPACE ACTIVITIES	8,090	8,090
132	0205219F	MQ–9 UAV	123,439	123,439
134	0207131F	A–10 SQUADRONS		16,200
		A–10 restoration: operational flight program development		[16,200]
135	0207133F	F–16 SQUADRONS	148,297	198,297
		AESA Radar Integration		[50,000]
136	0207134F	F–15E SQUADRONS	179,283	192,079
		Transfer from procurement		[12,796]
137	0207136F	MANNED DESTRUCTIVE SUPPRESSION	14,860	14,860
138	0207138F	F–22A SQUADRONS	262,552	262,552
139	0207142F	F–35 SQUADRONS	115,395	53,921
		Program delay		[–61,474]
140	0207161F	TACTICAL AIM MISSILES	43,360	43,360
141	0207163F	ADVANCED MEDIUM RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE (AMRAAM)	46,160	46,160
143	0207224F	COMBAT RESCUE AND RECOVERY	412	412
144	0207227F	COMBAT RESCUE—PARARESCUE	657	657
145	0207247F	AF TENCAP	31,428	31,428

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
146	0207249F	PRECISION ATTACK SYSTEMS PROCUREMENT	1,105	1,105
147	0207253F	COMPASS CALL	14,249	14,249
148	0207268F	AIRCRAFT ENGINE COMPONENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	103,942	103,942
149	0207325F	JOINT AIR-TO-SURFACE STANDOFF MISSILE (JASSM)	12,793	12,793
150	0207410F	AIR & SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC)	21,193	21,193
151	0207412F	CONTROL AND REPORTING CENTER (CRC)	559	559
152	0207417F	AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS)	161,812	161,812
153	0207418F	TACTICAL AIRBORNE CONTROL SYSTEMS	6,001	6,001
155	0207431F	COMBAT AIR INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM ACTIVITIES	7,793	7,793
156	0207444F	TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY-MOD	12,465	12,465
157	0207448F	C2ISR TACTICAL DATA LINK	1,681	1,681
159	0207452F	DCAPES	16,796	16,796
161	0207590F	SEEK EAGLE	21,564	21,564
162	0207601F	USAF MODELING AND SIMULATION	24,994	24,994
163	0207605F	WARGAMING AND SIMULATION CENTERS	6,035	6,035
164	0207697F	DISTRIBUTED TRAINING AND EXERCISES	4,358	4,358
165	0208006F	MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS	55,835	55,835
167	0208087F	AF OFFENSIVE CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	12,874	12,874
168	0208088F	AF DEFENSIVE CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	7,681	7,681
171	0301017F	GLOBAL SENSOR INTEGRATED ON NETWORK (GSIN)	5,974	5,974
177	0301400F	SPACE SUPERIORITY INTELLIGENCE	13,815	13,815
178	0302015F	E–4B NATIONAL AIRBORNE OPERATIONS CENTER (NAOC)	80,360	80,360
179	0303001F	FAMILY OF ADVANCED BLOS TERMINALS (FAB-T)	3,907	3,907
180	0303131F	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (MEECN)	75,062	75,062
181	0303140F	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	46,599	46,599
183	0303142F	GLOBAL FORCE MANAGEMENT—DATA INITIATIVE	2,470	2,470
186	0304260F	AIRBORNE SIGINT ENTERPRISE	112,775	112,775
189	0305099F	GLOBAL AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (GATM)	4,235	4,235
192	0305110F	SATELLITE CONTROL NETWORK (SPACE)	7,879	5,879
		Unjustified increase in systems engineering		[–2,000]
193	0305111F	WEATHER SERVICE	29,955	29,955
194	0305114F	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, APPROACH, AND LANDING SYSTEM (ATCALS)	21,485	21,485
195	0305116F	AERIAL TARGETS	2,515	2,515
198	0305128F	SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES	472	472
199	0305145F	ARMS CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION	12,137	12,137
200	0305146F	DEFENSE JOINT COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES	361	361
203	0305173F	SPACE AND MISSILE TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER	3,162	3,162
204	0305174F	SPACE INNOVATION, INTEGRATION AND RAPID TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	1,543	1,543
205	0305179F	INTEGRATED BROADCAST SERVICE (IBS)	7,860	7,860
206	0305182F	SPACELIFT RANGE SYSTEM (SPACE)	6,902	6,902
207	0305202F	DRAGON U–2	34,471	34,471
209	0305206F	AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	50,154	60,154
		Wide Area Surveillance Capability		[10,000]
210	0305207F	MANNED RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	13,245	13,245
211	0305208F	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	22,784	22,784
212	0305219F	MQ–1 PREDATOR A UAV	716	716
213	0305220F	RQ–4 UAV	208,053	203,053
		Program delays		[–5,000]
214	0305221F	NETWORK-CENTRIC COLLABORATIVE TARGETING	21,587	21,587
215	0305236F	COMMON DATA LINK EXECUTIVE AGENT (CDL EA)	43,986	43,986
216	0305238F	NATO AGS	197,486	138,400
		Transfer to Procurement for NATO AWACS		[–59,086]
217	0305240F	SUPPORT TO DCGS ENTERPRISE	28,434	28,434
218	0305265F	GPS III SPACE SEGMENT	180,902	180,902
220	0305614F	JSPOC MISSION SYSTEM	81,911	81,911
221	0305881F	RAPID CYBER ACQUISITION	3,149	3,149
222	0305913F	NUDET DETECTION SYSTEM (SPACE)	14,447	14,447
223	0305940F	SPACE SITUATION AWARENESS OPERATIONS	20,077	20,077
225	0308699F	SHARED EARLY WARNING (SEW)	853	853
226	0401115F	C–130 AIRLIFT SQUADRON	33,962	33,962
227	0401119F	C–5 AIRLIFT SQUADRONS (IF)	42,864	22,864
		Forward financing		[–20,000]
228	0401130F	C–17 AIRCRAFT (IF)	54,807	54,807
229	0401132F	C–130J PROGRAM	31,010	31,010
230	0401134F	LARGE AIRCRAFT IR COUNTERMEASURES (LAIRCM)	6,802	6,802
231	0401219F	KC–10S	1,799	1,799
232	0401314F	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AIRLIFT	48,453	48,453
233	0401318F	CV–22	36,576	36,576
235	0408011F	SPECIAL TACTICS / COMBAT CONTROL	7,963	7,963
236	0702207F	DEPOT MAINTENANCE (NON-IF)	1,525	1,525
237	0708610F	LOGISTICS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (LOGIT)	112,676	68,400
		Program growth		[–44,276]
238	0708611F	SUPPORT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	12,657	12,657
239	0804743F	OTHER FLIGHT TRAINING	1,836	1,836
240	0808716F	OTHER PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES	121	121
241	0901202F	JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY AGENCY	5,911	5,911
242	0901218F	CIVILIAN COMPENSATION PROGRAM	3,604	3,604
243	0901220F	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	4,598	4,598
244	0901226F	AIR FORCE STUDIES AND ANALYSIS AGENCY	1,103	1,103
246	0901538F	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	101,840	101,840
246A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	12,780,142	12,780,142
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	**17,010,339**	**16,848,499**

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF	**26,473,669**	**25,544,751**
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW		
		BASIC RESEARCH		
001	0601000BR	DTRA BASIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE	38,436	38,436
002	0601101E	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	333,119	333,119
003	0601110D8Z	BASIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES	42,022	42,022
004	0601117E	BASIC OPERATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH SCIENCE	56,544	56,544
005	0601120D8Z	NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION PROGRAM	49,453	54,453
		STEM program increase		[5,000]
006	0601228D8Z	HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/MINORITY INSTITUTIONS	25,834	35,834
		Program increase		[10,000]
007	0601384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	46,261	46,261
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	**591,669**	**606,669**
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
008	0602000D8Z	JOINT MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY	19,352	19,352
009	0602115E	BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	114,262	114,262
010	0602234D8Z	LINCOLN LABORATORY RESEARCH PROGRAM	51,026	51,026
011	0602251D8Z	APPLIED RESEARCH FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF S&T PRIORITIES	48,226	48,226
012	0602303E	INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	356,358	356,358
014	0602383E	BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DEFENSE	29,265	29,265
015	0602384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	208,111	208,111
016	0602668D8Z	CYBER SECURITY RESEARCH	13,727	13,727
018	0602702E	TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY	314,582	309,582
		Multi-azimuth defense fast intercept round engagement system		[–5,000]
019	0602715E	MATERIALS AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY	220,115	201,721
		Program decrease		[–18,394]
020	0602716E	ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY	174,798	174,798
021	0602718BR	WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION DEFEAT TECHNOLOGIES	155,415	155,415
022	0602751D8Z	SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) APPLIED RESEARCH	8,824	8,824
023	1160401BB	SOF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	37,517	37,517
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	**1,751,578**	**1,728,184**
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
024	0603000D8Z	JOINT MUNITIONS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	25,915	25,915
026	0603122D8Z	COMBATING TERRORISM TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	71,171	111,171
		Program increase		[40,000]
027	0603133D8Z	FOREIGN COMPARATIVE TESTING	21,782	21,782
028	0603160BR	COUNTERPROLIFERATION INITIATIVES—PROLIFERATION PREVENTION AND DEFEAT	290,654	290,654
030	0603176C	ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT	12,139	12,139
031	0603177C	DISCRIMINATION SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	28,200	28,200
032	0603178C	WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	45,389	7,367
		High Power Directed Energy—Missile Destruct		[–26,055]
		Move to support Multiple Object Kill Vehicle		[–11,967]
033	0603179C	ADVANCED C4ISR	9,876	9,876
034	0603180C	ADVANCED RESEARCH	17,364	17,364
035	0603225D8Z	JOINT DOD-DOE MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	18,802	18,802
036	0603264S	AGILE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (AT21)—THEATER CAPABILITY	2,679	2,679
037	0603274C	SPECIAL PROGRAM—MDA TECHNOLOGY	64,708	51,458
		Unjustified growth		[–13,250]
038	0603286E	ADVANCED AEROSPACE SYSTEMS	185,043	185,043
039	0603287E	SPACE PROGRAMS AND TECHNOLOGY	126,692	126,692
040	0603288D8Z	ANALYTIC ASSESSMENTS	14,645	14,645
041	0603289D8Z	ADVANCED INNOVATIVE ANALYSIS AND CONCEPTS	59,830	49,830
		Program decrease		[–10,000]
042	0603294C	COMMON KILL VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY	46,753	7,195
		MOKV Concept Development		[–39,558]
043	0603384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	140,094	140,094
044	0603527D8Z	RETRACT LARCH	118,666	108,666
		Program decrease		[–10,000]
045	0603618D8Z	JOINT ELECTRONIC ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	43,966	23,966
		Program decrease		[–20,000]
046	0603648D8Z	JOINT CAPABILITY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	141,540	116,540
		Program decrease		[–25,000]
047	0603662D8Z	NETWORKED COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES	6,980	6,980
050	0603680D8Z	DEFENSE-WIDE MANUFACTURING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	157,056	142,056
		Unjustified growth		[–15,000]
051	0603699D8Z	EMERGING CAPABILITIES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	33,515	41,015
		Efforts to counter-ISIL and Russian aggression		[7,500]
052	0603712S	GENERIC LOGISTICS R&D TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	16,543	16,543
053	0603713S	DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY	29,888	29,888
054	0603716D8Z	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM	65,836	65,836
055	0603720S	MICROELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT	79,037	89,037
		Trusted Source Implementation for Field Programmable Gate Arrays Study		[10,000]
056	0603727D8Z	JOINT WARFIGHTING PROGRAM	9,626	5,000
		Program decrease		[–4,626]
057	0603739E	ADVANCED ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGIES	79,021	79,021
058	0603760E	COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	201,335	201,335
059	0603766E	NETWORK-CENTRIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	452,861	432,861
		Excessive program growth		[–20,000]

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
060	0603767E	SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	257,127	257,127
061	0603769SE	DISTRIBUTED LEARNING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	10,771	10,771
062	0603781D8Z	SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE	15,202	15,202
063	0603826D8Z	QUICK REACTION SPECIAL PROJECTS	90,500	65,500
		Unjustified growth		[–25,000]
066	0603833D8Z	ENGINEERING SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	18,377	18,377
067	0603941D8Z	TEST & EVALUATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	82,589	82,589
068	0604055D8Z	OPERATIONAL ENERGY CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENT	37,420	37,420
069	0303310D8Z	CWMD SYSTEMS	42,488	42,488
070	1160402BB	SOF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	57,741	57,741
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	**3,229,821**	**3,066,865**
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES		
071	0603161D8Z	NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT RDT&E ADC&P	31,710	31,710
073	0603600D8Z	WALKOFF	90,567	90,567
074	0603714D8Z	ADVANCED SENSORS APPLICATION PROGRAM	15,900	15,900
075	0603851D8Z	ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	52,758	52,758
076	0603881C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TERMINAL DEFENSE SEGMENT	228,021	228,021
077	0603882C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE MIDCOURSE DEFENSE SEGMENT	1,284,891	1,284,891
077A	0603XXXX	MULTIPLE-OBJECT KILL VEHICLE		81,525
		Divert attitude control systems technology to support Multi-Object Kill Vehicle		[10,000]
		Establish MOKV Program of Record		[71,525]
078	0603884BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—DEM/VAL	172,754	172,754
079	0603884C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SENSORS	233,588	233,588
080	0603890C	BMD ENABLING PROGRAMS	409,088	409,088
080A	0603XXXC	WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY—HIGH POWER DE		26,055
		High Power Directed Energy—Missile Destruct		[26,055]
081	0603891C	SPECIAL PROGRAMS—MDA	400,387	400,387
082	0603892C	AEGIS BMD	843,355	843,355
083	0603893C	SPACE TRACKING & SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	31,632	31,632
084	0603895C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM SPACE PROGRAMS	23,289	23,289
085	0603896C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL, BATTLE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATI.	450,085	437,785
		Future Spirals concurrency with multiple ongoing efforts and excess growth		[–12,300]
086	0603898C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE JOINT WARFIGHTER SUPPORT	49,570	49,570
087	0603904C	MISSILE DEFENSE INTEGRATION & OPERATIONS CENTER (MDIOC)	49,211	49,211
088	0603906C	REGARDING TRENCH	9,583	9,583
089	0603907C	SEA BASED X-BAND RADAR (SBX)	72,866	72,866
090	0603913C	ISRAELI COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS	102,795	267,595
		Arrow 3		[19,500]
		Arrow System Improvement Program		[45,500]
		David's Sling		[99,800]
091	0603914C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TEST	274,323	274,323
092	0603915C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TARGETS	513,256	513,256
093	0603920D8Z	HUMANITARIAN DEMINING	10,129	10,129
094	0603923D8Z	COALITION WARFARE	10,350	10,350
095	0604016D8Z	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CORROSION PROGRAM	1,518	11,518
		Program Increase		[10,000]
096	0604115C	TECHNOLOGY MATURATION INITIATIVES	96,300	96,300
097	0604250D8Z	ADVANCED INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES	469,798	469,798
098	0604400D8Z	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) COMMON DEVELOPMENT.	3,129	3,129
103	0604826J	JOINT C5 CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABILITY ASSESSMENTS.	25,200	25,200
105	0604873C	LONG RANGE DISCRIMINATION RADAR (LRDR)	137,564	137,564
106	0604874C	IMPROVED HOMELAND DEFENSE INTERCEPTORS	278,944	298,944
		Redesigned kill vehicle development		[20,000]
107	0604876C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TERMINAL DEFENSE SEGMENT TEST	26,225	26,225
108	0604878C	AEGIS BMD TEST	55,148	55,148
109	0604879C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR TEST	86,764	86,764
110	0604880C	LAND-BASED SM–3 (LBSM3)	34,970	34,970
111	0604881C	AEGIS SM–3 BLOCK IIA CO-DEVELOPMENT	172,645	172,645
112	0604887C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE MIDCOURSE SEGMENT TEST	64,618	64,618
114	0303191D8Z	JOINT ELECTROMAGNETIC TECHNOLOGY (JET) PROGRAM	2,660	2,660
115	0305103C	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE	963	963
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES	**6,816,554**	**7,106,634**
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION		
116	0604161D8Z	NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT RDT&E SDD	8,800	8,800
117	0604165D8Z	PROMPT GLOBAL STRIKE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT	78,817	88,817
		Concept development by the Army of a CPGS option		[5,000]
		Concept development by the Navy of a CPGS option		[5,000]
118	0604384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—EMD	303,647	303,647
119	0604764K	ADVANCED IT SERVICES JOINT PROGRAM OFFICE (AITS-JPO)	23,424	23,424
120	0604771D8Z	JOINT TACTICAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (JTIDS)	14,285	14,285
121	0605000BR	WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION DEFEAT CAPABILITIES	7,156	7,156
122	0605013BL	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	12,542	42
		DCMA program decrease		[–12,500]
123	0605021SE	HOMELAND PERSONNEL SECURITY INITIATIVE	191	191
124	0605022D8Z	DEFENSE EXPORTABILITY PROGRAM	3,273	3,273
125	0605027D8Z	OUSD(C) IT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES	5,962	5,962
126	0605070S	DOD ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	13,412	13,412

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
127	0605075D8Z	DCMO POLICY AND INTEGRATION	2,223	2,223
128	0605080S	DEFENSE AGENCY INTIATIVES (DAI)—FINANCIAL SYSTEM	31,660	31,660
129	0605090S	DEFENSE RETIRED AND ANNUITANT PAY SYSTEM (DRAS)	13,085	13,085
130	0605210D8Z	DEFENSE-WIDE ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT CAPABILITIES	7,209	7,209
131	0303141K	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	15,158	13,794
		Early to need		[–1,364]
132	0305304D8Z	DOD ENTERPRISE ENERGY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (EEIM)	4,414	4,414
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	**545,258**	**541,394**
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
133	0604774D8Z	DEFENSE READINESS REPORTING SYSTEM (DRRS)	5,581	5,581
134	0604875D8Z	JOINT SYSTEMS ARCHITECTURE DEVELOPMENT	3,081	3,081
135	0604940D8Z	CENTRAL TEST AND EVALUATION INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT (CTEIP)	229,125	229,125
136	0604942D8Z	ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS	28,674	21,674
		Program decrease		[–7,000]
138	0605100D8Z	JOINT MISSION ENVIRONMENT TEST CAPABILITY (JMETC)	45,235	45,235
139	0605104D8Z	TECHNICAL STUDIES, SUPPORT AND ANALYSIS	24,936	24,936
141	0605126J	JOINT INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION (JIAMDO)	35,471	35,471
144	0605142D8Z	SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	37,655	37,655
145	0605151D8Z	STUDIES AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT—OSD	3,015	3,015
146	0605161D8Z	NUCLEAR MATTERS-PHYSICAL SECURITY	5,287	5,287
147	0605170D8Z	SUPPORT TO NETWORKS AND INFORMATION INTEGRATION	5,289	5,289
148	0605200D8Z	GENERAL SUPPORT TO USD (INTELLIGENCE)	2,120	2,120
149	0605384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	102,264	102,264
158	0605790D8Z	SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR)/ SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.	2,169	2,169
159	0605798D8Z	DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY ANALYSIS	13,960	13,960
160	0605801KA	DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER (DTIC)	51,775	51,775
161	0605803SE	R&D IN SUPPORT OF DOD ENLISTMENT, TESTING AND EVALUATION	9,533	9,533
162	0605804D8Z	DEVELOPMENT TEST AND EVALUATION	17,371	21,371
		Program increase		[4,000]
163	0605898E	MANAGEMENT HQ—R&D	71,571	71,571
164	0606100D8Z	BUDGET AND PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS	4,123	4,123
165	0203345D8Z	DEFENSE OPERATIONS SECURITY INITIATIVE (DOSI)	1,946	1,946
166	0204571J	JOINT STAFF ANALYTICAL SUPPORT	7,673	7,673
169	0303166J	SUPPORT TO INFORMATION OPERATIONS (IO) CAPABILITIES	10,413	10,413
170	0303260D8Z	DEFENSE MILITARY DECEPTION PROGRAM OFFICE (DMDPO)	971	971
171	0305193D8Z	CYBER INTELLIGENCE	6,579	6,579
173	0804767D8Z	COCOM EXERCISE ENGAGEMENT AND TRAINING TRANSFORMATION (CE2T2)—MHA	43,811	43,811
174	0901598C	MANAGEMENT HQ—MDA	35,871	35,871
176	0903230D8W	WHS—MISSION OPERATIONS SUPPORT—IT	1,072	1,072
177A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	49,500	49,500
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	**856,071**	**853,071**
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT		
178	0604130V	ENTERPRISE SECURITY SYSTEM (ESS)	7,929	7,929
179	0605127T	REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH (RIO) AND PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE INFORMATION MANA.	1,750	1,750
180	0605147T	OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SHARED INFORMATION SYSTEM (OHASIS)	294	294
181	0607210D8Z	INDUSTRIAL BASE ANALYSIS AND SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT	22,576	22,576
182	0607310D8Z	CWMD SYSTEMS: OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	1,901	1,901
183	0607327T	GLOBAL THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (G-TSCMIS).	8,474	8,474
184	0607384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE (OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT)	33,561	33,561
186	0208043J	PLANNING AND DECISION AID SYSTEM (PDAS)	3,061	3,061
187	0208045K	C4I INTEROPERABILITY	64,921	64,921
189	0301144K	JOINT/ALLIED COALITION INFORMATION SHARING	3,645	3,645
193	0302016K	NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND SYSTEM-WIDE SUPPORT	963	963
194	0302019K	DEFENSE INFO INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING AND INTEGRATION	10,186	10,186
195	0303126K	LONG-HAUL COMMUNICATIONS—DCS	36,883	36,883
196	0303131K	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (MEECN)	13,735	13,735
197	0303135G	PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE (PKI)	6,101	6,101
198	0303136G	KEY MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (KMI)	43,867	43,867
199	0303140D8Z	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	8,957	8,957
200	0303140G	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	146,890	146,890
201	0303150K	GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	21,503	21,503
202	0303153K	DEFENSE SPECTRUM ORGANIZATION	20,342	20,342
203	0303170K	NET-CENTRIC ENTERPRISE SERVICES (NCES)	444	444
205	0303610K	TELEPORT PROGRAM	1,736	1,736
206	0304210BB	SPECIAL APPLICATIONS FOR CONTINGENCIES	65,060	65,060
210	0305103K	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE	2,976	2,976
215	0305186D8Z	POLICY R&D PROGRAMS	4,182	4,182
216	0305199D8Z	NET CENTRICITY	18,130	18,130
218	0305208BB	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	5,302	5,302
221	0305208K	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	3,239	3,239
225	0305327V	INSIDER THREAT	11,733	11,733
226	0305387D8Z	HOMELAND DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM	2,119	2,119
234	0708011S	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS	24,605	19,245
		DLA Uniform Research		[–5,360]
235	0708012S	LOGISTICS SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	1,770	1,770
236	0902298J	MANAGEMENT HQ—OJCS	2,978	2,978
237	1105219BB	MQ–9 UAV	18,151	23,151

"SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Agreement Authorized
		Medium Altitude Long Endurance Tactical (MALET) MQ–9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle		[5,000]
238	1105232BB	RQ–11 UAV	758	758
240	1160403BB	AVIATION SYSTEMS	173,934	189,134
		MC–130 Terrain Following/Terrain Avoidance Radar Program		[15,200]
241	1160405BB	INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	6,866	6,866
242	1160408BB	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	63,008	63,008
243	1160431BB	WARRIOR SYSTEMS	25,342	25,342
244	1160432BB	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	3,401	3,401
245	1160480BB	SOF TACTICAL VEHICLES	3,212	3,212
246	1160483BB	MARITIME SYSTEMS	63,597	63,597
247	1160489BB	GLOBAL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES	3,933	3,933
248	1160490BB	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS INTELLIGENCE	10,623	10,623
248A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	3,564,272	3,564,272
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	**4,538,910**	**4,553,750**
		UNDISTRIBUTED		
249	XXXXXXX	DEFENSE WIDE CYBER VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT		200,000
		Assess all major weapon systems for cyber vulnerability		[200,000]
251	XXXXXXX	TECHNOLOGY OFFSET INITIATIVE		300,000
		Supports innovative technology development		[300,000]
		SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		**500,000**
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	**18,329,861**	**18,956,567**
		OPERATIONAL TEST & EVAL, DEFENSE		
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
001	0605118OTE	OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION	76,838	76,838
002	0605131OTE	LIVE FIRE TEST AND EVALUATION	46,882	46,882
003	0605814OTE	OPERATIONAL TEST ACTIVITIES AND ANALYSES	46,838	46,838
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	**170,558**	**170,558**
		TOTAL OPERATIONAL TEST & EVAL, DEFENSE	**170,558**	**170,558**
		TOTAL RDT&E	**69,784,963**	**70,005,814**''.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 308, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1338, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1384, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

KEEP THE PROMISE ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 308) to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Young) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 146, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 626]

YEAS—263

Abraham
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Cárdenas
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Conyers
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
MacArthur
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Takano
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder

Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—146

Adams
Amash
Bass
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Esty
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McClintock
McDermott
McSally
Meeks
Meng
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Roybal-Allard
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—24

Beatty
Cleaver
DeFazio
Fattah
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Hultgren
King (IA)
Lawrence
Lieu, Ted
Lowey
Marchant
McGovern
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Takai
Titus
Wagner
Whitfield

□ 1901

Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Messrs. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, KENNEDY, Mlles. EDWARDS, BROWN of Florida, Messrs. SCHRADER, JONES, MASSIE, LANGEVIN, POLIS, and HIMES changed their votes from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. WOMACK, AGUILAR, and ASHFORD changed their votes from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN FRANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in France.

DIGNIFIED INTERMENT OF OUR VETERANS ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1338) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 627]

YEAS—409

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
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
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—24

Cleaver
DeFazio
Fattah
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Hultgren
King (IA)
Lawrence
Lieu, Ted
Lowey
Marchant
McGovern
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Stivers
Takai
Titus
Wagner
Webster (FL)
Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1909

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONOR AMERICA'S GUARD-RESERVE RETIREES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1384) to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 628]

YEAS—407

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
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
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—26

Amodei
Cleaver
DeFazio
Eshoo
Fattah
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Hudson
Hultgren
King (IA)
Lawrence
Lieu, Ted
Lowey
Marchant
McGovern
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Scott, David
Takai
Titus
Wagner
Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1917

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote due to the necessity of my attending to representational duties and participation in Michigan. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: "yes"—H.R. 308—Keep the Promise Act, "yes"—H.R. 1338—Dignified Interment of Our Veterans' Act of 2015, "yes"—H.R. 1384—Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1338 and H.R. 1384. I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 308.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, on the following rollcall Nos. I would have voted: "no" on rollcall 626, "yes" on rollcall 627, "yes" on rollcall 628.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on November 16, 2015, due to recovery from eye surgery, and missed the following votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 308, I would have voted "present."

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1338, I would have voted "aye."

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1384, I would have voted "aye."

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1737, REFORMING CFPB INDIRECT AUTO FINANCING GUIDANCE ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 511, TRIBAL LABOR SOVEREIGNTY ACT OF 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114–340) on the resolution (H. Res. 526) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1737) to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 511) to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1694

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1694.

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

There was no objection.

IMPROVING REGULATORY TRANSPARENCY FOR NEW MEDICAL THERAPIES ACT

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 639) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act''.

SEC. 2. SCHEDULING OF SUBSTANCES INCLUDED IN NEW FDA-APPROVED DRUGS.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVAL.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE OF DRUG APPROVAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(x) DATE OF APPROVAL IN THE CASE OF RECOMMENDED CONTROLS UNDER THE CSA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an application under subsection (b) with respect to a drug for which the Secretary provides notice to the sponsor that the Secretary intends to issue a scientific and medical evaluation and recommend controls under the Controlled Substances Act, approval of such application shall not take effect until the interim final rule controlling the drug is issued in accordance with section 201(j) of the Controlled Substances Act.

''(2) DATE OF APPROVAL.—For purposes of this section, with respect to an application described in paragraph (1), the term 'date of approval' shall mean the later of—

''(A) the date an application under subsection (b) is approved under subsection (c); or

''(B) the date of issuance of the interim final rule controlling the drug.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVAL OF BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS.—Section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(n) DATE OF APPROVAL IN THE CASE OF RECOMMENDED CONTROLS UNDER THE CSA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an application under subsection (a) with respect to a biological product for which the Secretary provides notice to the sponsor that the Secretary intends to issue a scientific and medical evaluation and recommend controls under the Controlled Substances Act, approval of such application shall not take effect until the interim final rule controlling the biological product is issued in accordance with section 201(j) of the Controlled Substances Act.

''(2) DATE OF APPROVAL.—For purposes of this section, with respect to an application described in paragraph (1), references to the date of approval of such application, or licensure of the product subject to such application, shall mean the later of—

''(A) the date an application is approved under subsection (a); or

''(B) the date of issuance of the interim final rule controlling the biological product.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVAL OF ANIMAL DRUGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 512 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(q) DATE OF APPROVAL IN THE CASE OF RECOMMENDED CONTROLS UNDER THE CSA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an application under subsection (b) with respect to a drug for which the Secretary provides notice to the sponsor that the Secretary intends to issue a scientific and medical evaluation and recommend controls under the Controlled Substances Act, approval of such application shall not take effect until the interim final rule controlling the drug is issued in accordance with section 201(j) of the Controlled Substances Act.

''(2) DATE OF APPROVAL.—For purposes of this section, with respect to an application described in paragraph (1), the term 'date of approval' shall mean the later of—

''(A) the date an application under subsection (b) is approved under subsection (c); or

''(B) the date of issuance of the interim final rule controlling the drug.''.

(B) CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.—Section 571(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ccc(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) In the case of an application under subsection (a) with respect to a drug for which the Secretary provides notice to the sponsor that the Secretary intends to issue a scientific and medical evaluation and recommend controls under the Controlled Substances Act, conditional approval of such application shall not take effect until the interim final rule controlling the drug is issued in accordance with section 201(j) of the Controlled Substances Act.

''(B) For purposes of this section, with respect to an application described in subparagraph (A), the term 'date of approval' shall mean the later of—

''(i) the date an application under subsection (a) is conditionally approved under subsection (b); or

''(ii) the date of issuance of the interim final rule controlling the drug.''.

(C) INDEXING OF LEGALLY MARKETED UNAPPROVED NEW ANIMAL DRUGS.—Section 572 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ccc–1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) In the case of a request under subsection (d) to add a drug to the index under subsection (a) with respect to a drug for which the Secretary provides notice to the person filing the request that the Secretary intends to issue a scientific and medical evaluation and recommend controls under the Controlled Substances Act, a determination to grant the request to add such drug to the index shall not take effect until the interim final rule controlling the drug is issued in accordance with section 201(j) of the Controlled Substances Act.''.

(4) DATE OF APPROVAL FOR DESIGNATED NEW ANIMAL DRUGS.—Section 573(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ccc–2(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) For purposes of determining the 7-year period of exclusivity under paragraph (1) for a drug for which the Secretary intends to issue a scientific and medical evaluation and recommend controls under the Controlled Substances Act, the drug shall not be considered approved or conditionally approved until the date that the interim final rule controlling the drug is issued in accordance with section 201(j) of the Controlled Substances Act.''.

(b) SCHEDULING OF NEWLY APPROVED DRUGS.—Section 201 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 811) is amended by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

''(j)(1) With respect to a drug referred to in subsection (f), if the Secretary of Health and Human Services recommends that the Attorney General control the drug in schedule II, III, IV, or V pursuant to subsections (a) and (b), the Attorney General shall, not later than 90 days after the date described in paragraph (2), issue an interim final rule controlling the drug in accordance with such subsections and section 202(b) using the procedures described in paragraph (3).

''(2) The date described in this paragraph shall be the later of—

''(A) the date on which the Attorney General receives the scientific and medical evaluation and the scheduling recommendation from the Secretary of Health and Human Services in accordance with subsection (b); or

''(B) the date on which the Attorney General receives notification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Secretary has approved an application under section 505(c), 512, or 571 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act, or indexed a drug under section 572 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, with respect to the drug described in paragraph (1).

''(3) A rule issued by the Attorney General under paragraph (1) shall become immediately effective as an interim final rule without requiring the Attorney General to demonstrate good cause therefor. The interim final rule shall give interested persons the opportunity to comment and to request a hearing. After the conclusion of such proceedings, the Attorney General shall issue a final rule in accordance with the scheduling criteria of subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section and section 202(b).''.

(c) EXTENSION OF PATENT TERM.—Section 156 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', or in the case of a drug product described in subsection (i), within the sixty-day period beginning on the covered date (as defined in subsection (i))'' after ''marketing or use''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(i)(1) For purposes of this section, if the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides notice to the sponsor of an application or request for approval, conditional approval, or indexing of a drug product for which the Secretary intends to recommend controls under the Controlled Substances Act, beginning on the covered date, the drug product shall be considered to—

''(A) have been approved or indexed under the relevant provision of the Public Health Service Act or Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and

''(B) have permission for commercial marketing or use.

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'covered date' means the later of—

''(A) the date an application is approved—

''(i) under section 351(a)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act; or

''(ii) under section 505(b) or 512(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

''(B) the date an application is conditionally approved under section 571(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

''(C) the date a request for indexing is granted under section 572(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; or

''(D) the date of issuance of the interim final rule controlling the drug under section 201(j) of the Controlled Substances Act.''.

SEC. 3. ENHANCING NEW DRUG DEVELOPMENT.

Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i)(1) For purposes of registration to manufacture a controlled substance under subsection (d) for use only in a clinical trial, the Attorney General shall register the applicant, or serve an order to show cause upon the applicant in accordance with section 304(c), not later than 180 days after the date on which the application is accepted for filing.

''(2) For purposes of registration to manufacture a controlled substance under subsection (a) for use only in a clinical trial, the Attorney General shall, in accordance with the regulations issued by the Attorney General, issue a notice of application not later than 90 days after the application is accepted for filing. Not later than 90 days after the date on which the period for comment pursuant to such notice ends, the Attorney General shall register the applicant, or serve an order to show cause upon the applicant in accordance with section 304(c), unless the Attorney General has granted a hearing on the application under section 1008(i) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act.''.

SEC. 4. RE-EXPORTATION AMONG MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA.

Section 1003 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 953) is amended—

(1) in subsection(f)—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking ''(5)'' and inserting ''(5)(A)'';

(ii) by inserting '', except that the controlled substance may be exported from a second country that is a member of the European Economic Area to another country that is a member of the European Economic Area, provided that the first country is also a member of the European Economic Area'' before the period at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) Subsequent to any re-exportation described in subparagraph (A), a controlled substance may continue to be exported from any country that is a member of the European Economic Area to any other such country, if—

''(i) the conditions applicable with respect to the first country under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7) are met by each subsequent country from which the controlled substance is exported pursuant to this paragraph; and

''(ii) the conditions applicable with respect to the second country under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7) are met by each subsequent country to which the controlled substance is exported pursuant to this paragraph.''; and

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking ''(6)'' and inserting ''(6)(A)''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) In the case of re-exportation among members of the European Economic Area, within 30 days after each re-exportation, the person who exported the controlled substance from the United States delivers to the Attorney General—

''(i) documentation certifying that such re-exportation has occurred; and

''(ii) information concerning the consignee, country, and product.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) LIMITATION.—Subject to paragraphs (5) and (6) of subsection (f) in the case of any controlled substance in schedule I or II or any narcotic drug in schedule III or IV, the Attorney General shall not promulgate nor enforce any regulation, subregulatory guidance, or enforcement policy which impedes re-exportation of any controlled substance among European Economic Area countries, including by promulgating or enforcing any requirement that—

''(1) re-exportation from the first country to the second country or re-exportation from the second country to another country occur within a specified period of time; or

''(2) information concerning the consignee, country, and product be provided prior to exportation of the controlled substance from the United States or prior to each re-exportation among members of the European Economic Area.''.

Mr. GRIFFITH (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Senate amendment be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR THE UNVEILING OF THE MARBLE BUST OF VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD CHENEY ON DECEMBER 3, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's desk (S. Con. Res. 24) the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of the marble bust of Vice President Richard Cheney on December 3, 2015, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 24

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

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR THE UNVEILING OF THE MARBLE BUST OF VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD CHENEY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for a ceremony to unveil the marble bust of Vice President Richard Cheney on December 3, 2015.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary with respect to physical preparations and security for the ceremony described in subsection (a).

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 93, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 93

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

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF RATIFICATION OF 13TH AMENDMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on December 9, 2015, for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which abolished slavery in the United States.

(b) PREPARATIONS.— Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3403

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of the bill H.R. 3403.

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

There was no objection.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2015, PART II

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3996) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3996

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015, Part II''.

(b) RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Transportation shall reduce the amount apportioned or allocated for a program, project, or activity under this Act in fiscal year 2016 by amounts apportioned or allocated pursuant to the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015, including the amendments made by that Act, for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; reconciliation of funds; table of contents.

TITLE I—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

Subtitle A—Federal-Aid Highways

Sec. 1001. Extension of Federal-aid highway programs.

Sec. 1002. Administrative expenses.

Subtitle B—Extension of Highway Safety Programs
Sec. 1101. Extension of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration highway safety programs.
Sec. 1102. Extension of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration programs.
Sec. 1103. Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.
Subtitle C—Public Transportation Programs
Sec. 1201. Formula grants for rural areas.
Sec. 1202. Apportionment of appropriations for formula grants.
Sec. 1203. Authorizations for public transportation.
Sec. 1204. Bus and bus facilities formula grants.
Subtitle D—Hazardous Materials
Sec. 1301. Authorization of appropriations.
TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS
Sec. 2001. Extension of Highway Trust Fund expenditure authority.

TITLE I—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

Subtitle A—Federal-Aid Highways

SEC. 1001. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(a) of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1840) is amended by striking ''November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Section 1001(b)(1)(B) of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1840) is amended by striking ''for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015, 51/366 of the total amount'' and inserting ''for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015, 65/366 of the total amount''.

(2) GENERAL FUND.—Section 1123(h)(1) of MAP–21 (23 U.S.C. 202 note) is amended by striking ''and $4,180,328 out of the general fund of the Treasury to carry out the program for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $5,327,869 out of the general fund of the Treasury to carry out the program for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(c)(1)(B) of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1840) is amended—

(A) by striking ''November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015,''; and

(B) by striking ''51/366'' and inserting ''65/366''.

(2) OBLIGATION CEILING.—Section 1102 of MAP–21 (23 U.S.C. 104 note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (a)(4) and inserting the following:

''(4) $7,134,218,915 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.'';

(B) in subsection (b)(12) by striking '', and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015, only in an amount equal to $639,000,000, less any reductions that would have otherwise been required for that year by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), then multiplied by 51/366 for that period'' and inserting '', and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015, only in an amount equal to $639,000,000, less any reductions that would have otherwise been required for that year by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), then multiplied by 65/366 for that period'';

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015, that is equal to 51/366 of such unobligated balance'' and inserting ''for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015, that is equal to 65/366 of such unobligated balance''; and

(D) in subsection (f)(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015''.

SEC. 1002. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 1002 of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1842) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a)(2) and inserting the following:

''(2) $78,142,077 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2) by striking ''and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015, subject to the limitations on administrative expenses for the Federal Highway Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission'' and inserting ''and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015, subject to the limitations on administrative expenses for the Federal Highway Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission''.

Subtitle B—Extension of Highway Safety Programs

SEC. 1101. EXTENSION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—

(1) HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—Section 31101(a)(1)(D) of MAP–21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) $41,734,973 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(2) HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 31101(a)(2)(D) of MAP–21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) $20,157,104 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(3) NATIONAL PRIORITY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—Section 31101(a)(3)(D) of MAP–21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) $48,306,011 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(4) NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER.—Section 31101(a)(4)(D) of MAP–21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) $887,978 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(5) HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 31101(a)(5)(D) of MAP–21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) $5,150,273 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS.—Section 2009(a) of SAFETEA–LU (23 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended—

(i) in the first sentence by striking ''November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015''; and

(ii) in the second sentence by striking ''November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015,''.

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 31101(a)(6)(D) of MAP–21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) $4,528,689 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(b) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—Section 403(f)(1) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $348,361 of the total amount available for apportionment to the States for highway safety programs under section 402(c) in the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $443,989 of the total amount available for apportionment to the States for highway safety programs under section 402(c) in the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 23.—Section 31101(c) of MAP–21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended by striking ''November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015,''.

SEC. 1102. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS.—Section 31104(a)(11) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(11) $38,715,847 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 31104(i)(1)(K) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(K) $45,997,268 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(c) GRANT PROGRAMS.—

(1) COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(1) of SAFETEA–LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking ''and $4,180,328 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $5,327,869 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(2) BORDER ENFORCEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(2) of SAFETEA–LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking ''and $4,459,016 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $5,683,060 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(3) PERFORMANCE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4101(c)(3) of SAFETEA–LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking ''and $696,721 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $887,978 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(4) COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 4101(c)(4) of SAFETEA–LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking ''and $3,483,607 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $4,439,891 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(5) SAFETY DATA IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(5) of SAFETEA–LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking ''and $418,033 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $532,787 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(d) HIGH-PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.—Section 31104(k)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and up to $2,090,164 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and up to $2,663,934 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

(e) NEW ENTRANT AUDITS.—Section 31144(g)(5)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and up to $4,459,016

for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and up to $5,683,060 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

(f) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—Section 4127(e) of SAFETEA–LU (119 Stat. 1741) is amended by striking ''and $557,377 to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $710,383 to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

(g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.—Section 4134(c) of SAFETEA–LU (49 U.S.C. 31301 note) is amended by striking ''and $139,344 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $177,596 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

SEC. 1103. DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT.

Section 4 of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A) by striking ''November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''December 4, 2015,''.

Subtitle C—Public Transportation Programs

SEC. 1201. FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS.

Section 5311(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''and $696,721 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $887,978 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''and $3,483,607 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $4,439,891 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

SEC. 1202. APPORTIONMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FORMULA GRANTS.

Section 5336(h)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $4,180,328 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $5,327,869 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

SEC. 1203. AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

(a) FORMULA GRANTS.—Section 5338(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''and $1,197,663,934 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $1,526,434,426 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''and $17,947,541 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $22,874,317 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''and $1,393,443 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $1,775,956 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(C) in subparagraph (C) by striking ''and $621,287,295 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $791,836,749 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(D) in subparagraph (D) by striking ''and $35,992,623 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $45,872,951 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(E) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking ''and $84,693,443 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $107,942,623 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(ii) by striking ''and $4,180,328 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $5,327,869 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''; and

(iii) by striking ''and $2,786,885 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $3,551,913 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(F) in subparagraph (F) by striking ''and $418,033 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $532,787 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(G) in subparagraph (G) by striking ''and $696,721 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $887,978 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(H) in subparagraph (H) by striking ''and $536,475 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $683,743 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(I) in subparagraph (I) by striking ''and $301,805,738 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $384,654,372 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(J) in subparagraph (J) by striking ''and $59,611,475 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $75,975,410 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''; and

(K) in subparagraph (K) by striking ''and $73,281,148 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $93,397,541 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

(b) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATION AND DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS.—Section 5338(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $9,754,098 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $12,431,694 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(c) TRANSIT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 5338(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $975,410 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $1,243,169 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT.—Section 5338(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $975,410 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $1,243,169 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(e) HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING.—Section 5338(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $696,721 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $887,978 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(f) CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS.—Section 5338(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $265,729,508 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $338,674,863 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015''.

(g) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 5338(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''and $14,491,803 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015'' and inserting ''and $18,469,945 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015'';

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking ''and not less than $696,721 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and not less than $887,978 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''; and

(3) in paragraph (3) by striking ''and not less than $139,344 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and not less than $177,596 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

SEC. 1204. BUS AND BUS FACILITIES FORMULA GRANTS.

Section 5339(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''and $9,127,049 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $11,632,514 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,'';

(2) by striking ''$174,180 for such period'' and inserting ''$221,994 for such period''; and

(3) by striking ''$69,672 for such period'' and inserting ''$88,798 for such period''.

Subtitle D—Hazardous Materials

SEC. 1301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5128(a)(4) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(4) $7,594,344 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015.''.

(b) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND.—Section 5128(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—From the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Fund established under section 5116(i), the Secretary may expend for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015—

''(A) $33,388 to carry out section 5115;

''(B) $3,871,585 to carry out subsections (a) and (b) of section 5116, of which not less than $2,424,180 shall be available to carry out section 5116(b);

''(C) $26,639 to carry out section 5116(f);

''(D) $110,997 to publish and distribute the Emergency Response Guidebook under section 5116(i)(3); and

''(E) $177,596 to carry out section 5116(j).''.

(c) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING GRANTS.—Section 5128(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and $557,377 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on November 20, 2015,'' and inserting ''and $710,383 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 4, 2015,''.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 2001. EXTENSION OF HIGHWAY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.

(a) HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Section 9503 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''November 21, 2015'' in subsections (b)(6)(B), (c)(1), and (e)(3) and inserting ''December 5, 2015'', and

(2) by striking ''Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015'' in subsections (c)(1) and (e)(3) and inserting ''Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015, Part II''.

(b) SPORT FISH RESTORATION AND BOATING TRUST FUND.—Section 9504 of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking ''Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015'' each place it appears in subsection (b)(2) and inserting ''Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015, Part II'', and

(2) by striking ''November 21, 2015'' in subsection (d)(2) and inserting ''December 5, 2015''.

(c) LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND.—Section 9508(e)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''November 21, 2015'' and inserting ''December 5, 2015''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RATCLIFFE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3996.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3996, which extends the Federal surface transportation programs to December 4, 2015.

On November 5, the House overwhelmingly passed a multiyear surface transportation bill, with more than 360 Members voting in support. Since then, the House and Senate have made good progress in resolving the differences between our two proposals. The conference committee still needs time to publicly meet, which we will do on Wednesday, complete our negotiations, and produce a final measure that helps improve America's infrastructure. Today's extension provides a time for that process to occur, while avoiding a shutdown of transportation programs.

The bill allows the States to continue to fund transportation projects and prevents 4,100 U.S. Department of Transportation employees from being furloughed.

H.R. 3996 funds these programs at the authorized levels for fiscal year 2014. No offsets or transfers of funding to the highway trust fund are necessary for the extension since the trust fund will remain solvent during the period.

I urge support of H.R. 3996.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today the House must consider yet another short-term extension to keep highway transit safety and HAZMAT investments limping along, this time for only 2 weeks. We must pass this bill today, however, to avert a shutdown of Federal transportation programs, which expire in just 4 days.

This stopgap measure is a means to a much-needed end, which the House and the Senate are working diligently to accomplish a long-term surface transportation bill to provide certainty to States and to address our Nation's crumbling roads, bridges, and transit systems.

Every State department of transportation, every county, every city, every contractor, every construction worker, every commuter stuck in traffic, every business that uses our roads and bridges to move goods wants Congress to break through its own gridlock and wants us to come up with a long-term bill.

I would very much like to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, Subcommittee Chair GRAVES, and all the members who have worked together in the most bipartisan manner—it is bipartisanship that I believe is a model for how this House should operate—in order to craft a surface transportation authorization bill that passed by voice vote out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and that received robust support when considered by the House after many amendments were also considered.

The conference committee is now diligently doing its work, and I look forward to continuing our talks with the Senate to produce a comprehensive bill for the President to sign. Until such time as the conference committee can complete its work, we must keep programs up and running, Mr. Speaker. This extension does just that.

This extension is a necessary step to avert a shutdown, and I will, therefore, support it. It is my sincere hope that this is the last extension, and I earnestly believe it will be because of the bipartisanship this bill has enjoyed, the very last extension we will need because it is beyond time to get serious about how we are going to fund our transportation future.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I thank the gentleman for coming forward this evening. I have no further speakers.

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House must consider yet another short-term extension to keep highway, transit, highway safety, and hazmat investments limping along, this time for two weeks.

We must pass this bill today to avert a shutdown of Federal transportation programs, which expire in just four short days.

This stopgap measure is a means to a much-needed end toward which the House and Senate are working diligently: a long-term surface transportation bill to provide certainty to States and to address our nations' crumbling roads, bridges, and transit systems.

Every State Department of Transportation, every county, every city, every contractor, every construction worker, every commuter stuck in traffic, every business that uses our roads and bridges to move goods wants Congress to break through its own gridlock and come up with a long-term bill.

I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, Subcommittee Chairman GRAVES, and all of the members who have worked together in a bipartisan manner to craft a surface transportation authorization bill that passed by voice vote out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and that received robust support when considered by the House.

The Conference Committee is now diligently doing its work, and I look forward to continue our talks with the Senate to produce a comprehensive bill for the President to sign. Until such time as the Conference Committee can complete its work, we must keep programs up and running. This extension does just that.

This extension is a necessary step to avert a shutdown, and I will therefore support it. It is my sincere hope that this is the last extension we will need, because it is beyond time to get serious about how we are going to fund our transportation future.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, a senior member of the Homeland Security, I rise to speak on H.R. 3996, Surface Transportation Extension Act II of 2015,'' which reauthorizes federal-aid highway and transit programs for two weeks through December 4, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, instead of this 14-day temporary extension, I would have strongly preferred that we were debating a final Conference Report on H.R. 22, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015, which provides for what used to be the customary six-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs to provide certainty and stability to the needed effort to repair, rebuild, and revitalize the nation's crumbling infrastructure.

The Senate Amendment to the Conference Report on H.R. 22, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015, passed by a vote of 65–34, nearly a two-thirds majority, while the version of the bill passed by the House version of the bill, which included two Jackson Lee amendments, passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 363–64.

Mr. Speaker, I reluctantly support this emergency but temporary measure because as the Department of Transportation has reported, if we do not act now highway trust fund balances will reach dangerously low levels by November 20 and result in a reduction of payments to states by an average of 28 percent.

Many states have already canceled or delayed planned construction projects, threatening 700,000 thousands of jobs, including 106,100 jobs in my home state of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, the Highway Trust Fund was created in 1956 during the Eisenhower Administration to help finance construction of the Interstate Highway System, which modernized the nation's transportation infrastructure and was instrumental in making the United States the world's dominant economic power for two generations.

Our national leaders then understood that investing in our roads and bridges strengthened our economy, created millions of good-

paying jobs, and improved the quality of life for all Americans.

It is currently composed of two accounts that fund federal-aid highway and transit projects built by states.

Federal funding from the trust fund accounts for a major portion of state transportation spending.

The Highway Trust Fund is financed by gasoline and diesel taxes, which until the last decade produced a steady increase in revenues sufficient to accommodate increased levels of spending on highway and transit projects.

However, those tax rates—18.4 cents/gallon federal tax on gasoline and a 24.4 cents/gallon tax on diesel fuel—have remained unchanged since 1993 and were not indexed to inflation so the value of those revenues has eroded over the years, and, combined with the fact that vehicles have been getting increasingly better mileage, the revenues deposited into the Highway Trust Fund beginning last decade have not kept pace with highway and transit spending from the trust fund.

Consequently, since 2008, Congress has periodically had to transfer at the 11th hour general Treasury revenues into the trust fund to pay for authorized highway and transit spending levels and avoid a funding shortfall.

The total amount to date is more than $74 billion.

Obviously, this practice is economically inefficient and injects uncertainty in the highway construction plans, projects, and schedules of state and local transportation agencies, not to mention the anxiety it causes to workers and businesses who economic livelihood is dependent on those projects.

Mr. Speaker, the last transportation authorized by Congress for 4 years or more, SAFETEA–LU, expired on September 30, 2009, at the end of FY 2009.

Because Congress and the Administration could not agree to a new reauthorization, it was necessary to resort to stop-gap temporary extensions on no less than eight occasions spanning a period of 910 days before Congress finally enacted the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP–21 Act) on July 6, 2012, which reauthorized highway and transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2014, a little more than two years, or until September 30, 2014.

MAP–21 was intended as a short-term measure to give Congress and the Administration breathing room to reach agreement on a long-term reauthorization bill.

Yet, as Mr. LEVIN, the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee, has often pointed out, since gaining the majority in 2010, our Republican colleagues have failed to take any action to sustain the Highway Trust Fund over the long-term and shore up vital infrastructure projects and has not held even a single hearing on financing options for the Highway Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time for this Congress, and especially the House majority, to focus on the real problems and challenges facing the American people.

And one of the biggest of those challenges is ensuring that America has a transportation policy and the infrastructure needed to compete and win in the global economy of the 21st Century.

To do that we have to extend the reauthorization of current transportation programs and to authorize the transfer of the funds to the Highway Trust Fund needed to fund authorized construction projects and keep 700,000 workers, including 106,100 in Texas on the job.

But that is only a start and just a part of our job.

The real work that needs to be done in the remaining days of this Congress is to reach an agreement on H.R. 22 that the President can sign that is fair, equitable, fiscally responsible, creates jobs and leads to sustained economic growth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3996.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1930

POLICYHOLDER PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1478) to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1478

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Policyholder Protection Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. ENSURING THE PROTECTION OF INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS.

(a) SOURCE OF STRENGTH.—Section 38A of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831o–1) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) AUTHORITY OF STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of section 5(g) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1844(g)) shall apply to a savings and loan holding company that is an insurance company, an affiliate of an insured depository institution that is an insurance company, and to any other company that is an insurance company and that directly or indirectly controls an insured depository institution, to the same extent as the provisions of that section apply to a bank holding company that is an insurance company.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Requiring a bank holding company that is an insurance company, a savings and loan holding company that is an insurance company, an affiliate of an insured depository institution that is an insurance company, or any other company that is an insurance company and that directly or indirectly controls an insured depository institution to serve as a source of financial strength under this section shall be deemed an action of the Board that requires a bank holding company to provide funds or other assets to a subsidiary depository institution for purposes of section 5(g) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1844(g)).''.

(b) LIQUIDATION AUTHORITY.—The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 203(e)(3) (12 U.S.C. 5383(e)(3)), by inserting ''or rehabilitation'' after ''orderly liquidation'' each place that term appears; and

(2) in section 204(d)(4) (12 U.S.C. 5384(d)(4)), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', except that, if the covered financial company or covered subsidiary is an insurance company or a subsidiary of an insurance company, the Corporation—

''(A) shall promptly notify the State insurance authority for the insurance company of the intention to take such lien; and

''(B) may only take such lien—

''(i) to secure repayment of funds made available to such covered financial company or covered subsidiary; and

''(ii) if the Corporation determines, after consultation with the State insurance authority, that such lien will not unduly impede or delay the liquidation or rehabilitation of the insurance company, or the recovery by its policyholders''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POSEY. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague on the Financial Services Committee, Mr. SHERMAN, for all of his help and support on the Policyholder Protection Act as well as the chairman and ranking member of the committee for their support.

I have devoted a great deal of time to insurance issues both as a State legislator in Florida and as a Member of Congress. For over 3 years, I have been pushing legislation to address problems that Dodd-Frank created for insurance companies and, more importantly, their policyholders.

I credit former Congresswoman Judy Biggert for bringing these issues to light and for offering a positive solution focused on protecting consumers.

After a lot of hard work, multiple hearings, drafts, redrafts, and so forth, we now have before us this bipartisan, commonsense legislation that will ensure that State regulators continue to have the tools they need to protect policyholders back home.

Mr. Speaker, insurance policyholders shouldn't be on the hook for an affiliated company's failure or financial distress. But, unfortunately, that is an all-too-real scenario under the current law.

Today, in certain circumstances, insurance assets—those set aside to pay out policyholders' claims—could be used as a source of strength to offset risky bets of an organization affiliated with the insurance company.

This practice could threaten the solvency of an insurer and undermine its ability to keep promises it makes to its customers, customers who rely on their policies to protect their families' homes, their livelihoods, and their retirement.

It is simply wrong to force middle class families to put their homeowner's or life insurance policies at risk because of bad bets that someone might have made on Wall Street. Therefore, our bill clarifies that State regulators can wall off these assets from contagion, regardless of how an insurance company is structured.

The bottom line here is that insurance policies shouldn't be raided, period, and certainly not to bail out a financial institution that made poor decisions. Consumers deserve certainty that they will be protected, which is why our bill will also require the FDIC to notify State regulators and consult with them before taking a lien on insurance company assets. In the rare event that this action is being considered, this legislation requires that the FDIC first consider the impact that taking such a lien could have on policyholders.

Taken together, these measures safeguard insurance assets and make certain that they continue to be used for their primary purpose, which is to pay out the claims of policyholders.

The Policyholder Protection Act enjoys broad support from insurance regulators, State regulators, guaranty funds, consumers representatives, and the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our work on this commonsense consumer protection bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1478, the Policy Protection Act. I applaud my colleagues, Mr. POSEY of Florida and Mr. SHERMAN of California, on their diligent work that they have put into crafting this legislation in the Financial Services Committee. I supported this legislation in committee.

The bill, in a nutshell, ensures that insurance company assets are, first and foremost, used to protect and pay policyholders' claims.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) to further discuss this bill.

Mr. SHERMAN. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with the gentleman from Florida on this bill. I was pleased to join him in introducing this legislation.

This is a commonsense bill. It has, I believe, total support. We voted on it in committee. It was supported unanimously. It has no objection from any of the regulators, such as the FDIC, or others.

It is supported by most insurance commissioners all over the country, including Dave Jones, Insurance Commissioner in California. It is supported by the American Council of Life Insurers, Property Casualty Insurers, and the Big I. So this bill has industry and the regulators behind it, Democrats and Republicans. It is unanimous.

What does the bill do? It deals with the circumstance where you have an insurance company that is a subsidiary of a financial services holding company, and it basically lays out the principle that the assets of the insurance company are there to pay insurance claims.

The State regulator of the insurance company regulates that insurance subsidiary and makes sure that the assets are there to provide insurance reserves and to pay insurance claims. Those assets cannot be invaded to pay for bad bets made by affiliated companies.

So, first, the bill says that State-regulated insurance company resources cannot be used as a source of strength for an affiliated financial firm that is being liquidated under title II of Dodd-Frank.

Second, the financial regulator may not place a lien on the assets of the State-regulated insurance company under title II unless the State insurance commissioner consents. It is the State insurance commissioner's fundamental duty to protect the policyholders.

Finally, the State insurance commissioner has the primary authority to determine whether to liquidate or rehabilitate insurance companies.

The insurance commissioners did an excellent job during the meltdown of 2008 to make sure that policyholders were paid. This bill reaffirms that the State regulators have the ability to wall off insurance company assets to protect policyholders. The bill will make sure that those assets are not jeopardized by complex bets, risk-taking, or poor management of affiliated companies.

In a nutshell, we want to make sure that those who have insurance feel secure. This bill will do that.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), the chairman of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

A majority of the Financial Services Committee and, in fact, the majority of Congress recognizes the need to preserve the current State-based model of insurance regulation. It is an important conversation because our model, different from others around the world, centers on the protection of policyholders before anything else.

H.R. 1478, the Policyholder Protection Act, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) works to guarantee the policyholder protections that have served the U.S. insurance system and consumers so well.

The bill guarantees the authorities of State regulators to protect an insurance company from contagion, ensuring that policyholders can be paid for claims regardless of how that insurer is organized.

It also codifies the existing role of the FDIC to consult with State regulators and requires full consideration of all implications a resolution could have on policyholders. The legislation also ensures that the States maintain authority over an insurer's resolution process.

Insurers typically hold large amounts of capital. They do so because the primary function of an insurer is to pay claims. Mr. POSEY's bill makes sure those assets which go towards payment of claims aren't used to offset other activities of affiliated businesses.

There is a genuine concern that other affiliates could raid an insurance affiliate's assets to prop up another entity within its company's holdings. This should never be allowed. This bill prevents that from happening. In other words, it says ''hands off'' to other assets of the insurance company.

The Policyholder Protection Act enjoys broad bipartisan support. It was passed unanimously by the Financial Services Committee because it codifies protections for insurance policyholders.

I congratulate the gentleman from Florida and the gentleman from California on their bill and thank them for their work on behalf of the consumers. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

This bill, which Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. POSEY have worked so diligently on, brings parity among State law, Federal bank holding company laws, and now the savings and loan holding companies.

It clarifies that the FDIC's backup receivership authority is not triggered if a State insurance regulator decides to rehabilitate rather than to liquidate a troubled insurance company.

I certainly commend this bill to my colleagues. The Financial Services Committee has looked it over carefully. I urge support of this balanced proposal.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1478, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REPORTING MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3032) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal a certain reporting requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3032

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act''.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Paragraph (6) of section 21(h) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78u(h)) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1945

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3032, the Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT), for their very diligent and bipartisan work that resulted in the Financial Services Committee favorably reporting H.R. 3032 on a unanimous vote.

I would also like to thank SEC Chair Mary Jo White and her fellow Commissioners for providing their unanimous recommendation to eliminate this reporting requirement, which the Congress previously repealed for all other regulatory agencies.

No matter how modest the legislation may be, legislative efforts to eliminate unnecessary and otherwise extraneous reporting requirements are exactly the type of proactive suggestions our regulators should provide to the committee for consideration.

Despite the Senate's unwillingness to pass equally bipartisan bills to spur growth, promote capital formation, and create jobs, I hope our colleagues in the Senate can agree that this exceedingly minor change is worthy of swift enactment.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) for their bipartisan work.

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

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

I am so happy to join the chairman of the Financial Services Committee and Ms. SINEMA in overwhelmingly supporting H.R. 3032.

This bill, of course, will relieve the SEC from unnecessary administrative burdens and enable the already overwhelmed agency to focus resources to other, more mission-critical tasks, examinations, and enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) to talk about her great legislation.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MOORE and Chairman HENSARLING for their bipartisan support of this bill. I also thank Congressman ROBERT HURT for being the lead Republican sponsor of this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our bill, H.R. 3032, the Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act.

Our regulatory system is inefficient, complicated and confusing, which is why it is so important that outdated regulations are reviewed with the goal of modifying them or repealing them to reduce waste and to make them work for everyday Americans.

That is why I have introduced this bipartisan legislation with Congressman HURT, to repeal an unnecessary and outdated reporting requirement in the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Since 1995, the SEC has been the only Federal agency required to compile this obscure annual report. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars, and it is a paperwork burden that diverts time and resources from protecting investors.

Modernizing the SEC's reporting requirements will allow the Commission to better focus on its mission of protecting investors; maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitating capital formation.

I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our financial markets work for everyone, and I hope that Members will join me in support of this bipartisan legislation.

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3032.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT AND SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AMENDMENTS

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1317) to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1317

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

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS.

(a) COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 2(h)(7)(D) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(h)(7)(D)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (v);

(2) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An affiliate of a person that qualifies for an exception under subparagraph (A) (including affiliate entities predominantly engaged in providing financing for the purchase of the merchandise or manufactured goods of the person) may qualify for the exception only if the affiliate—

''(I) enters into the swap to hedge or mitigate the commercial risk of the person or other affiliate of the person that is not a financial entity, and the commercial risk that the affiliate is hedging or mitigating has been transferred to the affiliate;

''(II) is directly and wholly-owned by another affiliate qualified for the exception under this subparagraph or an entity that is not a financial entity;

''(III) is not indirectly majority-owned by a financial entity;

''(IV) is not ultimately owned by a parent company that is a financial entity; and

''(V) does not provide any services, financial or otherwise, to any affiliate that is a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors (as defined under section 102 of the Financial Stability Act of 2010).

''(ii) LIMITATION ON QUALIFYING AFFILIATES.—The exception in clause (i) shall not apply if the affiliate is—

''(I) a swap dealer;

''(II) a security-based swap dealer;

''(III) a major swap participant;

''(IV) a major security-based swap participant;

''(V) a commodity pool;

''(VI) a bank holding company;

''(VII) a private fund, as defined in section 202(a) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80-b-2(a));

''(VIII) an employee benefit plan or government plan, as defined in paragraphs (3) and (32) of section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002);

''(IX) an insured depository institution;

''(X) a farm credit system institution;

''(XI) a credit union;

''(XII) a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors (as defined under section 102 of the Financial Stability Act of 2010); or

''(XIII) an entity engaged in the business of insurance and subject to capital requirements established by an insurance governmental authority of a State, a territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, a country other than the United States, or a political subdivision of a country other than the United States that is engaged in the supervision of insurance companies under insurance law.

''(iii) LIMITATION ON AFFILIATES' AFFILIATES.—Unless the Commission determines, by order, rule, or regulation, that it is in the public interest, the exception in clause (i) shall not apply with respect to an affiliate if the affiliate is itself affiliated with—

''(I) a major security-based swap participant;

''(II) a security-based swap dealer;

''(III) a major swap participant; or

''(IV) a swap dealer.

''(iv) CONDITIONS ON TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to an affiliate that qualifies for the exception in clause (i)—

''(I) the affiliate may not enter into any swap other than for the purpose of hedging or mitigating commercial risk; and

''(II) neither the affiliate nor any person affiliated with the affiliate that is not a financial entity may enter into a swap with or on behalf of any affiliate that is a financial entity or otherwise assume, net, combine, or consolidate the risk of swaps entered into by any such financial entity, except one that is an affiliate that qualifies for the exception under clause (i).''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—Any swap entered into by an affiliate that qualifies for the exception in clause (i) shall be subject to a centralized risk management program of the affiliate, which is reasonably designed both to monitor and manage the risks associated with the swap and to identify each of the affiliates on whose behalf a swap was entered into.''.

(b) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AMENDMENT.—Section 3C(g)(4) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c–3(g)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (E);

(2) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An affiliate of a person that qualifies for an exception under this subsection (including affiliate entities predominantly engaged in providing financing for the purchase of the merchandise or manufactured goods of the person) may qualify for the exception only if the affiliate—

''(i) enters into the security-based swap to hedge or mitigate the commercial risk of the person or other affiliate of the person that is not a financial entity, and the commercial risk that the affiliate is hedging or mitigating has been transferred to the affiliate;

''(ii) is directly and wholly-owned by another affiliate qualified for the exception under this paragraph or an entity that is not a financial entity;

''(iii) is not indirectly majority-owned by a financial entity;

''(iv) is not ultimately owned by a parent company that is a financial entity; and

''(v) does not provide any services, financial or otherwise, to any affiliate that is a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors (as defined under section 102 of the Financial Stability Act of 2010).

''(B) LIMITATION ON QUALIFYING AFFILIATES.—The exception in subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the affiliate is—

''(i) a swap dealer;

''(ii) a security-based swap dealer;

''(iii) a major swap participant;

''(iv) a major security-based swap participant;

''(v) a commodity pool;

''(vi) a bank holding company;

''(vii) a private fund, as defined in section 202(a) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80-b-2(a));

''(viii) an employee benefit plan or government plan, as defined in paragraphs (3) and (32) of section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002);

''(ix) an insured depository institution;

''(x) a farm credit system institution;

''(xi) a credit union;

''(xii) a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors (as defined under section 102 of the Financial Stability Act of 2010); or

''(xiii) an entity engaged in the business of insurance and subject to capital requirements established by an insurance governmental authority of a State, a territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, a country other than the United States, or a political subdivision of a country other than the United States that is engaged in the supervision of insurance companies under insurance law.

''(C) LIMITATION ON AFFILIATES' AFFILIATES.—Unless the Commission determines, by order, rule, or regulation, that it is in the public interest, the exception in subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to an affiliate if such affiliate is itself affiliated with—

''(i) a major security-based swap participant;

''(ii) a security-based swap dealer;

''(iii) a major swap participant; or

''(iv) a swap dealer.

''(D) CONDITIONS ON TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to an affiliate that qualifies for the exception in subparagraph (A)—

''(i) such affiliate may not enter into any security-based swap other than for the purpose of hedging or mitigating commercial risk; and

''(ii) neither such affiliate nor any person affiliated with such affiliate that is not a financial entity may enter into a security-based swap with or on behalf of any affiliate that is a financial entity or otherwise assume, net, combine, or consolidate the risk of security-based swaps entered into by any such financial entity, except one that is an affiliate that qualifies for the exception under subparagraph (A).''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—Any security-based swap entered into by an affiliate that qualifies for the exception in subparagraph (A) shall be subject to a centralized risk management program of the affiliate, which is reasonably designed both to monitor and manage the risks associated with the security-based swap and to identify each of the affiliates on whose behalf a security-based swap was entered into.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1317. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), both very good members of the Financial Services Committee, as well as Ms. FUDGE and Mr. GIBSON from the Agriculture Committee, for their bipartisan work over, frankly, several years to clarify an important provision of title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act.

H.R. 1317 is necessary to, once and for all, provide true relief for businesses that neither caused nor contributed to the financial crisis. The scope of Dodd-Frank's title VII, which governs the derivatives markets, captured thousands upon thousands of unsuspecting businesses who merely want to provide stable prices to their customers and ensure that there are predictable costs to produce those products.

While we were able to address one of those negative impacts that Dodd-Frank was having on end users earlier this year as part of the TRIA Reauthorization, nonfinancial end users, regrettably, are still subject to the onerous and costly requirements of title VII.

As long as a nonfinancial company uses a central treasury unit to consolidate their derivatives positions, H.R. 1317 will exempt the company's affiliates and subsidiaries from having to comply with title VII's many requirements.

As many know, the House of Representatives last December unanimously passed a substantially similar bill to provide this desperately needed relief. Unfortunately, that bill met with the same fate so many other bipartisan bills that have been produced by the Financial Services Committee and the House: they passed on a good-faith, bipartisan basis but, unfortunately, have been disregarded by the Senate.

Despite the significant differences between internal businesses or inter-affiliate derivatives trade and derivatives between unrelated counterparties, the Dodd-Frank Act treats all trades the same, which needlessly increase the cost of hedging risk for end users such as manufacturers, chemical companies, and utility companies, who, in turn, would do what, Mr. Speaker?

Regrettably, pass those increased costs and market fluctuations on to their customers.

In fact, Tom Quaadman, of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, noted during the legislative hearing on H.R. 1317 that ''without this critical bipartisan language, end users and consumers would face increased costs, and companies may be forced to abandon proven and efficient methods for managing their risk.''

H.R. 1317 is not for Wall Street; it is clearly for Main Street, and I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I do want to thank the chairman for his patience in getting this over the line. Hopefully, the Senate will see it our way this time.

I also want to thank the ranking member, Ms. WATERS, for her diligence in working to get this legislation to the floor and, of course, my friend from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), for working with me on this bill. All of them have been tremendous partners.

A long, long, long, long time ago, Mr. STIVERS shook my hand and said that he would continue to work with me until we got this legislation right, and he made good on his word.

I also want to thank my friends on the Agriculture Committee, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON). I credit all of these colleagues with helping this bill pass the Financial Services Committee 57–0, and the Agriculture Committee by voice vote.

We have a bill that sort of works for everyone: business, consumer groups, and regulators.

These central treasury units, Mr. Speaker, are financial affiliates of commercial companies. They are, indeed, the corporate best practices because they permit efficient aggregation of the risk of a corporate entity and provide for a single point of contact between the company and financial counterparties.

This legislation appropriately treats central treasury units like other inter-affiliate transactions in the aggregation and monitoring of risk in businesses, which is exactly what the end user exemption in Dodd-Frank always intended.

For example, if you are a company, you have many inputs and outputs that require you to hedge, like wheat in beer-making or aluminum cans in beer-making, and you need to make sure that you hedge and lock in the price before production.

This bill permits the CTU to transact hedging transactions under the Dodd-Frank end user exemption as principal and as an agent, which is the logic that the CFTC agrees with. The legislation enshrines that logic into statute with appropriate flexibility for the regulator and companies.

So I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1317. We need to get this legislation across the finish line to the President's desk because our end users need this in order to conduct business.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT), an outstanding member of the Agriculture committee.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1317. This bill makes targeted reforms that narrowly expand end user clearing relief to preserve the ability of end users to utilize necessary risk management tools in line with congressional intent.

This House most recently passed similar language as part of the Agriculture Committee's comprehensive reauthorization of the CFTC. Today's suspension is another step forward in a bipartisan effort to protect end users from the unintended regulatory consequences that have begun to occur.

The derivatives market provides an efficient place for commercial end users to manage and hedge the diverse risks associated with the day-to-day operations of the businesses in this country. These essential risk-management practices allow businesses like our agricultural producers or utility companies to protect themselves against unfavorable market fluctuations and to invest their resources to grow and create jobs.

As someone who has a degree in risk management, I can't stress enough that effective policy in the derivative space must take into account these efficient and proven business strategies. That is why Congress clearly sought to exempt the end users from the law's costly and burdensome clearing requirements in the drafting of the Dodd-Frank legislation.

Unfortunately, despite these efforts, current law does not adequately take into account the common risk-management practices of many companies who utilize separate legal entities known as centralized treasury units, or CTUs, to hedge the risk of their end user affiliates.

CTUs are used by a variety of businesses to centralize the hedging activities of multiple affiliates into a single market-facing entity. While a CTU is appropriately classified as a ''financial entity,'' the transaction it enters into to hedge the commercial market risk of the end user affiliates should also be exempted from the clearing requirement as if the end user affiliate had hedged those risks itself.

This allows firms to use CTUs to consolidate and reduce enterprisewide risk, as well as to centralize hedging expertise. While current law provides clearing exemptions for CTUs that act as an ''agent'' for affiliates, the exemption does not currently extend to CTUs that practice as a ''principal'' to the trades which manage the end user risks of commercial affiliates.

As most CTUS act as principals to the transactions hedging the risks of end user affiliates, this glitch in the law effectively prohibits commercial end users who utilize CTUs from accessing the end user clearing exception.

□ 2000

H.R. 1317 makes targeted but important statutory changes to clarify that the law's essential end user clearing exception remains available for all end users, regardless of their corporate structure.

As policymakers, it is our responsibility to ensure that regulation does not pose an unnecessary detriment to legitimate business practices. H.R. 1317 is an opportunity for us to resolve one of those issues today. This bill provides needed reforms to ensure our regulatory framework protects the integrity of our markets while allowing end user access to the tools needed to conduct their businesses.

A large bipartisan group of Members from all points of the ideological spectrum have worked diligently to produce this legislation which passed unanimously out of both the House Financial Services and the Agriculture Committees.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking each of them, and specifically Representatives MOORE, STIVERS, FUDGE, and GIBSON, for their hard work. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1317.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, but I just wish to urge all of my colleagues to support, again, a very bipartisan and very commonsense bill. This relief is needed for end users for proper risk management. It will indeed help these companies with economic growth.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1317, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EQUITY IN GOVERNMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2036) to suspend the current compensation packages for the chief executive officers of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2036

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Equity in Government Compensation Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

(2) ENTERPRISE.—The term ''enterprise'' means—

(A) the Federal National Mortgage Association and any affiliate thereof; and

(B) the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and any affiliate thereof.

SEC. 3. REASONABLE PAY FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

(a) SUSPENSION OF CURRENT COMPENSATION PACKAGE AND LIMITATION.—The Director shall suspend the compensation packages approved for 2015 for the chief executive officers of each enterprise and, in lieu of such

packages, subject to the limitation under subsection (b), establish the compensation and benefits for each such chief executive officer at the same level in effect for such officer as of January 1, 2015, and such compensation and benefits may not thereafter be increased.

(b) LIMITATION ON BONUSES.—Subsection (a) shall not be construed to affect the applicability of section 16 of the STOCK Act (12 U.S.C. 4518a) to the chief executive officer of each enterprise.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall only apply to a chief executive officer of an enterprise if the enterprise is in conservatorship or receivership pursuant to section 1367 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4617).

SEC. 4. FANNIE AND FREDDIE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

Any chief executive officer affected by any provision under section 3 shall not be considered a Federal employee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2036, the Equity in Government Compensation Act. I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for his diligent work to craft the language which is the basis for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2036 will simply reinstate the limits on the salaries of the CEOs at the government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that were eliminated earlier this year.

Since entering a Federal conservatorship in September of 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have received nearly $187.5 billion in taxpayer money making the GSE conservatorship by far the costliest of all taxpayer bailouts due to the financial crisis.

This is not the first time there has been public outcry over the compensation of Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's CEOs during their conservatorship. Following several years of substantial salaries and bonuses, congressional and public concern caused then-FHFA Director Ed DeMarco to cap the compensation for the GSE's chief executives at $600,000. Earlier this year, now-FHFA Director Mel Watt repealed those salary caps allowing the GSEs to raise their CEO pay to as much as the 25th percentile of comparable companies. This ultimately allowed both GSEs to increase their CEO pay from the previous cap of $600,000 to $4 million annually, all at the expense of the American taxpayer who is still backing these institutions.

Director Watt's decision to eliminate the salary caps has provoked disapproval not only from Members of Congress but the administration as well. Notably, both the Treasury Department and the White House opposed FHFA's decision to raise the GSE's CEO pay. Treasury recommended that ''existing limits on compensation continue given the taxpayers' ongoing backstop of both enterprises.''

Additionally, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest expressed the White House's opposition, adding that ''the reason that these entities are different than some of the financial entities that you see in the private sector is they benefit significantly from a backstop that is provided by the taxpayers. And because of that taxpayer assistance, I think it is entirely legitimate for the executives of those institutions to be subject to compensation limits.''

While some claim that the GSEs should be able to pay salaries commensurate with the private sector, these arguments failed to consider that the GSEs have yet to repay their debt to the U.S. taxpayers for their unprecedented bailouts. The 2015 New York Federal Reserve Bank Staff Report stated that taxpayers are entitled to ''a substantial risk premium,'' and the government has never collected the commitment fee taxpayers are owed.

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew concurred in his June 17, 2015, testimony before the Financial Services Committee, which I chair, that ''the risk is being borne by taxpayers on an ongoing basis, and the conservatorship is not over.''

Mr. Speaker, while Congress continues to debate the best framework for comprehensive housing finance reform, enactment of S. 2036 is a positive step forward based on a simple principle: What people do with their money is their business; what they do with taxpayer money is our business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting S. 2036.

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2015.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 2243, the Equity in Government Compensation Act of 2015. As you know, the Committee on Financial Services received an original referral and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform a secondary referral when the bill was introduced on May 8, 2015. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will forego action on the bill.

The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2243 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. Further, I request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform during any House-Senate conference convened on this or related legislation.

As you know, I introduced H.R. 1577, the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Transparency Act of 2015, which makes those entities subject to the Freedom of Information Act when in conservatorship or receivership. The bill shares the same goal as H.R. 2243 in that it aims to ensure accountability, transparency and fairness within our Government-sponsored enterprises. The Committee appreciates your willingness to examine my bill and work towards its consideration by the full House.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on H.R. 2243 be included in the bill report filed by the Committee on Financial Services, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chair, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you for your November 16th letter regarding H.R. 2243, the ''Equity in Government Compensation Act of 2015.''

I am most appreciative of your decision to forego action on H.R. 2243 so that it may move expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waiving action on the bill, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is in no way waiving its jurisdictional interest in this or similar legislation. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this legislation, I will support any request that your committee be represented therein.

Finally, I shall be pleased to review H.R. 1577, the ''Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Transparency Act of 2015,'' for potential action by the Financial Services Committee. I will also include your letter and this letter in the Committee's report on H.R. 2243 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the same.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chair, Committee on Financial Services.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, we understand that FHFA Director Watt is doing everything in his power to conserve the assets of the GSEs. However, I agree with the chairman, Mr. HENSARLING, that we disagree that the CEOs of these two companies in conservatorship, whose operations are controlled by their regulator, should be paid multimillion-dollar compensation packages.

The Treasury, which is the GSE's largest shareholder, opposes these proposed pay packages for the GSE CEOs, and so do we. So, Mr. Speaker, I therefore support S. 2036 and would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr.

HILL), a very hardworking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HILL. I thank the chairman and appreciate his work on bringing this important bill to the floor, and I thank my friend, Chairman ROYCE, from California, for sponsoring the House version of this measure, H.R. 2243, and I stand in full support with the Senate version tonight, S. 2036.

Mr. Speaker, since being placed in voluntary conservatorship, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, in my judgment, has really abdicated their responsibility with the Treasury in acting truly as a conservator. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have received almost $200 billion in government assistance, by far our costliest taxpayer bailout resulting from the financial crisis.

This is also not the first time that the GSEs, the government-sponsored enterprises, were placed in conservatorship and that the FHFA has been scrutinized for awarding increased pay to the CEOs. That has been previously discussed in detail here. And largely in response to that criticism of FHFA's failure to properly administer these entities in conservatorship, the GSE's CEO compensation was capped in 2012 at $600,000. Now, miraculously, they are being approved for millions in pay increases despite the fact that these entities are still, Mr. Speaker, in conservatorship.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, on July 30 that I wrote Mel Watt, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and awarded him my monthly Golden Fleece Award for poor stewardship of taxpayer resources. I include my letter to Mr. Watt in the RECORD.

JULY 30, 2015.

Hon. MEL WATT,
Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Washington, DC.

DEAR DIRECTOR WATT: I write today to inform you of my recent Golden Fleece Award to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) for its approval of approximately $4 million in raises for each of the CEOs of the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Since being placed in voluntary conservatorship by FHFA in 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have received almost $200 billion in government assistance, by far the costliest taxpayer bailout resulting from the financial crisis. This is also not the first time since the GSEs were placed in conservatorship that FHFA has been scrutinized for awarding increased pay to their CEOs. In 2009, FHFA approved $42 million in pay packages to the GSEs' top 12 executives. In 2011, FHFA approved $12.79 million in bonus pay for some of the top executives at Fannie and Freddie. Largely in response to this criticism, the GSEs' CEO compensation was capped in 2012 at $600,000.

Both the U.S. Treasury Department and the White House have also opposed FHFA's decision to raise Fannie and Freddie CEOs' salaries. Specifically, Treasury recommended that ''existing limits on compensation continue given the taxpayers' ongoing backstop of both enterprises,'' while White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest stated that ''the reason that these entities are different than some of the financial entities that you see in the private sector is they benefit significantly from a backstop that's provided by that taxpayers. And because of that taxpayer assistance, I think it is entirely legitimate for the executives of those institutions to be subject to compensation limits.'' Additionally, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew stated in his June 17, 2015 testimony before the House Financial Services Committee that ''the risk is being borne by taxpayers on an ongoing basis and the conservatorship is not over.'' Despite this opposition, FHFA has once again raised these salaries to $4 million.

While the recovery of the housing market has helped Fannie and Freddie repay the federal government, and I fully support the private sector compensating its executives as it sees fit, Fannie and Freddie still have taxpayer backing, are not private companies, and should not be compensated as such.

While Congress still must work to enact necessary reforms to our GSEs, FHFA must be accountable and responsible for ensuring the protection of our hardworking taxpayers' dollars. I am committed to eradicating this type of inefficient and ineffective policy and regulation by our federal agencies, and today's Golden Fleece highlights the clear lack of judgement by FHFA in approving these raises. I invite your immediate attention to this issue, and please keep me apprised of your efforts at improvement.

Sincerely,

FRENCH HILL,
Member of Congress.

Mr. HILL. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has given his opposition, the White House has provided a statement of opposition, and yet Mel Watt continues. It is for these reasons that I fully support the effort of Mr. ROYCE and Mr. VITTER in capping the compensation until these entities are returned to financial health.

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

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day where we can work to have a sustainable housing finance system in America, one that is sustainable for homeowners so they are not put into homes they cannot afford to keep; one that is sustainable for our economy, so that we promote economic growth and reduce our tendency to have these recessions; and certainly one sustainable for the taxpayers, because the taxpayers should never ever again be called upon to bail out government-sponsored enterprises to the tune of almost $200 billion.

Regardless of how effective the current CEOs are of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, $4 million compensation packages are not part of a sustainable housing finance system. Again, they are under government conservatorship. The taxpayer is still at risk. This does not pass the smell test, it doesn't pass the laugh test, and it certainly doesn't pass the taxpayer protection test.

So I am very happy with the work by the gentleman of California (Mr. ROYCE) that provided the House language that was underpinning the Senate language that we are debating tonight. I am glad that this is bipartisan. I don't often find myself in agreement with the administration, but I am prepared to take ''yes'' for an answer, and I urge all of my colleagues to adopt this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2036.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 208) to improve the disaster assistance programs of the Small Business Administration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

(1) On page 2, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015'' or the ''RISE After Disaster Act of 2015''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

DIVISION A—SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 1001. Short title.
Sec. 1002. Findings.

TITLE I—DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS

1101. Revised disaster deadline.
1102. Use of physical damage disaster loans to construct safe rooms.
1103. Reducing delays on closing and disbursement of loans.
1104. Safeguarding taxpayer interests and increasing transparency in loan approvals.
1105. Disaster plan improvements.

DIVISION B—RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SMALL ENTITIES

Sec. 2001. Short title.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND LOANS

Sec. 2101. Additional awards to small business development centers, women's business centers, and SCORE for disaster recovery.
Sec. 2102. Collateral requirements for disaster loans.
Sec. 2103. Assistance to out-of-State business concerns to aid in disaster recovery.
Sec. 2104. FAST program.
Sec. 2105. Use of Federal surplus property in disaster areas.
Sec. 2106. Recovery opportunity loans.
Sec. 2107. Contractor malfeasance.
Sec. 2108. Local contracting preferences and incentives.
Sec. 2109. Clarification of collateral requirements.

TITLE II—DISASTER PLANNING AND MITIGATION

Sec. 2201. Business recovery centers.

TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 2301. Increased oversight of economic injury disaster loans.

Sec. 2302. GAO report on paperwork reduction.
Sec. 2303. Report on web portal for disaster loan applicants.

DIVISION A—SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Superstorm Sandy Relief and Disaster Loan Program Improvement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 1002. FINDINGS.

(2) On page 3, strike line 5 and insert the following:

TITLE I—DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 1101. REVISED DISASTER DEADLINE.

(3) On page 3, line 14, insert ''nonprofit entity,'' after ''homeowner,''.

(4) On page 4, line 9, strike the quotation marks and the second period and insert the following:

''(C) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Administrator begins carrying out this authority, the Inspector General of the Administration shall initiate a review of the controls for ensuring applicant eligibility for loans made under this paragraph.''.

(5) On page 4, line 10, strike ''**SEC. 4.**'' and insert ''**SEC. 1102.**''.

(6) On page 4, line 24, insert '', if such safe room or similar storm shelter is constructed in accordance with applicable standards issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency'' after ''disasters''.

(7) On page 5, strike lines 1 through 21 and insert the following:

SEC. 1103. REDUCING DELAYS ON CLOSING AND DISBURSEMENT OF LOANS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (9) the following:

(8) On page 5, line 22, strike ''(11)'' and insert ''(10)''.

(9) On page 6, strike lines 5 through 8 and insert the following:

SEC. 1104. SAFEGUARDING TAXPAYER INTERESTS AND INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN LOAN APPROVALS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (10), as added by section 1103 of this Act, the following:

(10) On page 6, line 9, strike ''(12)'' and insert ''(11)''.

(11) Beginning on page 6, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 7, line 20, and insert the following:

SEC. 1105. DISASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS.

(12) Beginning on page 8, strike line 6 and all that follows through page 9, line 6, and insert the following:

DIVISION B—RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SMALL ENTITIES

SECTION 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015'' or the ''RISE After Disaster Act of 2015''.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND LOANS

SEC. 2101. ADDITIONAL AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS, AND SCORE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (11), as added by section 1104 of this Act, the following:

''(12) ADDITIONAL AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS, AND SCORE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administration may provide financial assistance to a small business development center, a women's business center described in section 29, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, or any proposed consortium of such individuals or entities to spur disaster recovery and growth of small business concerns located in an area for which the President has declared a major disaster.

''(B) FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance provided under this paragraph shall be in the form of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

''(C) NO MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—Matching funds shall not be required for any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph.

''(D) REQUIREMENTS.—A recipient of financial assistance under this paragraph shall provide counseling, training, and other related services, such as promoting long-term resiliency, to small business concerns and entrepreneurs impacted by a major disaster.

''(E) PERFORMANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in cooperation with the recipients of financial assistance under this paragraph, shall establish metrics and goals for performance of grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this paragraph, which shall include recovery of sales, recovery of employment, reestablishment of business premises, and establishment of new small business concerns.

''(ii) USE OF ESTIMATES.—The Administrator shall base the goals and metrics for performance established under clause (i), in part, on the estimates of disaster impact prepared by the Office of Disaster Assistance for purposes of estimating loan-making requirements.

''(F) TERM.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term of any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph shall be for not more than 2 years.

''(ii) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may make 1 extension of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph for a period of not more than 1 year, upon a showing of good cause and need for the extension.

''(G) EXEMPTION FROM OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Financial assistance provided under this paragraph is in addition to, and wholly separate from, any other form of assistance provided by the Administrator under this Act.

''(H) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—The Administration shall award financial assistance under this paragraph on a competitive basis.''.

SEC. 2102. COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISASTER LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended in the third proviso—

(1) by striking ''$14,000'' and inserting ''$25,000''; and

(2) by striking ''major disaster'' and inserting ''disaster''.

(b) SUNSET.—Effective on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended in the third proviso—

(1) by striking ''$25,000'' and inserting ''$14,000''; and

(2) by inserting ''major'' before ''disaster''.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days before the date on which the amendments made by subsection (b) are to take effect, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the effects of the amendments made by subsection (a), which shall include—

(1) an assessment of the impact and benefits resulting from the amendments; and

(2) a recommendation as to whether the amendments should be made permanent.

SEC. 2103. ASSISTANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE BUSINESS CONCERNS TO AID IN DISASTER RECOVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(3) At the discretion'' and inserting the following:

''(3) ASSISTANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator, the Administrator may authorize a small business development center to provide advice, information, and assistance, as described in subsection (c), to a small business concern located outside of the State, without regard to geographic proximity to the small business development center, if the small business concern is located in an area for which the President has declared a major disaster.

''(ii) TERM.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A small business development center may provide advice, information, and assistance to a small business concern under clause (i) for a period of not more than 2 years after the date on which the President declared a major disaster for the area in which the small business concern is located.

''(II) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may, at the discretion of the Administrator, extend the period described in subclause (I).

''(iii) CONTINUITY OF SERVICES.—A small business development center that provides counselors to an area described in clause (i) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure continuity of services in any State in which the small business development center otherwise provides services.

''(iv) ACCESS TO DISASTER RECOVERY FACILITIES.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, permit the personnel of a small business development center to use any site or facility designated by the Administrator for use to provide disaster recovery assistance.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, subject to the availability of funds, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration should, to the extent practicable, ensure that a small business development center is appropriately reimbursed for any legitimate expenses incurred in carrying out activities under section 21(b)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 2104. FAST PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 34(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (9) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) CATASTROPHIC INCIDENT.—The term 'catastrophic incident' means a major disaster that is comparable to the description of a catastrophic incident in the National Response Plan of the Administration, or any successor thereto.''.

(b) PRIORITY.—Section 34(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(vi)(III), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) shall give special consideration to an applicant that is located in an area affected by a catastrophic incident.''.

(c) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 34(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CATASTROPHIC INCIDENTS.—Upon application by an applicant that receives an award or has in effect a cooperative agreement under this section and that is located in an area affected by a catastrophic incident, the Administrator may—

''(A) provide additional assistance to the applicant; and

''(B) waive the matching requirements under subsection (e)(2).''.

SEC. 2105. USE OF FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY IN DISASTER AREAS.

Section 7(j)(13)(F) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(13)(F)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(i)'' after ''(F)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii)(I) In this clause—

''(aa) the term 'covered period' means the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the President declared the applicable major disaster; and

''(bb) the term 'disaster area' means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the covered period.

''(II) The Administrator may transfer technology or surplus property under clause (i) on a priority basis to a small business concern located in a disaster area if—

''(aa) the small business concern meets the requirements for such a transfer, without regard to whether the small business concern is a Program Participant; and

''(bb) for a small business concern that is a Program Participant, on and after the date on which the President declared the applicable major disaster, the small business concern has not received property under this subparagraph on the basis of the status of the small business concern as a Program Participant.

''(III) For any transfer of property under this clause to a small business concern, the terms and conditions shall be the same as a transfer to a Program Participant, except that the small business concern shall agree not to sell or transfer the property to any party other than the Federal Government during the covered period.

''(IV) A small business concern that receives a transfer of property under this clause may not receive a transfer of property under clause (i) during the covered period.

''(V) If a small business concern sells or transfers property in violation of the agreement described in subclause (III), the Administrator may initiate proceedings to prohibit the small business concern from receiving a transfer of property under this clause or clause (i), in addition to any other remedy available to the Administrator.''.

SEC. 2106. RECOVERY OPPORTUNITY LOANS.

Section 7(a)(31) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(31)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) as clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following:

''(i) The term 'disaster area' means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the declaration.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) RECOVERY OPPORTUNITY LOANS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may guarantee an express loan to a small business concern located in a disaster area in accordance with this subparagraph.

''(ii) MAXIMUMS.—For a loan guaranteed under clause (i)—

''(I) the maximum loan amount is $150,000; and

''(II) the guarantee rate shall be not more than 85 percent.

''(iii) OVERALL CAP.—A loan guaranteed under clause (i) shall not be counted in determining the amount of loans made to a borrower for purposes of subparagraph (D).

''(iv) OPERATIONS.—A small business concern receiving a loan guaranteed under clause (i) shall certify that the small business concern was in operation on the date on which the applicable major disaster occurred as a condition of receiving the loan.

''(v) REPAYMENT ABILITY.—A loan guaranteed under clause (i) may only be made to a small business concern that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Administrator, sufficient capacity to repay the loan.

''(vi) TIMING OF PAYMENT OF GUARANTEES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a request for purchase is filed with the Administrator, the Administrator shall determine whether to pay the guaranteed portion of the loan.

''(II) RECAPTURE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unless there is a subsequent finding of fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction relating to a loan guaranteed under clause (i), on and after the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Administrator determines to pay the guaranteed portion of the loan, the Administrator may not attempt to recapture the paid guarantee.

''(vii) FEES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Unless the Administrator has waived the guarantee fee that would otherwise be collected by the Administrator under paragraph (18) for a loan guaranteed under clause (i), and except as provided in subclause (II), the guarantee fee for the loan shall be equal to the guarantee fee that the Administrator would collect if the guarantee rate for the loan was 50 percent.

''(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply if the cost of carrying out the program under this subsection in a fiscal year is more than zero and such cost is directly attributable to the cost of guaranteeing loans under clause (i).

''(viii) RULES.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Administrator shall promulgate rules to carry out this subparagraph.''.

SEC. 2107. CONTRACTOR MALFEASANCE.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (12), as added by section 2101 of this Act, the following:

''(13) SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONTRACTOR MALFEASANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a contractor or other person engages in malfeasance in connection with repairs to, rehabilitation of, or replacement of real or personal property relating to which a loan was made under this subsection and the malfeasance results in substantial economic damage to the recipient of the loan or substantial risks to health or safety, upon receiving documentation of the substantial economic damage or the substantial risk to health and safety from an independent loss verifier, and subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator may increase the amount of the loan under this subsection, as necessary for the cost of repairs, rehabilitation, or replacement needed to address the cause of the economic damage or health or safety risk.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator may only increase the amount of a loan under subparagraph (A) upon receiving an appropriate certification from the borrower and person performing the mitigation attesting to the reasonableness of the mitigation costs and an assignment of any proceeds received from the person engaging in the malfeasance. The assignment of proceeds recovered from the person engaging in the malfeasance shall be equal to the amount of the loan under this section. Any mitigation activities shall be subject to audit and independent verification of completeness and cost reasonableness.''.

SEC. 2108. LOCAL CONTRACTING PREFERENCES AND INCENTIVES.

Section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) CONTRACTING PREFERENCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN A MAJOR DISASTER AREA.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'disaster area' means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the period of the declaration.

''(2) CONTRACTING PREFERENCE.—An agency shall provide a contracting preference for a small business concern located in a disaster area if the small business concern will perform the work required under the contract in the disaster area.

''(3) CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.—If an agency awards a contract to a small business concern under the circumstances described in paragraph (2), the value of the contract shall be doubled for purposes of determining compliance with the goals for procurement contracts under subsection (g)(1)(A).''.

SEC. 2109. CLARIFICATION OF COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended by inserting after ''which are made under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)'' the following: '': Provided further, That the Administrator, in obtaining the best available collateral for a loan of not more than $200,000 under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) relating to damage to or destruction of the property of, or economic injury to, a small business concern, shall not require the owner of the small business concern to use the primary residence of the owner as collateral if the Administrator determines that the owner has other assets of equal quality and with a value equal to or greater than the amount of the loan that could be used as collateral for the loan: Provided further, That nothing in the preceding proviso may be construed to reduce the amount of collateral required by the Administrator in connection with a loan described in the preceding proviso or to modify the standards used to evaluate the quality (rather than the type) of such collateral''.

TITLE II—DISASTER PLANNING AND MITIGATION

SEC. 2201. BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTERS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (13), as added by section 2108 of this Act, the following:

''(14) BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the district offices of the Administration, shall identify locations that may be used as recovery centers by the Administration in the event of a disaster declared under this subsection or a major disaster.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION.—Each district office of the Administration shall—

''(i) identify a location described in subparagraph (A) in each county, parish, or similar unit of general local government in the area served by the district office; and

''(ii) ensure that the locations identified under subparagraph (A) may be used as a recovery center without cost to the Government, to the extent practicable.''.

TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 2301. INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (14), as added by section 2201 of this Act, the following:

''(15) INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.—The Administrator shall increase oversight of entities receiving loans under paragraph (2), and may consider—

''(A) scheduled site visits to ensure borrower eligibility and compliance with requirements established by the Administrator; and

''(B) reviews of the use of the loan proceeds by an entity described in paragraph (2) to ensure compliance with requirements established by the Administrator.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO USING EXISTING FUNDS.—It is the sense of Congress

that no additional Federal funds should be made available to carry out the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 2302. GAO REPORT ON PAPERWORK REDUCTION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report evaluating steps that the Small Business Administration has taken, with respect to the application for disaster assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), to comply with subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'') and related guidance.

SEC. 2303. REPORT ON WEB PORTAL FOR DISASTER LOAN APPLICANTS.

Section 38 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657j) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) REPORT ON WEB PORTAL FOR DISASTER LOAN APPLICATION STATUS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report relating to the creation of a web portal to the track the status of applications for disaster assistance under section 7(b).

''(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) information on the progress of the Administration in implementing the information system under subsection (a);

''(B) recommendations from the Administration relating to the creation of a web portal for applicants to check the status of an application for disaster assistance under section 7(b), including a review of best practices and web portal models from the private sector;

''(C) information on any related costs or staffing needed to implement such a web portal;

''(D) information on whether such a web portal can maintain high standards for data privacy and data security;

''(E) information on whether such a web portal will minimize redundancy among Administration disaster programs, improve management of the number of inquiries made by disaster applicants to employees located in the area affected by the disaster and to call centers, and reduce paperwork burdens on disaster victims; and

''(F) such additional information as is determined necessary by the Administrator.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on July 13, this Chamber overwhelmingly passed H.R. 208, which was a corrective measure for those who suffered twice: first, by a disaster and, second, by the SBA's inability to provide disaster assistance. Since that time, we have experienced more natural disasters, with the President issuing major disaster declarations for the wildfires in California and across the country in South Carolina for the severe storms and flooding that recently occurred.

As we know too well, a major natural disaster can happen anywhere, at any time, and to anyone in this great Nation. A natural disaster exposes us to the worst nature has to offer, yet it oftentimes brings out the best in people. Communities band together, neighbors help neighbors, and volunteers donate their time and energy, all in an effort to rebuild.

Over the last decade, America has faced some of its worst natural disasters, with Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and, more recently, Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

In the aftermath of any disaster, it is imperative that Federal Government programs operate efficiently and effectively so victims are able to rebuild and return their lives to normal as soon as possible.

Following both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy, there have been startling reports regarding the Small Business Administration's inability to properly administer the disaster loan program. The bill before us today, as amended by the Senate, has the great fortune of being authored by two individuals who have seen firsthand how challenging the SBA disaster loan process is in the aftermath of these catastrophic storms.

The amendment we seek to concur in today comes from Senator VITTER, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, who, as we all know, represents the great State of Louisiana, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Senator VITTER's amendment strengthens the already strong underlying bill, which was authored by our committee's ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, whose district in New York City was ravaged by Superstorm Sandy.

I would like to thank them both for their leadership and hard work on these issues and for working together to craft legislation which takes into account the needs of disaster victims and taxpayers.

□ 2015

This amendment further ensures that the SBA will be able to respond quickly to the needs of disaster victims. It makes commonsense improvements to the program, such as allowing SBA's resource partners who already have a presence in the disaster area to engage with small businesses as soon as the area is declared a disaster, meaning small businesses can resume operating faster and getting people back to work.

It also recognizes that sometimes those resource partners will have been affected by the disaster and allows small-business development centers, SBDCs, from other States to go into affected areas temporarily and to aid victims. I know in my home district, Ohio's First District, having Kentucky so close, this would be essential if either State's SBDC suffered due to a natural disaster.

Further, the amendment builds on the underlying bill's concerns regarding the SBA's struggle with electronic disaster loan applications following Superstorm Sandy. This amendment ensures that Congress will be informed of the status of the electronic application web portal so that we can provide oversight and prevent failures that happened in previous disasters from recurring. These changes, among others, will ensure that the SBA is fully capable of responding to the next disaster.

Again, I want to offer a special thanks to our committee's ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for her insight and leadership on this issue and for working in a bipartisan, bicameral manner, as she does.

I have seen that as chair of the Small Business Committee that I chair now, but I have also been the ranking member under her when she was chair, and it was always bipartisan. We have worked together in a very collegial manner, and I thank her for that.

I want to thank her for this bill and developing it. It will help to ensure those affected by disasters can rebuild quickly and that the interests of the taxpayers are protected. This legislation, as amended and passed by the Senate, has broad bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to support and concur on H.R. 208, as amended by the Senate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, when Hurricane Sandy made landfall in 2012, New York City was one of the hardest hit areas. Thousands of homes suffered damage, infrastructure was disrupted, and our city's small businesses were impacted physically and economically.

After a disaster like this, it is not uncommon for as many as 40 percent of impacted small businesses to fail, depressing commerce and slowing the community's recovery.

The Small Business Administration's disaster lending functions are meant to provide quick credit to small businesses and homeowners that have been impacted by catastrophes.

With entrepreneurs' and homeowners' livelihoods at stake, it is vital that the SBA's disaster programs operate effectively. That is why in 2008, after Katrina, Congress passed reforms meant to improve SBA's disaster response.

It became evident following Hurricane Sandy that there is still much work to be done. The Government Accountability Office, the inspector general, and Small Business Committee

Democrats have all documented shortcomings in SBA's administration of the disaster loan program.

Our committee found, for instance, that small businesses waited 46 days to get their application processed by SBA, a threefold increase over previous Atlantic storms. The IG found the agency lacked clear guidance which resulted in confusion for borrowers, inconsistent application of underwriting criteria, and loans going to ineligible entities.

H.R. 208 addresses these shortcomings and ensures those affected by Hurricane Sandy are treated fairly. To begin, the bill would allow businesses to apply again for loans. As SBA was so unprepared for a disaster of this scale, it is important that those impacted have another chance at securing assistance.

This bill would also correct many of the problems identified by the IG. SBA will be required to provide up-front notification to borrowers on necessary documentation as well as establish clear written policies for loan officers. By clearing up confusion for both borrowers and SBA staff, H.R. 208 will ensure funds flow more swiftly to businesses after future catastrophes.

Lastly, the measure incorporates a number of bipartisan reforms from our Senate colleagues. Under these provisions, for instance, businesses would no longer be prohibited from posting their assets as collateral. This is important as, previously, many entrepreneurs have had to use personal assets for loan collateral.

Mr. Speaker, this is a truly bipartisan, bicameral effort that focuses on better assisting small businesses impacted by natural disasters.

I want to thank Chairman CHABOT for his leadership and support on this legislation. I also wanted to thank Chairman VITTER, Ranking Member SHAHEEN, and Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER for their hard work in crafting this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

When disasters strike, getting small businesses back on their feet quickly can help local economies recover. For that to happen, the SBA's disaster lending initiatives must work as intended, providing emergency capital to firms that have suffered physical and economical damage.

H.R. 208 would allow businesses that encounter delays to reapply for assistance and be made whole. It also improves how the agency functions going forward, speeding help to small businesses and homeowners when they are most in need. This is a bipartisan bill, and it will do much good for entrepreneurs impacted by Sandy and for businesses impacted by future disasters.

I want to thank Chairman VITTER, Ranking Member SHAHEEN, Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER, and especially Chairman CHABOT for working in a bipartisan manner to get this bill to the President.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the Senate Small Business Committee and our staff for the House Small Business Committee: Adam Minehardt, Justin Pelletier, Emily Murphy, Barry Pinelas, and Corey Cooke.

I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we never know when or where the next disaster will strike. But, unfortunately, we do know that there will be another disaster. In fact, there will be more disasters. Given this, we must ensure that the SBA is truly prepared to help victims in the aftermath of those disasters.

H.R. 208 rights the wrongs imposed by the SBA on those who suffered from the effects of Sandy. But H.R. 208 does more than just correct past mistakes. It imposes obligations on the SBA to ensure the agency learns from history and does not repeat those mistakes.

I urge my colleagues to vote to concur on the Senate amendment H.R. 208.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 208.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, this week is American Education Week.

Today I rise to choose my bill, the Equity and Excellence in American Education Act, which will move us towards a more equitable education funding system. We can wait no longer to act, knowing we are not providing each and every child with a quality education.

My legislation is a starting point to establish equity as a foundational principle of our education system, especially in funding. Each and every child deserves to have an enriched education based on equity. Equity acknowledges all children are different with different needs. Equity means supporting families and students at the beginning with quality preschool and K–5 educational strategies based on equity.

Rather than saying, ''What can we do with the funding we traditionally receive?'', we instead start with the question, ''How much do we need to meet the needs of each and every child?'' and build a system which reflects that funding. This will be a challenge, but one we must take on.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2015, TERROR ATTACK IN PARIS

(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, I stand in the well of the House witnessed by the portraits of George Washington and his protege, an invaluable ally to America, the Marquis de Lafayette.

On Friday, November 13, the world watched in horror as they witnessed the terrorist attacks in Paris that claimed the lives of 129 civilians from over 15 different countries.

These brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends and loved ones, whose lives were taken away too soon from us and those who were gravely wounded from this attack will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and friends, and the strong resilient people of France.

This massacre at the hands of barbarous terrorists was an attack on the civilized world, and we will not let these horrific actions stand. We stand strong.

Today the flags at the U.S. Capitol fly at half-staff. We stand in solidarity with France, honor the victims of this attack, and in the call to combat this massing menace, place our undying faith in our two democracies bound together by young Lafayette's faithful and courageous service.

HONORING REVEREND RONALD B. CHRISTIAN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, back in my home State of New Jersey, we had the honor of having a going-home celebration for a remarkable individual from my community. He was known as Reverend Ron. His name was Ronald B. Christian.

Reverend Ron's ministry was unique because Reverend Ron looked at the least of us and took them in without judgment to help them with their ills, whether they have drug issues or issues with the criminal justice system.

He never, never judged because he had seen the worst that life could show you because he had gone through some of it himself. And one day God stood him up and said: Now serve my people.

This great man passed away several weeks ago, but I wanted to honor him on the floor of the United States Congress. He was a unique individual. He was one of God's children.

On the outside of his church, it said ''Sinners welcome,'' and he never wavered, and he never turned his back.

We will miss the Reverend Ronald B. Christian from Christian Love Baptist Church.

□ 2030

RESILIENT FEDERAL FORESTS ACT

(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, Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, includes the Allegheny National Forest. The forest covers more than 500,000 acres, and the use of its hardwoods has supported the communities of the Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties for generations.

Mr. Speaker, since these small towns depend on the harvesting of trees from the Allegheny National Forest, I am deeply concerned by the news that, while the amount of timber cut in the forest has increased in recent years, the number sold has sharply declined.

In fact, timber sales have gone down 19 percent in the past 5 years. Furthermore, a majority of the timber harvested is being sold as pulp and not as the high-value hardwood which is used to create furniture, flooring, and as veneers.

This is one of the reasons I cosponsored the Resilient Federal Forests Act, which passed the House earlier this year, as it would enhance the management efforts in our national forests to make sure our quality hardwoods are being used in the right ways.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) is recognized for half the remaining time, until 10 p.m., as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to lead tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. For 60 minutes, we have the opportunity to speak directly to the American people.

Before we get to business, I do want to take a moment to express my condolences and the prayers of the Congressional Black Caucus and this Congress to our allies in France after Friday night's attacks in Paris.

Our hearts go out to the victims and their families. No act of terror can shake the resolve of the French people to live free, and nothing will impede France's ability to live prosperously. I want the people of France to know that the American people and this Congress stand in solidarity with the people of France tonight. I say this with full faith and confidence that no act of terror will deter France or the United States from embracing the principles of liberty, equality, and brotherhood.

Our hearts also go out to those who recently lost loved ones and friends in Beirut and Nigeria.

Mr. Speaker, in this hour, the Congressional Black Caucus will have a conversation with America about the issue of race relations in this country. This isn't a new topic of discussion. To be honest, I really wish there were no need and no appetite remaining in America so as to have to address this topic.

It is amazing that the same nation that saw pilgrims journey to our shores on the Mayflower and that the same nation that saw Founding Father Ben Franklin make groundbreaking discoveries in electric science is the same nation that was able to land a man on the Moon and harness the electromagnetic spectrum for our mobile devices. We still wrestle with the same problem that confronted Ben Franklin and the Founding Fathers so long ago: the issue of race relations in America.

As President Obama so eloquently remarked, the answer to the slavery question was already embedded within our Constitution—a Constitution that had at its very core the ideal of equal citizenship under the law, a Constitution that promised its people liberty and justice and a union that could be and should be perfected over time.

Yet these words were not enough to deliver slaves from bondage or to provide men and women of every color and creed with their full rights and obligations as citizens of the United States.

It is this inherited sin that has guided a national history of challenging race relations in America, from slavery to the Three-Fifths Compromise, to a nation divided and broken over the issue of slavery, to poll taxes and literacy tests, to separate but equal, to Japanese internment, to anti-Semitism, to the Tuskegee experiment, to Brown v. The Board of Education, to the loving Confederate flags at State houses, to the Confederate statues in this Capitol, and to parishioners executed during a Charleston Bible study, executed in the hopes that it would spark a race war. It is the sad truth that, while race relations do not define us as a nation, ignoring and perverting these relations has left a painful blemish on our national record.

Mr. Speaker, many times this year the Congressional Black Caucus has come before you in this hour to discuss the issue of Black voter suppression in America, the mass incarceration of African American males in America, the issue of Black Lives Matter, community fears over unfair and unequal treatment at the hands of bad apple law enforcement officers, and the economic concerns of communities of color.

These concerns aren't made up. The impact and evidence of these concerns can be found everywhere for proof. Look at Amendments 13 through 15. Look at the issue of African Americans having higher rates of mortality than any other racial ethnic group for 8 of the top 10 causes of death. Look at the Black Lives Matter protests that we have had across the country. These concerns are our reality, and we must know these things to be true. We know more must be done to strengthen our national record on race.

Tonight I want to use my time to discuss race relations in America, but I want to do so in a way that looks forward and not behind. I want to have a conversation about strengthening our national foundation and about healing the racial wounds of our past. In this conversation about race relations in America, I will highlight areas of need and opportunity that should be examined. Tonight's conversation should be a strong step toward progress.

It is my true honor and pleasure to coanchor this hour with my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, a man who has committed his time in Congress to strengthening communities and bridging cultures.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, Jr., my colleague.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois. It has been as a labor of love that we have represented the Congressional Black Caucus in these Special Order hours this year.

Our year is coming to a close. As we look back at the issues that we have discussed over the course of this year, it has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside my colleague, R. KELLY.

As for tonight's issue, we have seen in recent weeks a number of racially charged incidents that have set off protests on college campuses across the country. From the University of Missouri to Yale, students have protested the inadequate responses of their school administrations to racism and harassment against minority students. We have seen the failure of many college administrations to properly address overt racism against minority students on campus.

Adding to the anxiety felt by these students have been threats of violence against African American students and faculty. In many instances, there is a disconnect between students of color and the university leaders.

In many of these instances, administrators have openly acknowledged that their responses to minority students have come too late and that their behavior has failed to take into consideration the concerns of students and the injustices against those students.

This is an extension of the debate over interactions—often deadly—between law enforcement and African

Americans. Many African Americans feel marginalized and unsafe in going about their normal day.

This year an overarching theme of our Special Order hours has been equality and justice. We have discussed how, despite the strides our Nation has made on the journey to a more just society, minorities are still the subject of racism and racial discrimination and face persistent inequities across the board, from health to income, to criminal justice.

Through our conversations and through the ongoing national debate about racial equality, we are highlighting how occurrences like those at the University of Missouri are not isolated incidents of racism; they are part of a larger system of discrimination.

There is a history of racial discrimination, inequality, and bias that still affects African American communities across this Nation. We need to recognize this.

There also needs to be a recognition of the pain and anxiety and fears that it creates in some of these young Americans. As we are seeing right now, many minority students feel that they do not have a home on campus. Many minority students are concerned about their safety at school.

Following reports of threats on social media, students at the University of Missouri were afraid to attend classes. All students deserve a safe environment in which to live and learn. We can't discount the fears of these students; yet, that is exactly what we see happening. It is why so many students across the country are coalescing in support of racial justice.

How can we move forward from here?

Our national conversation about racial justice needs to remain ongoing. As a Nation, we must continue to confront incidents of racism and harassment and bring light to the complacency that too often enables these occurrences in the first place. It has to be more than just a conversation. We have to use the voices of our students and of our communities to drive concrete action on their behalf.

Schools need to ensure the diversity not only of their student bodies, but also of their faculties and staffs to increase racial understanding and bring a broader perspective to their institutions.

Schools also need to make sure that marginalized students have access to services that enable them to share their experiences and to seek assistance to meet their needs. School administrators need to be held accountable for their failure to make their campuses inclusive and safe for all students.

There needs to be an urgency of their handling of racial incidents, and any hate crimes or civil rights violations need to be investigated internally and by law enforcement, as appropriate.

We must never waver in our efforts to address racial disparities and to eliminate racism in our country. The Congressional Black Caucus is committed to addressing racial disparities by developing initiatives and by working with grassroots and national organizations, such as Black Lives Matter, the NAACP, and the Urban League, to ensure that they know that they have someone in their corner and that there is an effort to work together.

□ 2045

The Congressional Black Caucus is also holding a number of forums to bring African American community resources into the areas of business development, small-business assistance, financial empowerment, inequality, and education.

As a caucus, we will continue to lend our support to those fighting for justice, equality, and opportunity for all.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back to my colleague, ROBIN KELLY.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I thank Representative PAYNE for those words.

One thing that you talked about with the University of Missouri, I thought it was great that when they did protests and sit-ins, that there were White students, football players, and coaches that also sat with them and gave them support. They were one. So even though bad things had happened, it was good to see that there were all kinds of students and their coaches empathetic with what was going on.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Absolutely. To that point, this is the United States of America, and we have to come together as a Nation to eradicate this ill that has plagued this Nation since its inception. So we need people that understand and like-minded people to also join in. This is not a one-sided discussion. This is a discussion that we need to be having that encapsulates the entire Nation.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. In my diversity training that I have done for many years now, we have always talked about groups need allies. Allies give you support and encouragement and the strength to go on.

At this time, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARBARA LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KELLY and Congressman PAYNE for organizing this Special Order and for your continued leadership on so many vital issues and for staying the course and holding down the fort for the Congressional Black Caucus. It is so important that our message of unity and our message—which really describes what many of the issues are that all of our communities are faced with—that that message goes out. Both of you have really been tremendous in this effort.

So I rise this evening to join this critical conversation on race relations in America and to challenge our colleagues to work with the Congressional Black Caucus to realize progress for racial justice and equality.

I join Congresswoman KELLY and Congressman PAYNE in sending my condolences to the families and the victims of the horrific terrorist attacks in Paris, Lebanon, Nigeria, and also in Egypt. Know that we join in this quest for global peace and security throughout the world.

Now, tonight's Special Order is an important part of our work to address the discrimination and racism that still plagues our Nation, specifically as it relates to African Americans, but we know that it impacts all communities of color. It is manifested in many ways, and it affects our entire country. As Congressman PAYNE said so eloquently, we are the United States. So when one is affected, all are affected.

All across the country at universities like Mizzou and Yale; in places like Baltimore and Ferguson; and in high schools like Spring Valley High in Columbia, South Carolina, we are witnessing the painful impact of institutional racism in our communities.

Very recently, we saw this in my home district at Berkley High School. In one of the most progressive and enlightened cities in the country, Black students were subjected to threatening messages on campus. But I am so proud of the students at Berkley. They walked off—it was not only Black students; it was all students—and marched out peacefully through the city to protest these terrible, despicable messages.

This is unacceptable. All students have a right to learn free from violence and from threats. As long as Black students and any student of color feels unsafe in their classrooms, our work for justice remains incomplete.

This crisis isn't limited to our schools. Tragically, people of color face institutional racism from the moment they are born. According to a report released earlier this year by the Joint Economic Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus, more than one in three Black children are born into poverty.

This cycle of poverty and inequality continues in our school system where Black students account for 42 percent of preschool student expulsions. Mind you, now, that is preschool. That is students from about 2 years old to 4 years old. Black students account for 42 percent of preschool student expulsions, despite accounting for only 18 percent of enrollment. I can't figure out how any student aged 2 to 4 is expelled from school. That is outrageous. Yet 42 percent of preschool student expulsions are African American babies. These kids don't even get a start, let alone a head start.

Outside of the classroom, African Americans are overpoliced, overcriminalized, and underemployed. A report published by the New York Times in April found that there are an estimated 1.5 million Black men between the ages of 24 to 54 who are missing from civic life, just missing it. These missing men, who account for

one in every six Black men, have been victims of mass incarceration or premature death. And this crisis of inequality extends to the structures of the community and have persisted from generations.

Over the past four decades, the average unemployment rate for Blacks has been double the rate for White Americans. For many Black families, it feels like this is a permanent recession.

Mr. Speaker, this must be our call to action. That is why I am so proud of our young people throughout the country and students who are standing up to racism and injustice in their communities. It is time for Congress to listen to the young people, saying that Black Lives Matter and Black students matter.

Earlier this month, I held a forum on racial justice in my district to address these issues. More than 300 East Bay residents from all backgrounds attended and raised their voices for justice. This was the second forum that I have held throughout the last 3 months. Now, I have been able to reach over 1,000 East Bay residents.

So, tonight, in this dialogue, which Congressman PAYNE and Congresswoman KELLY have talked about, this dialogue leads to action. Hopefully, our colleagues would think about hosting these types of forums and listen to what people are saying, listen to what the impact of some of our policies are on their daily lives. We must be part of the conversation and the solution, but we must listen. We must hear the pain and the suffering that people are experiencing as a result of discrimination and racial injustice.

Now, the Congress must act to start addressing the systemic racism that degrades our institutions and threatens our communities. It is past time for us to get serious about us addressing the lack of opportunity for Black and minority families in this country. Right now, today, in this Chamber, there is legislation that can start moving the needle forward.

We need to empower our communities to build greater trust between law enforcement and communities of color, and we need to address chronic recidivism, which would be a huge step toward returning some of our missing men to their families and communities. To do this, Congress should pass the Safe Justice Act, sponsored by Congressman SENSENBRENNER and Congressman SCOTT. Congress should also pass the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act, H.R. 1232, to stop the militarization of our Nation's police forces. We also should pass the Police Accountability Act, H.R. 1102, and the Grand Jury Reform Act, H.R. 429, so we can ensure that deadly force cases are heard by a judge and that there is more accountability for police officers.

As we reform our broken criminal justice system and work to help repair those families hurt by mass incarceration, we will be strengthening America. We will have people who really can make a contribution, not only to their families and their communities, but to the entire country.

The Federal Government shouldn't continue to put up barriers to work for those trying to rebuild their lives after making a mistake and should ban the box totally by Federal contractors and by Federal agencies. We also need to repeal the lifetime ban on Pell grants for those formerly incarcerated as it relates to drug felonies, the ineligibility for public assistance and food stamps.

We need to remove these barriers so that people of color, primarily African American men and Latino men, can get back into society, get a job, and take care of their families. Once again, this is an example of public policy that racism wreaks its ugly head in our own institutions and policies.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we must address the poverty that plagues communities of color all across the country. We have the Whip's Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity, which I am proud to chair with our whip, Mr. HOYER. We are working with more than 100 of our colleagues now to advance policies that give all families, including African American families living below the poverty line both in urban communities and in rural communities, a fair shot.

This effort includes our Half in Ten Act, H.R. 258, which calls for a national strategy to cut poverty in half in the next decade. That is more than 22 million Americans lifted out of poverty into the middle class in just the next 10 years by being strategic and coordinating our existing programs.

Our Pathway Out of Poverty Act, H.R. 2721, would create good-paying jobs. It would lift families out of poverty into the middle class while strengthening our safety net for those who are still struggling. Ultimately, the only way to end institutional racism is to give African Americans and people of color a seat at the table, and we need to pass legislation and policies that begin to remove these barriers.

My mentor, the Honorable Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, used to say: ''If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair.'' That is what our young people are doing around the country.

So I want to thank all of the people across our country who are bringing in folding chairs and ensuring that these important conversations happen. We hear you. We support you, and we will keep fighting for you for ensuring liberty and justice for all, which means just that. It means for all. In doing so, we will make the United States a stronger country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KELLY and Congressman PAYNE for organizing this very important Special Order. I know that out of this discussion, we are laying out what can be done, and it doesn't take another generation to end racial injustice in our country.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Representative LEE, I like your analogy about ''if you are not at the table, bring your folding chair.'' I would like to say: ''If you are not at the table, your issues would be on the menu.'' But I like the folding chair analogy also.

I think a good point that you bring up that people don't realize, when we talk about African American men in jail, incarcerated, people might think, well, if they are doing something wrong, they should be in jail.

To use Ferguson as an example, while comprising two-thirds of Ferguson's population, African Americans represent 85 percent of vehicles stopped, 90 percent of citations, and 93 percent of arrests made by the Ferguson Police Department. But while African American drivers are twice as likely as White drivers to be searched on a vehicle stop, contraband was found on Black drivers 26 percent less frequently than White drivers.

So these discrepancies, coupled with incidents of overly aggressive police tactics and a police force that is racially and ethnically underrepresented of the large Ferguson community, instill the culture of distrust and anonymity. So you can see why these things happen.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KELLY for raising that issue because I think this is a clear example of what we talk about when we talk about racial injustice. It is very clear that many of our policies—Federal, local, and State policies—the impact and the result end up being a result that has racial components, and that is what our young people are talking about when they are talking about systemic and institutional racism.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California as well for always making very clear and thoughtful comments and for being a leader in this House for many years and taking bold steps in your beliefs and your principles. Sometimes when it looked grim, that you might be stepping out, history has been kind to you and shown that you were right. So I appreciate your leadership in this United States House of Representatives.

One of the issues that we also find around racism is mass incarceration, which is a topic that has come to the forefront. The President is taking bold steps in that direction to try to have a discussion and correct those issues. There is no reason why the United States of America, which comprises 5 percent of the world's population, has 25 percent of the incarcerated population in the world. That number is mind-boggling.

We are talking about these schools that are having racial issues and they are not being addressed.

□ 2100

There is no mistake that when you look at the issue even around cocaine

and the disparity in the length of time that you receive for having crack cocaine, which has predominantly been in African American communities, as opposed to powdered cocaine, which has predominantly been in the major population's community, but the sentences for crack cocaine are so much stiffer and longer that you can see a racial component in even those sentences given out by the justice system.

We are dealing with a systemic institutional issue, and sometimes I even think that it has been so ingrained and embedded in the larger population that it is not even realized that there are issues. This is the way of life. This is the way things are. This is how it has been. We have to break that cycle. It is just unconscionable that these young people who have done what we have asked them to do—do well in school, move on to college, and get an education so you can be a productive citizen in this country—have to worry about these types of issues as they are trying to get their education.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the gentleman for his kind remarks, but also for really digging deeper into this subject and really raising, in many ways, the unconscious biases that are reflected oftentimes in the policies and in the laws of the land.

One example that Chairman BUTTERFIELD and myself, co-chair for the Congressional Black Caucus, and Reverend Jackson have really been true leaders in, and that is the effort with the tech industry in terms of the diversity of the tech industry.

We have learned and the data shows that many companies next door to me in the Silicon Valley, 2 to 5 percent may be African Americans and Latinos—maybe. To their credit, they are trying to figure out how to address this; but one of the areas that some of the companies are exploring now is looking at unconscious bias and how that is reflected in the hiring policies of their managers as it relates to the discrimination actually that takes place against people of color, especially African Americans.

It is embedded in this whole system here in our country, both in the private and in the public sector, and we have to really begin to talk about it to raise the level of awareness so people understand we are not talking about individuals and we are not going after people. We are talking about biases that are embedded in our programs and policies and in the law of the land.

Mr. PAYNE. Absolutely.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I also think something that contributes to that, your ZIP Code shouldn't dictate the quality of your education, like it shouldn't dictate the quality of your health care. In too many places in this country, your ZIP Code does dictate the quality of your education and the schools that have every sport, every technology, and those kinds of things, and schools that barely have books.

They are not going to be at the same level when they graduate from high school, if they even make it through high school; and that is part of it, too, just the STEM, as we talk about, or STEAM, just the type of education that students are getting because of the way in some cases the schools are funded or the concentration of poverty in the school system, in some school systems.

Mr. PAYNE. We are talking about the school systems. We are talking about Silicon Valley. I am doing a lot of work now with the insurance companies and finding out that based on your economic background and where you live and what your ZIP Code is will constitute what your rates on car insurance are. There is a built-in formula to that as well. It is just amazing how systemic and institutionalized these issues are.

Even a young man like me, who was raised by my father not to get in trouble and do the right thing, I was still a young man, and sometimes I didn't do the right things. One time I was in downtown Newark, New Jersey, and I made a U-turn on one of the major thoroughfares in the city. A policeman pulls up on his motorcycle.

Just my luck, I would make the U-turn and there would be a policeman coming, but that is the story of my life.

This police officer approached me, very angry, very mean, yelling at me. It was my cousin's car, so I wasn't exactly sure where the credentials were in the car. I was about 20 years old at the time. The police officer finally says to me: Boy, if you don't find those documents—and he didn't use ''boy.'' He used a word that we can't use on the floor of this House of Representatives. But he said: If you don't find those documents, I will throw you so far under the jail that they will never find you.

That was very frightening because he looked like he meant it.

I was able to produce my license, and at the time my father was a councilman in the city of Newark. It was amazing the change in his attitude. He became very concerned about my welfare and my well-being all of a sudden. He says: Well, don't you know that that is dangerous, and you shouldn't do that? You know, you could hurt yourself or hurt someone else. All of a sudden, I became someone because of what my last name is.

I am concerned about all the young men that can't produce something like that at that point in time. There are more of those stories, of the ones unable to produce than the ones that can produce. What does that say for young men in this country? There are many stories like that coming up that I could stand here and tell for several hours of experiences that I have had with the institutional racism in this country.

Ms. LEE. Congressman PAYNE, you are talking about racial profiling and driving while Black, which so many of us experience throughout the country. I am glad we are having this discussion and you raised it because you come from a middle class family. You come from a great family.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you.

Ms. LEE. Your father was a giant and raised you and your family to be law-abiding citizens, and still this happened to you.

Also, with regard to redlining, this is another level that we have to look at as it relates to racism. When you look at how financial institutions targeted African American and minority communities with subprime loans, our communities lost all of our wealth as a result of that, and now have to start all over in terms of wealth accumulation. So you just go one aspect after another of what America has done in terms of the past that has not been corrected yet, and we have to really do that.

Congresswoman KELLY, I just want to mention the phenomenal job you are doing as the chair of our Health Braintrust. We had a meeting this weekend in South Carolina with our great leader, Mr. CLYBURN. We talked about health disparities in communities of color. You are talking about ZIP Codes. I know in my district—I mentioned this at the forum—there is a gap. Depending on where you live, depending on the ZIP Code, life expectancy where Black people live can be 10 to 15 years shorter.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Right. In the leading causes of death, African Americans are number one in eight of them.

Ms. LEE. The mortality rate, that is right.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. We don't want to be number one in 8 out of 10.

Ms. LEE. That is right. That is right. The importance of the work you are doing in closing healthcare disparities, which sometimes people don't understand, there are racial and ethnic disparities that, again, are reflected in our historical policies that have really severely impacted communities of color and African Americans.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Representatives, we have about 5 more minutes. I don't know if you have anything to add.

Mr. PAYNE. I just want to thank you for working with us through this year in bringing these topics to the floor. We want the viewing public to understand that we have raised these issues because they are issues that plague our country. We are looking for African Americans and Latinos to have the same opportunities as everyone else. It is not about special treatment or anything. It is about equal treatment. Everyone should rise based on their ability. Just having an equal opportunity is key.

Ms. LEE. I will just close by saying, we pledge allegiance to the flag, and we say, ''and liberty and justice for all,'' and that is what we mean.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Thank you, Representative LEE and Representative PAYNE.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on this evening's topic, the issue of race relations in America, we want to talk

about, just in closing, what can we do. We must do more, we must care more, and we must understand more about the diverse cultures that make up this Nation.

A long time ago, as director of community affairs for the Village of Matteson, it has been 19 years now I have worked with a team hosting diversity dinners in our area to grow friendships and nurture relations among residents of the south suburbs of Chicago.

Tonight as we discuss race relations in America, I want to reflect on what I see as the way to bridge the differences we experience in understanding in different communities.

Earlier this year, I along with colleagues, Democrat and Republican, hosted the Second Annual Congressional Diversity Dinner. Forty Members of Congress—Black, White, Asian, and Hispanic from both parties, including both Republican and Democratic leadership—showed up and enjoyed a meal with their colleagues. During the dinner, we weren't Democrats or Republicans. We were colleagues with some great stories to share.

At this year's dinner, I saw a microcosm of our Nation, a crowd made up of Members from coast to coast with truly diverse backgrounds coming together to enjoy each other's company. If we can put aside our racial and partisan blinders to break bread together, I am confident we can find ways to work together. That is what America wants and needs, and that type of leadership is the kind of leadership we deserve.

Today we have the opportunity to celebrate diversity and show that America is only strengthened when we embrace the fact that we are a beautiful, I will say, pot of stew. There is much that communities can do to stanch out the rhetoric that divides us and find creative ways to bring people together. It was a small action, but that was what the diversity dinner sought to do.

Now it is time for us to come together to address the reforms needed to rebuild trust between communities. Let's show the American people that we are a diverse people, we are proud of it, and we celebrate it.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this has been a challenging year for race relations in the United States. Between the recent events at college campuses across the country and several incidents involving law enforcement, it is clear that strong racial tensions still exist within our communities.

Renewed efforts to disenfranchise select groups of voters by gutting the Voting Rights Act or segregating neighborhoods in violation of the Fair Housing Act have contributed to the divisive elements of our society. These efforts run counter to everything that we as a nation have tried to eliminate in bringing diverse individuals together under common values—and there is still much work to be done.

The fight for racial equality and inclusion has been a constant struggle for individuals of color throughout our long history. Despite important victories during the Civil Rights era, a new struggle has emerged in our time to tackle more subtle and implicit racial biases that exist within our society.

Recognizing these challenges and maintaining open and civil dialogue is the only way that we can seek to end these senseless divisions once and for all. While it is also important to learn from the lessons of our past, how we decide to move forward will truly come to define the future of our nation.

As we look to overcome our differences, we must reflect on our values and determine what kind of future we would like to see for our children. Do we want to leave behind a divided nation where individuals quarrel over race or socioeconomic status? Or do we want to live in a nation united under equal opportunity and justice for each and every American? I, for one, choose to support an equal and just America.

Mr. Speaker, there will continue to be challenges ahead. However, the lessons that we carry with us into the future will help guide our decisions to build for a stronger and more prosperous America. I urge my colleagues to speak out against this blatant discrimination so that we can heal our country and move forward as a nation.

FIGHTING TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to host this Special Order tonight.

Less than 100 hours ago, we were provided another tragic reminder of the world that we live in, a world where radical terrorists are engaged in a violent war against the U.S. and our allies. Our thoughts, prayers, and condolences go to our ally, France, here this evening.

□ 2130

Prior to Friday night's events in Paris, tonight's Special Order was going to focus on recent incidents of terrorist-led violence across Israel. Yet Friday night's events are not dissimilar from the escalation of violence we have seen across Israel in recent months and in other places of the world.

The attacks have been indiscriminate in their targets. The attacks have been intended to instill fear. And the attacks are a direct affront to the daily lives and the way of life of innocent, peaceful civilians.

I want to share with you the words of Prime Minister Netanyahu this weekend:

''In Israel, as in France, terrorism is terrorism, and standing behind it is radical Islam and its desire to destroy its victims. The time has come for the world to wake up and unite in order to defeat terrorism. The time has come for countries to condemn terrorism against us to the same degree that they condemn terrorism everywhere else in the world.

''We should remember—we are not to blame for the terrorism directed against us, just as the French are not to blame for the terrorism directed against them. The terrorists who attack us have the same murderous intent as those in Paris.''

Mr. Speaker, we know that ISIS has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks, but while we can condemn those attacks here this evening, it seems very evident to me, and I think Americans all across this country, as we ask, I think, the same question: Are we safe, and are the policies of this administration and its foreign policy and the refugee admissions policy making us safer, or are they cause for concern and require more discernment and a more scrutinizing eye by this Congress and the American people?

This year alone, there have been at least 49 alleged supporters of ISIS in America charged with related crimes, and it is reported that there is an estimated 20,000 foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria likely holding Western passports.

In May, FBI Director James Comey said:

> Thousands in the U.S. may be consuming ISIS propaganda on the Internet.

Tonight, in light of the horrific terrorist attack in Paris and the escalating violence in Israel, as we stand to express our solidarity with our friends and allies affected by violent and extreme acts of terror, we must also be thinking about what we as Americans can do to defeat—not contain—but eliminate radical jihadists and terrorists who are hell-bent on undermining the U.S., our allies, and our way of life.

A little bit later I will speak more on my views on our present foreign policy and the refugee admissions policy, but we have over the course of the next hour many Members from across the United States of America condemning indiscriminate terrorist attacks, radical Islamic jihad, and violence across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to our first speaker this evening, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue and for holding this very important leadership hour talking about the issues that obviously affect our allies in the world but also the safety of the American people.

As we are discussing these issues and the views that are taking place and the discussion and the debate that is going to be had on this issue, I think it is important, again, that we remember this is an American national security issue, and we in the House have to be as vigilant and as strong as we can be on the issue.

The attacks carried out on Friday by radical Islamic extremists can only be described as barbaric, and we are responding with force. Yet, this morning, the President announced at a G–20 summit in Turkey that there ''wouldn't be any major changes to the approach taken against ISIS.''

The President's passive approach has proven to be no deterrent to these Islamic extremists, and it is time that he implement a clear and comprehensive strategy to completely destroy ISIS abroad, on their soil, so that we are not fighting them on ours.

This is an issue of American national security. Additionally, this is why again and again I have repeatedly called on the need to secure our border and repair our broken immigration system to keep these threats out.

It has never been a matter of if, but a matter of when, we might face this type of attack here at home. Time has shown that it is up to us in the House to be the voice of strength for the American people.

As we work together to determine a stronger path forward, we will proudly stand with our allies—as they did with us—against these extreme forces of evil.

We will continue to hold the people of France in our prayers.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her participation.

I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY.)

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for leading this important Special Order today.

We stand with our allies across the world who have repeatedly and recently experienced violent acts of terrorism, specifically in Israel and France. We pray for the victims and their families, and we stand united in our efforts to bring these attackers, these terrorists, to justice.

It is clear that we are at war with radical Islam. How do you expect to destroy your enemy if you can't even identify them or call them by name? They know who we are. They call us the infidels. And they will quit at no cost to destroy us all. We must identify and attack our enemy.

The world is safer when America chooses to lead. We must put forward a coordinated and comprehensive strategy to eliminate ISIS, not a policy of containment. We can no longer underestimate the desire and ability for them to attack us in our homes. Our men and women in uniform will destroy the enemy, wherever they are, if we give them clear guidance and a strategy which they can enforce.

These acts of terrorism seek to make us less free. They are carried out on the mission of instilling fear, uncertainty, and hate. But the terrorists do not get to win. Americans and those other countries that promote freedom and democracy will continue to live our lives, go to work, provide for our families, and advocate for those same freedoms around the world.

Now is the time to have faith in God, hug your loved ones a little tighter, and continue our commitment to eliminate the threat of ISIS, radical Islam, and other terrorist organizations around the world.

God bless our servicemembers, and God bless America.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for his participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY).

Mr. HARDY. I would like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his efforts to host us here this evening and for the opportunity to speak.

As the events of Paris unfolded over the weekend, I watched in horror with the rest of the world as violent terror once again touched the soil of America's oldest allies. I echo the cares and concerns of the world that terror is growing. And we must stand united against it. Terror does not respect borders or nationalities. Its effects are felt in the smallest village and in the world's most recognizable cities.

Nearly 500 innocent people were killed or injured in Paris this weekend, only 10 months after the extremists attacked the Charlie Hebdo offices, murdering 17. Last week, 43 people were killed and 239 were injured by a suicide bomber in Beirut. Mounting evidence shows that terrorists were likely involved in the deaths of 224 people aboard a Russian jet that went down in Egypt last month. In Israel, our friends have been battling this increased violence for weeks, with no predictable end in sight.

Each of these events happened in the last 2 months, and there are countless other victims of hate around the world whose loss too often goes unnoticed. Those losses have continuously happened over the past 6 to 7 years, and some of them seem to fall on deaf ears and unseeing eyes.

No matter the location, the fact is that too many parents in these nations worry if their children will come home safe at night. It is times like these that defenders of freedom need to remember the common threads that bind us together against the power of evil. France was not the beginning, nor will it be the end.

On the heels of this tragedy, ISIS has taken credit and released a video promising that something ''worse is coming.'' Something worse is coming. We should not neglect that threat.

Our own CIA Director said earlier today that he ''anticipates this is not the only operation that ISIL has in the pipeline. The Paris attack is not something that was planned in a matter of days.''

The President has stated a shared goal that we want to ''degrade and destroy'' ISIS. While that is the goal of all, in the meantime, we are obligated to the American people to contain and control these crazed attackers.

ISIS has expanded to Egypt, Yemen, Afghanistan, and to Pakistan. Teenagers from England and Europe have attempted to, or successfully supported, ISIS on the ground. As sickening as these actions are, it is more terrifying to think that those recruits might bring their new training back home. How long until we see terrorism touching our U.S. soil again?

This is not just a threat to the eastern hemisphere. This is a global threat that requires a global response. The U.S. cannot be the only one involved, but we also cannot fail to act. When America fails to lead, there is too often a vacuum that we have seen filled with the nightmares of hateful leaders who disregard innocent lives in their quest for power and control.

We must be vigilant for the sake of life in America and across the world. We must continue to fight these extremists and stand as a united front against the rising tide of evil.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Nevada for participating in tonight's Special Order.

I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his hard work and leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, this Hoosier rises in solidarity with our French brethren.

Fourteen years ago, on September 11, when radical terrorists struck at the heart of the United States, France stood by us. In one of America's darkest hours, when no words seemed to adequately express the shock and sadness we felt, it was our French allies who famously evoked the phrase: ''We are all Americans.''

Sadly, last Friday evening, on November 13, 2015, France was similarly subjected to multiple acts of terror in Paris. Now, it is our turn to offer our support to the fallen, to their families, and to all of France. Today, Mr. Speaker, we Americans stand with the people of France.

Our ties with France date back hundreds of years, to the days of the American Revolutionary War. Our shared values, our respect for liberty, equality, and democracy, have bound our two great nations through centuries of conflict and peace.

So, tonight, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I send my sincere thoughts and prayers to the Parisians so devastated by this atrocity. Together, we will restore France. Together, we will defend civilization against barbarianism, and together we can endeavor to eliminate ISIS.

In the wake of this sorrow, we must reflect on what led to this attack on innocent civilians. And then we must, as we say in the Marines, ''adapt, improvise, and overcome.''

We must find ways to prevent future attacks from occurring on our soil and the soil of our allies across the Atlantic. This won't be without risk. Leadership never is. At this critical juncture, I hope Congress stands ready to support the administration, to encourage its development of a winning strategy that doesn't purport to merely contain ISIS but instead turns the tide of radicalism in the region and eradicates this radical brand of terror.

□ 2130

This is no time for half measures, Mr. Speaker. It will be imperative for the United States to coordinate with France and our other NATO allies on a joint strategy to defeat ISIS, to eliminate this evil.

This is, of course, no time for political posturing, empty rhetoric or gamesmanship. It is a time for unity. I look forward to working with my colleagues and working with our Commander in Chief on a war strategy that will annihilate the radical Islamic state, keep the American people safe, and return Syria to its people.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, tonight we stand with our brothers and sisters in Israel and France to express our support and our commitment to these, our allies overseas.

We have witnessed the violence in Israel in recent weeks whipped up by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority, knowing now that radical Islamic militants are determined to continue their assault on the democracies of the world and western civilization.

On Friday, the 13th, the world witnessed an unspeakable tragedy brought about by ISIS. This is a terrorist organization that has repeatedly plagued the Middle East with gruesome beheadings, violent killings, the rape of women, and the enslavement of children.

Now they have unleashed a terror rampage on our ally, France, and they promise to bring it to America as well.

Our President has called this slaughter ''a setback.'' So now Congress must recognize both the gravity and the tragedy of what has recently occurred and respond accordingly.

What will it take, I ask, for this administration to admit that we are in a life-and-death struggle with radical Islam?

Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu once gave this admonition: Know thy enemy. The enemy must be identified in order to defeat him.

My thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the recent terrorist attacks, and I hope that the United States will stand by them and the people of Israel as well as France during these times.

To the people of France: I am very sorry—Je suis vraiment desole.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in solidarity with the people of France in the aftermath of last Friday's horrific terror attacks in Paris.

I also commend the French for their swift leadership in decisively and powerfully taking immediate action. They are delivering justice to those responsible for the cowardly attack on their innocent people.

This latest attack wasn't just on France. No. This was an attack on all free nations targeted and threatened by the brutal and savage tactics of Islamic terrorists who oppose the basic freedoms and liberties of the free world.

This is not an isolated incident or a final stand. Far from it. It could be France today and the United States tomorrow.

I should point out that there is but one mandatory function constitutionally of the Federal Government. That is to provide for our national defense. This is a constitutional duty and a moral imperative that trumps any day of the week the charity of opening our doors to a Syrian who will blow himself or herself up on our streets in the name of Allah.

I say, if an ISIS member wants to meet Allah, that we give them every opportunity to do so with a bomb from the air or a round of ammo from the end of a Navy SEAL rifle that you would never want to be on the wrong end of if you are the bad guy.

The good news is this: It doesn't require an occupation or an enduring ground operation. I don't want that. No one wants that. But it does mean that our entire strategy must evolve quickly and effectively.

We may have help from very motivated and a diverse capability of French, British, German, and now even Russians. We must understand that losing is not an option.

What we can't do is put 50 Special Operations Forces on the ground in Syria, in the middle of a war zone, and then tell them they are not there on a combat operation. You can't tell that to them, their family, the entire free world. It is just divorced from the reality of what they will face every day on the ground.

If you aren't going to send our servicemembers to win, do not send them at all.

I would be happy to support a strategy to win if I actually believed the President had one.

First and foremost, ID the threat. You cannot defeat a threat that you cannot or will not identify.

Next, execute a strategy to win, not just tread water. It is not about getting them jobs. It is about wiping them off the face of the Earth. You annihilate the enemy. You don't contain it, especially not this enemy.

You eliminate the threat. You don't literally, as a matter of policy, escort that threat across our borders.

Here at home we must not move forward with the President's plan to bring in several tens of thousands of refugees, especially and so importantly, because we cannot identify who the bad ones are.

Not one Syrian refugee should be brought into America without knowing with confidence that they do not pose a threat. We must not bury our heads in the sand or try to click our heels together to an alternate reality.

Last week was Veterans Day. We were again reminded of the sacrifices that have been made through generations to protect our way of life. Let's honor their memory, treasure American greatness, stand up for freedom, and make sure what happened in Paris on Friday does not happen on our own home turf tomorrow.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. That was excellent. Thank you, Mr. ZELDIN.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer my deepest sympathies and condolences from the citizens of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District to the people of France, our longstanding brothers and sisters in liberty. To all whose loved ones were killed or hurt in the barbaric attacks in Paris last weekend, we offer our prayers of comfort and consolation.

Our sincerest thanks are extended to the law enforcement officials who bravely brought order, the health officials who ministered to those who tragically lost their lives, and to the hundreds suffering injury.

Around the world, freedom-loving people are repeating the words of La Marseillaise, the national anthem of France. This powerful song of liberty against tyranny roused that nation when it was written at the start of the French Revolution, just a few years after America's own fight for liberty.

One verse seems especially appropriate to recite tonight. Translated into English, it says: Sacred love of the Fatherland: Liberty, cherished liberty, fight with thy defenders. Fight with thy defenders.

This is a message for the world today. America is fighting alongside those who defend liberty. Surely, France.

We stand with those who fight for liberty—Combats avec tes defenseurs.

The American people have long cherished and defended the spirit of liberty alongside the people of France, and there is no greater symbol of that in our harbor, New York Harbor, than the Statue of Liberty, which reminds us always of the triumph of freedom over subjugated people.

In modern times, France has been a founding member of NATO and a permanent member of the United Nations

Security Council, and we will work together to defeat this enemy as we have together defeated Nazism, communism, and now, as well, this new threat.

We will have the finest intelligence assets that our nations have placed on the ground in countries around the world.

We have used our intelligence assets here at home to keep out and prevent those who would harm our people from coming inside our borders. We always worry. We keep trying to make the security even better. But we have come a long way since 9/11.

Each American can play an important role by reporting suspect behavior they observe, and you can help our law enforcement officials ferret out dangerous elements that could prey upon our own people.

On the home front, every citizen can help by paying attention to what you see and, if suspicious, report it to your local law enforcement officials and, in an emergency, to 911.

Also important is strengthening the bonds of community, at home, at work, at school. Build bridges in your own community, including religious confessions. Let's build bridges across religious confessions in this country. Let no denomination feel isolated or abandoned at this tense time.

We stand with the people of France. We feel their loss. We stand with you as partners in liberty and forever keep in our hearts the enduring call: Liberty, equality, and fraternity—liberte, egalite, fraternite.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York mentioned a minute ago about our constitutional obligation and the moral imperatives that we have to defend our homeland and our national defense, and I couldn't agree with him more.

In that spirit, I want to start to conclude my comments by saying something I think most agree with, and that is we need to enhance our intelligence and our vetting process of those who come to our country, including potential Syrian refugees, to reflect the seriousness of threats posed by ISIS.

I want to go into a little bit of information that is easy to come by if you have paid attention to this issue, as I have, and the reality of the situation on the ground in Syria.

As a result of over 4 years of Syrian civil war, we are seeing the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II, and we can and we will, as America, continue to be a leader in the provision of aid and relief. But we can't afford to put the cart before the horse when it comes to admission policies here.

This year alone over half a million Syrian people are seeking refuge in Europe, and our European allies are looking to us for assistance. However, it is gravely concerning, I think, when your FBI Director, in this case, James Comey, said earlier this year that our government is unable to conduct thorough background checks on the 10,000 Syrian refugees that the administration will allow in the United States. His quote: We have no record of them, and you can only query what you have collected.

Mr. Speaker, the concerns and objections that I am raising aren't just mine. They are the multitude of phone calls and e-mails that my office has received today and I suspect all Members have received today.

It is not isolationist. It is not antihumanitarian. It is common sense, and it is in the name of making sure that we are protecting our people and securing our homeland from threats.

It is not unreasonable to conduct due diligence on who is coming into our country, and we can't move forward with a policy of admit first and ask later. We have to close the gaps in our screening process of refugees entering into our country.

The Homeland Security Committee chairman, Mr. MCCAUL, recently introduced legislation H.R. 3573, the Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act. It would make substantial improvements to our refugee program and enhance congressional oversight of the administration's refugee proposals.

Many don't know that Congress right now does not have much, if any, say over our refugee admission policy. This bill is intended to change that. It would require, amongst other things, GAO to review the security gaps in the current screening process.

The President, as I mentioned, has proposed resettling at least 10,000 Syrian refugees currently residing outside the Syria conflict zone in refugee camps to the U.S. this fiscal year.

I quote from correspondence I had the opportunity to review today that Chairman MCCAUL wrote to the President: ''We remain concerned that these resettlements are taking place without appropriate regard for the safety of the American people.''

□ 2145

Nothing is more fundamental. Nothing gets at the core of what our Constitution is intended to protect as that statement.

In his correspondence, Mr. Speaker, he cites to a couple pieces of testimony that he received this past summer from various officials. Leaders from the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Department of Homeland Security have all said to our Homeland Security Committee that they lack the on-the-ground intelligence necessary to thoroughly vet Syrian refugees who seek to resettle here.

National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen testified on October 21 that you have to rely on a vet. When you are vetting an applicant's information, his opinion is this: ''It isn't what we'd like it to be.''

FBI Director Comey explained during that same hearing: ''If someone has not made a ripple in the pond in Syria in a way that would get their identity or their interests reflected in our database, we can query our database until the cows come home, but nothing will show up because we have no record of that person. You can only query what you have collected.''

I mentioned a piece of that statement a little earlier. That is the full statement. And it gets to the point that, as we are concerned about our security and we are trusting the administration to properly vet those who seek to come here, we have to rely on intelligence, and our intelligence leaders are offering something less than full confidence that their intelligence on those Syrian refugees is something that we need to look a lot further at. That is what I think we need to do.

Finally, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Johnson said: ''It is true that we are not going to know a whole lot about the Syrians that come forth in this process.''

Now, I know tomorrow at 5:30, I believe, we will have a confidential briefing from the FBI Director and our Director on Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, my point here this evening was just to raise some issues that, frankly, were on the front of my mind and many others in my district and many other Members of Congress even before the tragedy that happened in Paris on Friday. What happened on Friday only reinforces in me and many others that ISIS isn't contained, and, in fact, a strategy of containment is actually a dangerous one; and further, as we are looking at the Syrian readmission policy, it cannot be allowed to remain as it presently is. Be it through legislation or be it through this administration's providing us more detail and allowing Congress and the American people to get a better understanding of what is and isn't happening I think would go a long way towards making us feel a lot safer. In fact, if reforms need to be made, if the program needs to be halted at the present time, then that is what should be done.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for participating in the Special Order this evening.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through November 19 on account of medical leave, recovering from eye surgery.

Mrs. LAWRENCE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through November 19 on account of medical reason.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1004. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 1203. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the furnishing of health care to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve the processing by the Department of claims for disability compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; in addition, to the Committee on Armed Services; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and to the Committee on the Budget 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.

S. 2280. An act to promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3418. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Two Hybrids of Unshu Orange From the Republic of Korea Into the Continental United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0085] (RIN: 0579-AD87) received November 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3419. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Reports to Congress on the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Reviews of the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements and Postmarketing Commitments by the Food and Drug Administration, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355(k)(5)(C); Public Law 110-85, Sec. 921; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3420. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Efficiency Standards for New Federal Commercial and Multi-Family High-Rise Residential Buildings' Baseline Standards Update [Docket No.: EERE-2014-BT-STD-0047] (RIN: 1904-AD39) received November 9, 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.

3421. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Allowing Importers to Provide Information to U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Electronic Format [Docket No.: NHTSA-2015-0076] (RIN: 2127-AL63) received November 12, 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.

3422. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2016 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2016 [Docket No.: NHTSA-2015-0043] (RIN: 2127-AL59) received November 12, 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.

3423. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defect and Noncompliance Notification [Docket No.: NHTSA-2015-0048] (RIN: 2127-AL60) received November 12, 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.

3424. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Major Source Permitting State Implementation Plan [EPA-R06-OAR-2006-0131; FRL-9936-45-Region 6] received November 6, 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.

3425. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; TN; Knox County Emissions Statements [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0456; FRL-9936-57-Region 4] received November 6, 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.

3426. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Test Methods; Error Correction [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0807; FRL-9936-54-Region 5] received November 6, 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.

3427. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; TN; Reasonably Available Control Measures and Redesignation for the TN Portion of the Chattanooga 1997 Annual PM2.5 Nonattainment Area [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0904; FRL-9936-55-Region 4] received November 6, 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.

3428. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0637; FRL-9933-71-Region 5] received November 6, 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.

3429. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0795; FRL-9936-60-Region 4] received November 6, 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.

3430. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Control of Petroleum Liquid Storage, Loading and Transfer [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0268; FRL-9936-72-Region 7] received November 6, 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.

3431. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Placer County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0643; FRL-9935-65-Region 9] received November 6, 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.

3432. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acetamiprid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0740; FRL-9936-12] received November 6, 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.

3433. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the National Environmental Education Advisory Council 2015 Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, as required by the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-619, Sec. 9, U.S.C. 5508(a), (104 Stat. 3333); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3434. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0058; FRL-9936-20-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS09) received November 10, 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.

3435. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Sewage Sludge Incinerators State Plan and Small Municipal Waste Combustors Negative Declaration for Designated Facilities and Pollutants [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0701; FRL-9936-96-Region 5] received November 10, 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.

3436. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0289; FRL-9936-65-Region 9] received November 10, 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.

3437. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Plans; California; Multiple Districts; Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0257; FRL-9934-89-Region 9] received November 10, 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.

3438. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Allocations of Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Allowances from New Unit Set-Asides for the 2015 Compliance Year [FRL-9936-99-OAR] received November 10, 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.

3439. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Additional Regulations for the Benton Clean Air Agency Jurisdiction [EPA-R10-OAR-2015-0600; FRL-9936-97-Region 10] received November 10, 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.

3440. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Modification of Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0649; FRL-9935-43] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 10, 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.

3441. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amitraz, Carfentrazone-ethyl, Ethephon, Malathion, Mancozeb, et al.; Tolerance Actions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0194; FRL-9935-01] received November 10, 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.

3442. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arizona; Phased Discontinuation of Stage II Vapor Recovery Program [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0256; FRL-9936-77-Region 9] received November 10, 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.

3443. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Nonattainment New Source Review Permitting State Implementation Plan Revisions for the City of Albuquerque-Bernalillo County [EPA-R06-OAR-2009-0648; FRL-9936-86-Region 6] received November 10, 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.

3444. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Addition of 1-Bromopropane; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting [EPA-HQ-TRI-2015-0011; FRL-9937-12-OEI] (RIN: 2025-AA41) received November 13, 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.

3445. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Tamarind seed gum, 2-hydroxypropyl ether polymer; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0421; FRL-9936-25] received November 13, 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.

3446. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines; Coordination of the Scheduling Processes of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines and Public Utilities [Docket Nos.: RM96-1-038 and RM14-2-003; Order No.: 587-W] received November 10, 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.

3447. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Commencement of Assessment of Annual Charges [Docket No.: RM15-18-000, Order No.: 815] received November 13, 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.

3448. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's letter endorsing industry guidance — Endorsement of Electric Power Research Institute Final Draft Report 3002004396, ''High Frequency Program: Application Guidance for Functional Confirmation and Fragility'' received September 22, 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.

3449. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Air Force's proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of France, Transmittal No. 16-03, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(d); Foreign Assistance Act, Sec. 620C(d); (92 Stat. 739); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3450. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting the Army's Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Finland, Transmittal No. 15-60, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(d); Foreign Assistance Act, Sec. 620C(d); (92 Stat. 739); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3451. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting the Air Force's Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom, Transmittal No. 15-76, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(d); Foreign Assistance Act, Sec. 620C(d); (92 Stat. 739); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3452. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification stating that the company listed is no longer engaging in conduct sanctionable by the Iran Sanctions Act, as amended, and the Secretary of State has received reliable assurances that the company will not engage in such activities in the future, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 104-172, Sec. 9(b)(2); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3453. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency, with respect to the Central African Republic, that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), Sec. 204(c), and, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3454. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (H. Doc. No. 114—75); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

3455. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the termination of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004, with respect to the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1701; Public Law 107-115, Sec. 531; (H. Doc. No. 114—76); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

3456. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended, is to continue in effect for one year beyond November 14, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (H. Doc. No. 114—77); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

3457. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the twenty-ninth quarterly report to Congress on Afghanistan Reconstruction, in accordance with Sec. 1229 of Pub. L. 110-181; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3458. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the release of the Department of Defense Agency Financial FY 2015 Report, in accordance with the provisions of 31 U.S.C. Secs. 902 and 3515; and in accordance with provisions of 10 U.S.C. Sec. 480, the report will be submitted electronically to Congress on or before November 16, 2015; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3459. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office's Statistical Programs of the United States Government report for FY 2016; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3460. A letter from the President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report on its audit and investigative activities, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. Sec. 8G(h)(2); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 8G(h)(2), (as added by Public Law 100-504, Sec. 104(a)); (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3461. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting notification that the Department has made additional payments to eligible local governments under the 2015 Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3462. A letter from the Endangered Species Listing Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Black Pinesnake With 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2014-0046; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA03) received November 6, 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.

3463. A letter from the Endangered Species Listing Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Brickellia mosieri (Florida Brickell-bush) and Linum carteri var. carteri (Carter's Small-flowered Flax) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0108] (RIN: 1018-AZ64) received November 6, 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.

3464. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Ecological Services Program, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and

Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Black-footed Ferrets in Wyoming [Docket No.: FWS-R6-ES-2015-0013; FXES11130900000C6-145-FF09E42000] (RIN: 1018-BA42) received November 6, 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.

3465. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE224) received November 6, 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.

3466. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2015-2016 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 140904754-5188-02] (RIN: 0648-BF40) received November 13, 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.

3467. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region; Amendment 8; Correction [Docket No.: 140214145-5582-02] (RIN: 0648-BD81) received November 13, 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.

3468. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction for Gag Grouper [Docket No.: 130403320-4891-02] (RIN: 0648-XE245) received November 13, 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.

3469. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Technical Amendment to Regulations [Docket No.: 150727647-5877-01] (RIN: 0648-BF30) received November 13, 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.

3470. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; ''Other Rockfish'' in the Central and Western Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE213) received November 6, 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.

3471. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Report to Congress on the Eighth Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 14045d(c); Public Law 109-162, Sec. 903(c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3472. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Final Rulemaking Procedures [NHTSA-2013-0042] (RIN: 2127-AL32) received November 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3473. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter to amend the previous submission, dated October 2, 2015, for FY 2015, which inaccurately reported total Pershing Hall Revolving Fund expenditures, pursuant to Pub. L. 102-86, Sec. 403(d)(6)(C); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3474. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's temporary regulations — Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) User Fee Update [TD 9742] (RIN: 1545-BN03) received November 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3475. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — General Allocation and Accounting Regulations Under Section 141; Remedial Actions for Tax-Exempt Bonds [TD 9741] (RIN: 1545-BB23; 1545-BC07; 1545-BH48] received November 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3476. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Salvage Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2015 (Rev. Proc. 2015-54) received November 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3477. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Unpaid Losses Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2015 (Rev. Proc. 2015-52) received November 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3478. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Customs and Border Protection's Bond Program [CBP Dec. 15-15] [USCBP-2006-0013] (RIN: 1515-AD56 [formerly 1505-AB54]) received November 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

3479. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''Report to Congress on the Administration, Cost and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year 2013'', pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320c-10; Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, Sec. 1161 (as amended by Public Law 97-248, Sec. 143); (96 Stat. 392); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

3480. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting legislative proposals which would significantly strengthen the protections afforded to servicemembers and their families under existing civil rights laws; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, the Judiciary, House Administration, and Natural Resources.

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:

[Pursuant to the order of the House on November 5, 2015 the following report was filed on November 9, 2015.]

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1737. A bill to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending (Rept. 114–329). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted November 16, 2015]

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1317. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–311, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1210. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating depository institution's portfolio, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–330). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2912. A bill to establish a commission to examine the United States monetary policy, evaluate alternative monetary regimes, and recommend a course for monetary policy going forward (Rept. 114–331). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3189. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to establish requirements for policy rules and blackout periods of the Federal Open Market Committee, to establish requirements for certain activities of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is audited, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–332, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 3859. A bill to make technical corrections to the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Rept. 114–333). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 3875. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Department of Homeland Security a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–334). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2270. A bill to redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Historic Site within the

wildlife refuge, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 114–335). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2360. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the approval of certain programs of education for purposes of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; with an amendment (Rept. 114–336). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3032. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal a certain reporting requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission (Rept. 114–337). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1478. A bill to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–338). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2243. A bill to suspend the current compensation packages for the senior executives of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and establish compensation for such positions in accordance with rates of pay for senior employees in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–339, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 526. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1737) to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 511) to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; and for other purposes (Rept. 114–340). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2243 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3189 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. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 3996. A bill to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. considered and passed.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 3997. A bill to amend MAP-21 to establish a veterans business enterprises program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. PALLONE:

H.R. 3998. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to commence proceedings related to the resiliency of critical telecommunications networks during times of emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BLUM, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. LONG, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. JONES, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. FLORES, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 3999. A bill to require that the Secretary of Homeland Security certify that refugees admitted to the United States from Iraq or Syria are not security threats to the United States prior to admission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 4000. A bill to harmonize requirements of the 2008 and 2015 ozone national ambient air quality standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 4001. A bill to make technical amendments to title 18 of the United States Code based on the Law Revision Counsel's footnotes in that title; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LABRADOR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia):

H.R. 4002. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make various improvements in Federal criminal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California (for herself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4003. A bill to require reports on agency rules with criminal penalties for the violation thereof, to evaluate the necessity and prudence of such rules remaining in effect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 4004. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to repeal the suspension of eligibility for grants, loans, and work assistance for drug-related offenses; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Ms. HAHN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California):

H.R. 4005. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to allow local hiring for transportation projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BRAT (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 4006. A bill to provide the public with access to the laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, 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. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 4007. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, upon the request of a law enforcement official, to make a prompt determination of whether to issue a detainer in the case of an alien arrested for a violation of Federal, State, or local law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 4008. A bill to protect victims of crime or serious labor violations from deportation during Department of Homeland Security enforcement actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 4009. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to treat flamethrowers the same as machineguns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 4010. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 522 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the ''Ed Pastor Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 4011. A bill to increase the number of graduate medical education positions treating veterans, to improve the compensation of health care providers, medical directors, and directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4012. A bill to provide for a supplementary payment to Social Security beneficiaries, supplemental security income beneficiaries, and recipients of veterans benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition

to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 4013. A bill to create an equitable and excellent education system in the United States so that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity, social class, or State of residence, can receive a high-quality, academically rigorous education in a local public school; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 4014. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a distracted driving education grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4015. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources by the Secretary of Health and Human Services through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the dissemination of such materials and resources by State educational agencies to identify more at-risk families; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 4016. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the limitation on the carryover of excess corporate charitable contributions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 4017. A bill to recognize that Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, and Libya are targets of genocide, and to provide for the expedited processing of immigrant and refugee visas for such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 4018. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish deferred presentment transaction requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 4019. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to prohibit the taking, importation, and exportation of Orcas and Orca products for public display, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 4020. A bill to increase the number and percentage of students who graduate from high school college and career ready with the ability to use knowledge to solve complex problems, think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and develop academic mindsets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 4021. A bill to award grants to encourage State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools to utilize technology to improve student achievement and college and career readiness, the skills of teachers and school leaders, and the efficiency and productivity of education systems at all levels; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HILL, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. CULBERSON):

H.R. 4022. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. SCALISE):

H. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; to the Committee on House Administration. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Res. 524. A resolution condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Paris, France, on November 13, 2015, that resulted in the loss of at least 129 lives; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H. Res. 525. A resolution urging the Administration to work with North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty in response to the Paris attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. HONDA):

H. Res. 527. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DOLD, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HAHN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 528. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Victims of the Terror Protection Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

149. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, relative to House Resolution Number 107, requesting the Congress of the United States to renew funding for Save the Dream Ohio through the United States Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund, to continue to provide assistance to homeowners in the state of Ohio at risk of foreclosure; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 3996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (related to laying and collecting Taxes, and providing for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States), Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes), and Clause 7 (related to establishment of Post Offices and Post Roads).

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 3997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 3998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. That provision gives Congress the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 3999.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Foreign Commerce Clause (art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3); The Naturalization Clause (art. I, sec. 8, cl. 4); Necessary and Proper Clause (art. I, sec. 8, cl. 18).

By Mr. FLORES:
H.R. 4000.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. BUCK:
H.R. 4001.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of the Constitution
By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:
H.R. 4002.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8, Clause 3
By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California:
H.R. 4003.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. BASS:
H.R. 4004.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1.
Article. I.
Section 1.
All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
By Ms. BASS:
H.R. 4005.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1.
Article. I.
Section 1.
All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
By Mr. BRAT:
H.R. 4006.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The volumes of the United States Statutes at Large compile the legal acts of the government of the United States, including legislative measures enacted pursuant to powers throughout Article I of the Constitution and constitutional amendments proposed under Article V of the Constitution. It is both necessary and proper (Article I, Section 8, Clause 18) for the legal history of the United States to be accessible to the People in an accessible format on the Internet.
By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:
H.R. 4007.
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 Ms. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 4008.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. ENGEL:
H.R. 4009.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. Art. I § 8.
By Mr. GALLEGO:
H.R. 4010.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. GALLEGO:
H.R. 4011.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. GRAYSON:
H.R. 4012.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 4013.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. ISRAEL:
H.R. 4014.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. PALLONE:
H.R. 4015.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.
By Mr. PAULSEN:
H.R. 4016.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. ROHRABACHER:
H.R. 4017.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution which gives Congress the power ''To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States.''
By Mr. ROSS:
H.R. 4018.
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. SCHIFF:
H.R. 4019.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Orca Responsibility and Care Advancement Act is constitutionally authorized under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, ''the Commerce Clause'' and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, ''the Necessary and Proper Clause.'' Additionally, the Preamble to the Constitution provides support of the authority to enact legislation to promote the General Welfare.
By Ms. WILSON of Florida:
H.R. 4020.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Ms. WILSON of Florida:
H.R. 4021.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 4022.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 27: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 140: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 188: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 213: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 221: Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 250: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 320: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 379: Mr. FORBES, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 402: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 407: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 452: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 463: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 503: Mr. BRAT.
H.R. 517: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 535: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 563: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 578: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 592: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 662: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. DONOVAN.
H.R. 663: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 664: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 700: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 707: Mr. MICA.
H.R. 716: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 766: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 793: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 816: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 835: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 842: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 845: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 865: Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 870: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 885: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 921: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 969: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 973: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 985: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 994: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 997: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 1062: Mr. SANFORD and Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1111: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1142: Mr. KATKO and Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 1174: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1197: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. POLIQUIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MEEKS, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 1205: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 1284: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1301: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1309: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 1312: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 1399: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 1427: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1453: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 1460: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.
H.R. 1475: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 1512: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1516: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1545: Mr. MARINO and Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 1552: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1559: Mr. COSTA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 1567: Ms. ESTY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1571: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 1582: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 1594: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1603: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1608: Mr. KEATING, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. GRAHAM, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1625: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1706: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1714: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 1726: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1728: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1748: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WALZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. NOLAN, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 1751: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1763: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 1769: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 1784: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1859: Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 1901: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 1902: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 1978: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1982: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2017: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 2050: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2096: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2144: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 2156: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 2209: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 2241: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 2254: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2280: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2293: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 2382: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2404: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 2442: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 2460: Mr. TAKAI.
H.R. 2515: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2516: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 2522: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2540: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2568: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2597: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2635: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 2641: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2646: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 2660: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2698: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 2713: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2715: Ms. TITUS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2716: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 2739: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 2759: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 2766: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2799: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2849: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2867: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2878: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2880: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2896: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 2901: Mr. MACARTHUR and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2903: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2915: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2920: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2957: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2972: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3040: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3061: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3094: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 3096: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3164: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3222: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 3225: Mr. POCAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 3229: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 3278: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3294: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3314: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. BRAT, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 3319: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3323: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3326: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 3328: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 3338: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3339: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3351: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3355: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COOPER, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 3381: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3406: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 3410: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3411: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3427: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 3437: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 3459: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. Benishek, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 3516: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3520: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 3535: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 3541: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3542: Mr. TAKAI.
H.R. 3546: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3549: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 3552: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3553: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3566: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 3573: Mr. PERRY, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. YOHO, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. RIGELL, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BOST, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 3588: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 3666: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 3684: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 3690: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 3691: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3700: Mr. BARR and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 3705: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 3706: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3711: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 3713: Mr. HANNA, Mr. OLSON, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3714: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 3760: Ms. NORTON, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.
H.R. 3761: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 3765: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 3785: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3790: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 3799: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 3802: Mr. HARRIS and Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 3804: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3805: Mr. HONDA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 3806: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3808: Mr. ROSS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 3815: Mr. WELCH and Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 3830: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3833: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3841: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3842: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 3852: Mr. TONKO and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3859: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3862: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3870: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 3880: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 3914: Mr. NUNES and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3918: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 3921: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3926: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 3927: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.
H.R. 3928: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 3940: Mr. BABIN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BARR, Mr. NUNES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FLORES, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr.

ROKITA, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 3943: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3944: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 3946: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 3956: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 3957: Mr. POSEY and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 3965: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 3973: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3977: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3980: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3982: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 3984: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 3986: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 3988: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.J. Res. 22: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.J. Res. 25: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.J. Res. 33: Mr. GIBBS.

H.J. Res. 71: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. ROKITA, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. HENSARLING.

H.J. Res. 72: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. ROKITA, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. HENSARLING.

H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. COFFMAN.

H. Con. Res. 50: Ms. ESTY.

H. Res. 131: Mr. COOPER.

H. Res. 207: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. PLASKETT.

H. Res. 210: Ms. GABBARD and Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 289: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H. Res. 386: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.

H. Res. 438: Mr. COOPER.

H. Res. 467: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H. Res. 469: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 494: Mr. POSEY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BOST, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. ZINKE.

H. Res. 501: Mr. ROSS.

H. Res. 502: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FARR, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. Maxine Waters of California.

H. Res. 505: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. KIND, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. BECERRA.

H. Res. 506: Mr. YARMUTH and Ms. KUSTER.

H. Res. 510: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H. Res. 511: Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 513: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. Maxine Waters of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 514: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. WALBERG.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1694: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 3403: Ms. GRANGER.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

35. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Miami Commission, relative to Resolution R-15-0454, urging the President and members of Congress to provide transparency, public participation, and collaboration during the discussions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and to consider the opinions of hard working Americans while deliberating the terms and ramifications of the agreement; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015 No. 168

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our shelter in the time of storm, in an anxious, troubled, and violent world, we turn to You seeking light and life for our day, faith and freedom for our world, and triumph and truth for this generation.

Abide with our lawmakers. Make them mindful of Your presence, eager to do Your will, and committed to serve this land we love. Lord, use them to work for the triumph of truth. Strengthen them with Your Spirit so that they will meet today's challenges with daring faith and transcendent wisdom.

Hasten the day when justice shall reign in the relationships of people, and peace shall regulate the affairs of nations.

Lord, bless the people of France.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST FRANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Senate convenes today, the world faces yet another horrific terrorist act, this time against America's oldest ally, France. Across our great Nation, Americans have displayed the French flag across buildings, monuments, and Facebook pages in solidarity with France, a country with which we have long shared democratic values.

We, too, have felt the searing shock and pain of terrorism on our own soil, and just as France stood with us after the 9/11 attacks, we stand with France today. I personally express my condolences for those in France who lost a loved one. To the mothers, fathers, grandparents, children, friends, and relatives, we mourn with you. To all those in the midst of caring for loved ones, those injured in these evil attacks—as hundreds were—our hearts and our thoughts are with you.

There are no words to adequately describe the barbarism of ISIS, the organization that carried out this attack and mowed down innocent civilians enjoying the freedom and beauty of a Paris night, but as we know, the attacks in Paris do not stand alone. ISIS has viciously attacked innocent people in Beirut, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and other places. They have beheaded Americans, beheaded others, instituted a policy of rape and violence against women, and are attempting to take civilization back to the Dark Ages. ISIS does not worship Islam. ISIS worships death. ISIS doesn't practice compassion and mercy. ISIS practices killing, torture, and violence. Instead of guiding its followers on the straight and narrow path, ISIS guides them to hate.

As Pope Francis said yesterday:

> The road of violence and hate does not resolve the problems of humanity. Using God's name to justify this path is blasphemy.

The Pope is right.

Law-abiding Muslims—many of whom have also been innocent victims of terror—must not allow these radicals to be the face of their religion. We cannot allow it. They cannot allow it. I know I speak for the Senate in saying we are all committed to stopping ISIS. We are united in supporting France in every possible way, as the people of France move forward after these attacks.

I repeat, as the Pope said yesterday:

> The road of violence and hate does not resolve the problems of humanity. Using God's name to justify this path is blasphemy.

Will the Chair announce today's business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE HONOR OF SERVING MY STATE AND COUNTRY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I received an announcement of a lifetime. At 4 p.m. today, the President of the United States informed me that I will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I want to thank him for this honor and to say that I am deeply, deeply touched to join this group on November 14 of 17 Americans to receive this award.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor. It

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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is presented to individuals who have especially made contributions to the security and national interests of the United States, to people who have worked for world peace, who have found cures for incredible diseases, and who have done cultural and other significant things of public or private endeavors. To join that group I am, indeed, so honored. For the President to do this has been something that I could never have anticipated.

I have been very deeply honored to serve the people of Maryland and of this Nation. To the people of Maryland, I thank you. I could never have had the opportunity to serve in the public sphere in such a way had they not honored me with their confidence and trust by voting for me. I am so thankful for the opportunity that they have given me to actually serve my State and my country.

Yes, I am the longest serving woman in the Senate. But for me, it is not how long I have served but how well I have tried to serve. To me, service is about being connected to my constituents, staying close to them, making sure they don't fall between the cracks, and looking out for their day-to-day needs—whether a Social Security check, helping a veteran or working on issues such as college affordability.

For me, service has been rooted in the values I learned in my home and in my community. I think today of my father and mother, who worked so hard so that my sisters and I would get an education. They owned a small neighborhood grocery store. Every day at 6 in the morning, my father would walk across the street from our row house home and open up the door of his grocery store and say: Good morning. Can I help you?

That is the way I was raised, and that is what I have carried with me every single day; that is: Good morning. Can I help you? But they also saw that my sisters and I had a fantastic education. I had the opportunity to go to Catholic schools, and there the sisters taught us about leadership and service. But actually they focused on the values of our faith: Love your neighbor, care for the sick, worry about the poor, always insist that neighbors should help neighbors, and it is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness.

We were also raised to believe in the American dream. My great-grandmother came to this country from Poland. She had little money in her pocket. Women didn't even have the right to vote when she arrived. She had a big dream in her heart. If you worked hard and played by the rules, life would be better for you. She never thought, coming as she did, that her own great-granddaughter would one day be a U.S. Senator. But then that is only in America, where my story has been possible.

Only in America do we have this incredible right to speak our mind. I got into politics as a protester. They wanted to put a highway through the neighborhood in which I grew up and some other neighborhoods in the city. I organized the ''Hell no, we won't go'' committee and took on city hall.

Do you know what is so great about this country? In others, they put you in jail and beat you. In this country, they sent me to the city council, and I beat the political bosses.

This is an amazing country. Our Constitution, the freedoms guaranteed in it—the freedom of assembly, the freedom to speak, and most of all, the freedom to serve and to be all that you can be—has been a marvelous gift.

In a few days, I will be honored by the President of the United States, but the real honor has always been to be here. I never dreamed such an honor would come my way, nor did I seek it. I am so deeply honored to be touched by this, and I am honored to be among the people who will get this award. Among those who will be honored is the dearly beloved Shirley Chisholm, whom I served with in the House. She was always unbought and unbossed. Willie Mays will be honored. He always brought it home and knew where home plate was. Barbra Streisand, who always hit the high notes, and, of course, even Yogi Berra, who shared my love of language, are going to be honored. Young, distinguished Americans like Katherine Johnson, who was one of the first African Americans in space, and Lee Hamilton, who worked both in Congress and in the private sector to bring about world peace, will be honored. What a distinguished group of Americans, and I will be glad to stand with them.

I wish to thank President Obama for this tremendous honor. I thank the people of Maryland for this tremendous opportunity to serve, and I thank the United States of America for enabling someone like me to follow her dream. I hope, in getting this award, that I will continue to make my pledge to be of service.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Hall nomination.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for about 6 or 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST FRANCE AND SYRIAN REFUGEES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Paris and all those affected by the terrorist attacks of Islamic extremists. As we all know, hundreds of people were killed or injured in the attacks, including at least one American citizen. No one should be faced with horrific violence when attending a soccer game or concert or simply carrying out their daily lives. On behalf of Iowans, I stand with the people of France. I offer our support in recovering from and responding to those attacks.

Unfortunately, there is fear that similar attacks could soon take place on U.S. soil. There is even a video that ISIS released earlier today threatening to attack America. Moreover, if we follow the administration's announced plans to bring in thousands of new Syrian refugees, we could very well be letting in similar extremists who want to harm Americans. That is because it appears that at least one of the ISIS terrorists in Paris had recently registered as a Syrian refugee in the country of Greece. Until last Friday, he appeared to all the world to be no different from any of the other thousands of people fleeing the chaos in Syria. This could happen here too.

The No. 1 responsibility under the Constitution of our Federal Government is to protect the homeland and to secure the country against all threats. We must do all we can to prevent a terrorist style attack from happening here, but under the administration's proposed plan, we may not be able to stop such an attack. We cannot tell who among the thousands of Syrian refugees the administration wishes to resettle here are terrorists. One particularly alarming statement to this effect came from the Director of the FBI, James Comey. He was in a hearing before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs just on October 8 of this year. Director Comey said ''there are certain gaps . . . in the data available to us'' in screening Syrian refugees. This data, which includes fingerprints, background and biographic information, is crucial for an adequate screening of potential refugees entering the United

States. Director Comey continued in that hearing saying, ''There is risk associated with bringing anybody in from the outside, but especially from a conflict zone like that.''

Director Comey has also previously acknowledged that despite a large pool of data on Iraqi refugees, our past program for admitting refugees from Iraq inadvertently allowed into our country ''a number of people who were of serious concern, including two that were charged when we found their fingerprints on improvised explosive devices from Iraq.''

Our ability to screen individuals from war-torn Syria is extremely limited by comparison. Several States' Governors have recognized this difficulty and have accordingly moved to suspend cooperation with the administration in settling Syrian refugees in their States until those security concerns are addressed. I share such concerns for protecting our country against terrorists who have clearly infiltrated the Syrian refugee population. I recently wrote a letter to the leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In that letter I asked that taxpayers' funds be used effectively to properly and securely screen refugees entering the United States. I also requested in the letter that as part of the appropriations legislation before the committee, it require a comprehensive plan on how security will be achieved. I requested this be a condition for any funding for refugee resettlement for Syrian refugees. I said then and I emphasize now that not one dollar should be expended until stringent parameters for vetting these refugees are established.

I would also suggest to President Obama that he reconsider his plan to admit Syrian refugees until the dust settles and we get to the bottom of the Paris attacks. We need to analyze what happened. We need to figure out how we can better screen these refugees and ensure that terrorists among them are not evading proper screenings. We need a timeout before we press forward.

I stress that the United States remains an extremely generous country when it comes to refugees. This year alone we will allow 75,000 refugees fleeing persecution around the world to enter our country, but we have to set our own citizens' security as a top priority. I call on Congress to act to ensure that this administration certifies that the most stringent security standards are in place before allowing any more of the Syrian refugees into our country. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent Friday's attacks from happening here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote to confirm this qualified judge, LaShann DeArcy Hall, to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Ms. Hall is an outstanding choice to fill this position. After decades of service in both the public sector and the private sector, Ms. Hall's breadth of knowledge and depth of experience will guide her for any case that happens to come before her. In her current role at a major international law firm, Ms. Hall specializes in high-stakes, complex commercial litigation. During her years of public service, including her time serving as a commissioner with the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, Ms. Hall has worked tirelessly to help make her community a more fair and just place.

Ms. Hall's credentials are absolutely worthy of this position on the Federal bench, and we will be a stronger nation with more women like Ms. Hall serving as judges in our Federal court system.

Ms. Hall is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and she served in the U.S. Air Force. She is a highly accomplished lawyer, and she has devoted her entire career to various forms of public service. She is dedicated to her community, and she cares deeply about this country. LaShann DeArcy Hall would make an excellent Federal judge and would add much needed diversity to the Federal bench.

Mr. President, I urge all my colleagues to vote to confirm her.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time remaining on this nomination be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hall nomination?

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Baldwin	Bennet
Ayotte	Barrasso	Blumenthal
Booker	Grassley	Nelson
Boozman	Hatch	Paul
Boxer	Heinrich	Peters
Brown	Heitkamp	Portman
Burr	Heller	Reed
Cantwell	Hirono	Reid
Capito	Hoeven	Risch
Cardin	Inhofe	Roberts
Carper	Isakson	Rounds
Casey	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Kaine	Sasse
Coats	King	Schatz
Cochran	Kirk	Schumer
Collins	Klobuchar	Scott
Coons	Lankford	Sessions
Corker	Leahy	Shaheen
Cornyn	Lee	Shelby
Crapo	Manchin	Stabenow
Daines	Markey	Sullivan
Donnelly	McCain	Tester
Durbin	McCaskill	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	Tillis
Ernst	Menendez	Toomey
Feinstein	Merkley	Udall
Fischer	Mikulski	Warner
Flake	Moran	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gardner	Murphy	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—1

Perdue

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Graham
Cotton	Sanders
Cruz	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT JOSHUA L. WHEELER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the Presiding Officer, Senator LANKFORD, and I want to recognize and pay tribute to Army MSG Joshua Wheeler. Joshua was born in Roland, OK. He was deployed to Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. I didn't remember him at the time, but I was there during that time. He was deployed to Kirkuk to support Operation Inherent Resolve. That was his 14th deployment in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Joshua's unit, along with Iraqi and Kurdish forces, raided a compound near the city of Kirkuk, freeing 70 prisoners from captivity. Josh died of injuries sustained in that firefight. He would have turned 40 this month.

Josh attended and graduated from Muldrow High School in 1994, and a

classmate of his, Ms. Tra Moreland, said this about Josh and his character:

If you would have asked me 20 years ago, would he be the man—the kind of man to do this, to give his life for everyone else? I'd say most definitely! I wish everybody could have known him!

Josh enlisted in the Army straight out of high school. During his military career, he served in the 24th Infantry Regiment, 75th Ranger Regiment, and from 2004 until the events that bring us here today, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, where he served with the Delta Force.

I think we all understand what the Delta Force is all about. It is a unit of the elite, the very best of the best. That was Josh—the best of the best. Josh was the epitome of a selfless and patriotic soldier.

Mr. Lance Hunter, Sergeant Wheeler's friend of 30 years, said that Josh was the kind of person who would stop and help a stranger change a tire on the side of the road and always dedicated himself to challenges.

When he enlisted, I knew he would go as far as he could go. He was made to be a soldier.

A soldier he was. During his career, Master Sergeant Wheeler had earned 11 Bronze Stars, including 4 with Valor Device, and countless other medals. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for his actions during the raid on the ISIS prison. He is a true American hero.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter expressed how selfless Sergeant Wheeler's actions were, stating that ''they weren't part of the original rescue mission plan, but were critical to the mission's success.'' In other words, he did something he didn't have to do. Still, the Secretary is one of thousands who know what a hero Josh really is.

I was honored to hear that his hometown honored him by engraving his name in a stone monument and releasing hundreds of balloons in his memory. On top of being a highly decorated soldier, he was a consummate family man and father of four. Joshua's grandfather, Mr. Jack Shamblin of Roland, OK, said his grandson loved fishing and hunting and was a family man and was always taking care of everyone else, including his four half sisters.

His brother Zack said:

He was a soldier, but I didn't realize he had all of these accomplishments, all these achievements—it just blows my mind. He's an American hero, he just wanted to take care of people.

Ms. April Isa, a classmate of Josh's and an English teacher now at the old high school said:

He was always funny, even mischievous, but always the guy who seemed like he had your back. Most of our class was cliques, but he wasn't with just one group. He was friends with everyone.

Josh lived a life for his family and friends. I had occasion to talk to Ashley, and I found out that he was a real Jesus guy. He loved everyone, and he knew what was going to happen to him, and we know where he is today. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation, and his memory and legacy will continue forever in the love of his wife Ashley and his four sons, Zachariah, Matthew, Joshua Junior, and the youngest, David, just 3 months old.

The fight that took Josh's life is tragic. But make no mistake; his sacrifice made a difference and will continue to make a difference, not just in Iraq but in the security of our great Nation. We are safe in our country, and it is secure because of Josh and our service men and women. We must continue our unwavering support of them.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Josh's family. Senator LANKFORD and I are honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and to make the ultimate sacrifice of his life for our freedom. It is my sincere hope that his family takes solace in knowing that their husband, father, brother, grandson, and friend is a true American hero and will not be forgotten. We say God bless you, Josh. We will see you again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I come to the floor of the Senate today to talk about the sacrifice of one of Oklahoma's own, MSG Joshua Wheeler of Roland, OK, Sequoyah County, America. The current Presiding Officer today is Senator INHOFE, and the two of us together recognize and celebrate the life of someone who laid down his life for the Nation.

Roland and Muldrow are proud towns in eastern Oklahoma. It is Cherokee country, where families take care of other families and small-town American patriotism still thrives. It is the land of tall trees and very strong churches.

Josh was killed in action on October 22 while liberating captives held by ISIL in northern Iraq. Josh was part of a team assisting Kurdish commandos to rescue 70 hostages who were about to be executed by Islamic State militants. There was aerial reconnaissance that had shown a newly dug mass grave at the prison where these 70 prisoners were being held.

When the Kurdish attack on the prison where the hostages were being held stalled, Master Sergeant Wheeler responded. He could not watch the Kurdish forces face the attack without help. He would not allow those men inside the facility to face execution when he could help them escape. Master Sergeant Wheeler breached the wall. He engaged the enemy. The full force of the attack came directly at him, and he saved the day and six dozen men.

You need to know that Master Sergeant Wheeler was the best of the best, the most highly trained warrior in the entire Department of Defense. Josh deployed three times as a Ranger in support of combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, then Master Sergeant Wheeler was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command in 2004 and was deployed 11 additional times in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Master Sergeant Wheeler was highly decorated. We can see this from his uniform. Let me tell you a little bit about his awards. They included four Bronze Star Medals with Valor Device; seven Bronze Star Medals; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Medal; the Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor Device; the Joint Service Commendation Medal; seven Army Commendation Medals; the Joint Service Achievement Medal; eight Army Achievement Medals; the Good Conduct Medal, sixth award; the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars; the Iraq Campaign Medal with six Bronze Service Stars; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, third award; the Army Service Ribbon; the Presidential Unit Citation; the Valorous Unit Award, second award; the Ranger Tab; the Combat Infantryman Badge; the Expert Infantryman Badge; the Master Parachutist Badge; three Overseas Service Bars; and finally, posthumously, the Purple Heart.

He did everything his country asked him to do and more. Master Sergeant Wheeler was the first American serviceman killed in combat in Iraq since 2011. Americans, Kurds, and Iraqis alike owe Master Sergeant Wheeler and his family our deepest gratitude and respect for a life of selfless service. John 15:13 tells us that no greater love is this, than one who lays down his life for his friends. Josh did exactly that. Master Sergeant Wheeler's sacrifice exemplifies the highest virtue in defense of his family, friends, and Nation.

Speaking of his friends, they called him a cutup. He was someone who made everyone laugh. He was a friend to everyone.

I spoke to his wife Ashley last week, and she recounted his faith, toughness, and passion for his boys—all four of them. He was able to come home a few months ago for the birth of his fourth son. It was a peaceful and joyous respite from the brutal realities of war that Josh faced for years.

Josh spent his life defending the weak and standing up for those who needed help. He spent much of his childhood caring for his siblings. He valued life, freedom, and duty.

In contrast to Master Sergeant Wheeler's heroism and selflessness, let me remind you whom he was fighting against. In the days following the Paris attack, we understand that the barbarians of ISIL had no problem randomly killing people at a restaurant, soccer stadium, or concert. They kill for intimidation and pleasure. They do not even value their own lives, much less the lives of the people around them. The Islamic State has committed some of the most horrific acts of death the modern world has ever seen. Their fight is against all modern society, and their goal is to return the world to a medieval state ruled by fear. They have abducted girls and women, called them subhuman for practicing the wrong religion according to them, and sold them as sex slaves. In the world of ISIL, women can't get an education, drive a car, or even have their own rights. They kill and torture anyone who doesn't agree with them. Their reach extends to our own citizens. No one can forget the horrific deaths of James Foley, Stephen Sotloff, and Kayla Mueller, a 26-year-old woman who wanted to do good for the people of Syria but met pure evil when she got there.

Recently, FBI Director James Comey spoke about ISIL's attempts to inspire Americans to turn on each other with blind brutality. Go out and kill, they say. It doesn't matter who, just act. Good men stand up to such evil. They don't allow it to grow and multiply.

We honor Master Sergeant Wheeler's sacrifice and tenacious commitment to confront evil. We humbly thank his family for the sacrifice they made so that we may all live in a more peaceful world. Our Nation cannot say thank you loud enough or long enough to his family.

When I spoke to Ashley, Josh's wife, she recounted when the doorbell rang early that morning. It didn't even cross her mind that it was about Josh. He was so tough and so dedicated. Who would have ever thought he would be gone? The painful and long process of grieving over a lost hero has just begun. Master Sergeant Wheeler was killed in action defending our freedom on October 22. His final service will be this week—just a few days before his birthday. The long days of Thanksgiving and Christmas are still ahead.

Please join me in praying for the family of Master Sergeant Wheeler as our Nation grieves the loss of a husband, father, grandson, and friend to those who knew him. He is a hero to the Nation and the many lives he saved a month ago this week. May God bless Josh's family. May his boys grow up to be men who remember their dad's love for them and our Nation.

With that, I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. LANKFORD assumed the Chair.)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Richard C. Shelby, Richard Burr, Daniel Coats, Ben Sasse, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Chuck Grassley, Susan M. Collins, Thad Cochran, James Lankford, Lamar Alexander, Roy Blunt, Steve Daines.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST FRANCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to express what I know each of my colleagues feels today. We, the 100 men and women of the U.S. Senate, send our sincere condolences to the people of France. From across the Atlantic, Americans send condolences to the victims, to the families, and to the first responders.

We understand the pain and the loss that accompany a terrorist attack. Some feel it in the most personal way. Some never come home. But everyone shares in the loss. In our case, many shared in the response and the recovery as well.

In a dark hour we were reminded of the things that bound us together. I hope you will feel something similar take hold in your terrible hour as well.

We have already seen rays of light begin to shine through the darkness. We saw it even last Friday. Then, as Paris reeled, a soft hum emanated from a tunnel. ''March,'' came the echo in French. ''March on.'' Enemies in history and rivals on the soccer pitch had united around a common humanity. Dazed, disoriented but alive, French and German fans marched through the tunnels together. Some put defiance to verse. ''Against us,'' they sang, ''tyranny has unfurled its bloody banner.'' And indeed, that night it had. A song sung so many times before came alive with new meaning that horrible night. Many knew it as the French national anthem, but that night it became an aria for their sorrow and an ode to their fraternity. We heard it here, from an ocean away.

We add our voices to the harmony now. We know that the attacks were not just directed at the victims we mourn today but also at modernity and the free world.

President Obama has called ISIL the face of evil. It clearly presents a challenge to NATO, to our moderate Sunni allies, and to the United States. It has also shown that it can attack innocent victims in the West, too—right where they live. These terrorists have declared their intention to do so again and again.

We know that trying to contain ISIL's conventional advance as an operational concept has proven insufficient in the face of determined terrorist attacks, but we also know something else. With resolve and determination, ISIL can be defeated. It won't be easy. It won't come quickly or without cost, but we also have no other option.

I look forward to engaging with President Obama to determine his strategy and the tools that will be necessary to achieve it. We are looking forward to hearing the President's proposed strategy when Senators are briefed by the White House later this week. Whatever he does, though, I would encourage him to work cooperatively with both parties on the way forward. This is a challenge that is going to require all of our efforts to confront, and it is a discussion that will be ongoing.

But today is a time to remember and to reflect. We have the people of France in our thoughts today. That is true here in the Senate, and it is certainly true out across our country.

MORNING BUSINESS

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote on the nomination of LaShann Hall to be a Federal district judge in the Eastern District of New York. She was nominated over a year

ago, and her nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote more than 5 months ago. Ms. Hall is an outstanding African-American attorney who will fill a judicial emergency vacancy. There is no reason Senate Republicans should have delayed her confirmation for this long.

The Senate this week should also vote on the next nominee on the calendar, who was nominated on the same day over a year ago as Ms. Hall. Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo will be the first ever Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania on the third circuit. Judge Restrepo has strong bipartisan support from his home State Senators, Senator TOOMEY and Senator CASEY, and there is an urgent need to fill the emergency vacancy on the third circuit to which he has been nominated. I have heard no objection to his nomination, and Senator TOOMEY has said he not only strongly supports Judge Restrepo's confirmation, but he also recommended him to the President. I hope the majority leader will finally schedule his vote this week.

In the 11 months that the Senate has been under Republican control this year, the Senate has only voted to confirm nine judges. This obstruction has resulted in needless delays for hardworking Americans who seek justice in our Federal courts. Currently pending on the Senate floor are nominees who would fill judicial emergency vacancies in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Minnesota, New Jersey, Iowa, New York, and California. Senate Republicans have refused to alleviate the urgent needs in those States. It does not have to be this way. When Senate Democrats were in the majority during the last 2 years of the Bush Presidency, we had already confirmed 36 judges by this same time. We made sure that we fulfilled our constitutional duty to provide advice and consent to ensure that the American people had a fully functioning Federal judiciary.

Senate Republicans' obstruction has caused judicial vacancies to pile up across the country. Since Senate Republicans took over the majority at the beginning of the year, judicial vacancies have increased by more than 50 percent. The number of ''judicial emergency'' vacancies since Senate Republicans took the majority has risen by a stunning 158 percent. The American people deserve better.

We should follow well-established Senate precedent by confirming all consensus nominees before the end of the year. Each of the judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar was reported out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote. And each has the backing of their home State Senators, including Republican Senators. In fact, the next nominee after Ms. Hall and Judge Restrepo is Travis McDonough who has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the Eastern District of Tennessee. Next week will mark the 1-year anniversary since Mr. McDonough was nominated, but it appears there is no relief in sight as his nomination continues to be held up by Senate Republicans, despite the strong support he has from his home State Senators, Senator ALEXANDER and Senator CORKER. I see no reason why he and the rest of the nominees pending should not be confirmed before we recess at the end of the year. As the New York Times put it in an editorial last Friday urging confirmation votes on all pending judicial nominees, ''With each day that passes without a vote on Judge Restrepo and other nominees, Republicans undermine the justice system, and the biggest victims are ordinary Americans who cannot count on fully functioning courts.'' I ask unanimous consent that this editorial be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Shortly we will begin voting on LaShann Hall to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Morrison & Foerster, LLP, in New York, where she has practiced since 2010. She was previously in private practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. She has the support of her two home State Senators, Senator SCHUMER and Senator GILLIBRAND. She was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote on June 4, 2015. I urge my fellow Senators to support her confirmation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Nov. 13, 2015]

CONFIRM PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JUDGES

(By the Editorial Board)

On Nov. 12, 2014, President Obama nominated Luis Felipe Restrepo to a judgeship on the federal Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Restrepo, who already sits on the United States District Court in Philadelphia, seemed to secure the support of both Pennsylvania senators—Bob Casey, a Democrat, and Pat Toomey, a Republican.

But that does not mean that Judge Restrepo, whom Mr. Toomey called ''a very well-qualified candidate'' who would ''make a superb addition'' to the appeals court, will actually get through the confirmation roadblock led by Senate Republicans. Mr. Toomey, despite his professed support, is responsible for a big part of it, refusing for six months to sign off on the nomination by exploiting a pointless tradition that allows home-state senators to block a nomination with no explanation needed. He claimed that he was waiting for a background check, even though Judge Restrepo passed a check two years ago for his current job. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Judge Restrepo for the appeals court seat in July. There has been no explanation for the holdup since then.

As a Hispanic and a former public defender, Judge Restrepo would bring a needed measure of ethnic and professional diversity to the court. But he is just one of many judicial nominees awaiting action. Thirteen have not received a hearing by the Judiciary Committee, and 16 others, including Judge Restrepo, have been approved by the committee, all unanimously, but are still waiting for a full vote on the Senate floor.

Since Republicans took over in January, the Senate has confirmed only nine of President Obama's nominees, the slowest pace in more than half a century. Meanwhile, the seat Judge Restrepo would fill is one of 30 long-vacant federal judgeships the court system deems ''judicial emergencies,'' meaning they have a backlog of hundreds of cases.

Republicans say that Mr. Obama has seen more of his judicial nominees confirmed than President George W. Bush had by this time in his tenure in 2007. But that is mainly because Senate Democrats in 2013 stopped Republicans from repeatedly using the filibuster to block qualified nominees. After that, the Democratic-led Senate confirmed 96 of Mr. Obama's picks. The more relevant fact is there are 67 judicial vacancies today, far more than the number of vacancies Mr. Bush faced in 2007.

The larger problem here, of course, is that Republicans are blocking votes on highly qualified and noncontroversial nominees to vent their anger with the president, who infuriated them with his now-stalled immigration action, among other things.

Judges are not the only casualties of this interbranch crossfire. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, another unquestionably qualified candidate, waited almost six months before finally getting a vote.

Senate Democrats should make these inexcusable delays a national issue. Mr. Obama, meanwhile, could start selecting judges himself in states like Texas, Alabama, Wisconsin and Indiana, where senators refuse to give him any names at all.

With each day that passes without a vote on Judge Restrepo and other nominees, Republicans undermine the justice system, and the biggest victims are ordinary Americans who cannot count on fully functioning courts.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL REVIEW

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor and congratulate National Review for 60 years of valuable contributions to American political discourse.

When a 29-year-old William F. Buckley, Jr., published National Review's first edition on November 19, 1955, it marked not just the birth of a magazine, but also the birth of the modern conservative movement. Under 45 years of Mr. Buckley's leadership, National Review served as the standard bearer of conservative thought in America, where readers could expect to find leading thinkers such as Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Milton Freidman to name a few. It influenced generations of conservatives, including this conservative, with its frequently humorous and always intelligent writing, and it consistently published valuable commentaries on public events and figures, foreign and domestic affairs, culture, politics, and the economy.

During Mr. Buckley's tenure, National Review did more than just observe and comment on the course of human events; it helped shape them. It played a central role in the ''Reagan Revolution.'' Its steadfast defense of liberty, free markets, and personal responsibility provided much of the intellectual underpinnings of America's triumph over communist tyranny in Europe and around the world.

Mr. Buckley's successors have ably carried on this proud tradition at National Review. It remains tremendously influential. With over 150,000 subscribers, it is the most read opinion magazine in America. Millions more visit National Review Online every month.

More importantly, Mr. Buckley's successors have carried on as champions of the conservative movement. Every 2 weeks National Review arrives on my desk and serves as a reminder that conservative thought is alive and well in America.

Over the past 60 years, National Review has lived up to its founding statement so eloquently expressed by Mr. Buckley. To paraphrase, National Review continues to stand athwart history, yelling ''stop,'' when no other is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urge it.

Congratulations to all those who have made National Review a success over these last 60 years. Your contributions to American political discourse will serve as an inspiration and as a challenge to future generations of conservative thinkers.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 23

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 23, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units,'' and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Jim Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Ron Johnson, Lamar Alexander, Michael B. Enzi, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Lee, Orrin Hatch, Deb Fischer, Joe Manchin, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Pat Roberts, Dan Coats, John Barrasso, Richard Burr, John Thune, Lisa Murkowski, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Rob Portman, David Perdue, Pat Toomey, Jeff Sessions, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Richard Shelby, John Hoeven.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 24

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units,'' and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Shelley Moore Capito, Joni K. Ernst, Roger Wicker, John Barrasso, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, James Lankford, John Thune, Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Manchin, James Inhofe, Tim Scott, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, Mitch McConnell, Jeff Flake, Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Jeff Sessions, Roy Blunt, Pat Toomey, Steve Daines, Jerry Moran, Richard Shelby, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO IVAN BELL WOODFORD

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Ivan Bell Woodford on being selected to serve as grand marshal for the city of Reno's Veterans Day Parade. As Nevada's oldest living World War II veteran, there is no doubt Mr. Woodford deserves this honor. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of service to both the United States of America and our great State.

Mr. Woodford grew up at Lake Elsinore, working on the family ranch. He later enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 as a Seabee. Throughout World War II, he served at Pearl Harbor and Midway Island, operating heavy equipment and cranes to clear debris from the destruction of the war. His unit was later stationed in the Philippines.

In 1946, Mr. Woodford established his residency in Reno, working for local excavating companies as a heavy machinery operator. He worked for more than 30 years in this industry, helping complete various projects throughout Reno and Lake Tahoe. He aided in laying the foundation of housing pads across Reno, leveling the ground for construction projects near Lake Tahoe, drudging what is now Virginia Lake, and cleaning irrigation ditches to develop Spanish Springs Valley. He also worked heavy machinery during the development of Interstate 80 and many other roads throughout Washoe Valley, leaving his mark in northern Nevada for generations to come. No doubt, he witnessed and contributed to some of the largest growth and expansion throughout the area.

His many contributions to making our State the best it can be, as well as his service to this country, demonstrates his generous character. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values and place him among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our nation. Our State is fortunate to have someone like Mr. Woodford to serve as a role model.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for veterans, like Mr. Woodford, in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Woodford has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the United States Navy. His work throughout Nevada is invaluable. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Woodford for all of his accomplishments, as well as his participation in the city of Reno's Veterans Day Parade.•

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BURTON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Brian Burton, president and chief executive officer of Three Square, for his tireless efforts in enhancing the lives of many across southern Nevada. Mr. Burton brings more than 20 years of nonprofit experience to Three Square, helping feed thousands of southern Nevadans who would otherwise go hungry. Mr. Burton has contributed greatly to his community by working to make Three Square the best it can be.

Largely due to Mr. Burton's many years of hard work, Three Square is able to offer a variety of programs to help those who would normally go without a wholesome meal. The organization works to source food, raise money, and grow its volunteer base to provide food to outside partners that distribute meals directly to those in need. Three Square services Clark, Nye, Lincoln, and Esmeralda Counties, feeding over 300,000 Nevadans. Our State is fortunate to have someone such as Mr. Burton running this organization, which is critical to many across southern Nevada.

Previously, Mr. Burton served as executive director for Wilkinson Center in Dallas, TX, a nonprofit organization serving low-income families with food assistance, education, and case management. In his current position, Mr. Burton works to further develop and grow the organization, increase program sustainability and community engagement, diversify and increase fundraising, and offer public policy work. His contributions to this incredible organization are immense, and his efforts have not gone unnoticed.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Burton for his noble contributions to communities across southern Nevada and to the many individuals who have benefited from his work. He is a shining example of someone who strives for the betterment of his community and displays true selflessness in his work. I am thankful to have Mr. Burton serving as an ally to Nevadans in need.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mr. Burton and his work for Three Square, a program whose mission is both honorable and necessary. I wish Mr. Burton the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.•

TRIBUTE TO BETTY VANDIVER

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to pay tribute today to Betty Russell Vandiver, the former first lady of the State of Georgia from 1959 to 1963.

Sybil Elizabeth ''Betty'' Russell Vandiver is the wonderful wife of the late Georgia Governor, Earnest Vandiver. She also is the niece of Richard B. Russell, Jr., the former Georgia Senator and Governor after whom one of our U.S. Senate office buildings was named and where my office in Washington, DC, is located. But Betty Vandiver is more than that.

At the time, Mrs. Vandiver became first lady in 1959, Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, GA, served as the State's only State hospital for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled. In the late 1950s, Central State Hospital was home to more than 12,000 patients, many of whom had been abandoned by their families at an early age.

After visiting the hospital, Mrs. Vandiver became concerned about these patients, and she determined that she would devote much of her time and energy as first lady to raising public awareness of the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.

One of Mrs. Vandiver's initiatives included working with the Georgia Municipal Association to create a statewide Christmas gift collection drive known as the Mayors' Motorcade. This special event was established in 1959 and expanded years later to support the inhabitants of the State's regional hospitals. Since then, caring Georgians support the Mayors' Motorcade each year by donating gifts to cities participating in the program.

Through Mrs. Vandiver's efforts, thousands and thousands of patients residing at Georgia's State hospitals have received Christmas gifts and visits from city officials at special motorcade events.

On December 1, 2015, we will celebrate Betty Vandiver Day in Georgia. Today it is my pleasure to honor Mrs. Vandiver for having the vision to create the Mayors' Motorcade program as a way of providing not only gifts, but also critical public awareness about the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.•

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 283

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 283 of Wayzata, MN, which occurred on November 15, 2015. Troop 283 is the oldest continually chartered troop in the State and has counted thousands of Scouts as its members since its inception.

The development of character, physical fitness, and civic engagement have always been central tenants of the Boy Scouts. The Scouts of Troop 283 epitomize these values and continue to learn the skills necessary to be compassionate, tolerant, and dynamic leaders. In fact, to date, 151 of Troop 283's Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable within the Boy Scouts. Each aspiring Eagle Scout must complete a demanding Eagle project that showcases their ability and willingness to serve their community. These Eagle projects, along with a myriad of other service projects completed by the Scouts of Troop 283, have demonstrated their positive impact to Wayzata and the surrounding community. I am confident that Troop 283 will continue to be a positive influence well into the future.

I recognize Troop 283 for its 100 years of service to Wayzata and the great State of Minnesota. To the Scouts of Troop 283 and the family and friends that support them, thank you and congratulations on your 100th anniversary.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolutions were discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 23. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units''.

S.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units''.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2283. A bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 313. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris and offering thoughts and prayers for the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the people of France, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of France and all our allies in the face of this horrific attack on freedom and liberty; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 108

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

108, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve access for students to Federal grants and loans to help pay for postsecondary, graduate, and professional educational opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1789

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1789, a bill to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2045, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

S. 2163

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that broadband conduits be installed as a part of certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2232, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to repeal debt collection amendments made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to coordinate Federal congenital heart disease research efforts and to improve public education and awareness of congenital heart disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2251

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2251, a bill to provide for a supplementary payment to Social Security beneficiaries, supplemental security income beneficiaries, and recipients of veterans benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue prospective guidance clarifying the employment status of individuals for purposes of employment taxes and to prevent retroactive assessments with respect to such clarifications.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform and reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 282

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 282, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015. I am glad to have Senators REED, BURR, and FRANKEN joining me as sponsors of this bipartisan bill that will reauthorize critical, innovative, and life-saving programs.

We have been working on this legislation throughout the year and have met with stakeholders in blood cell transplantation to receive their input. We also included members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee who are deeply committed to passing this legislation.

In drafting this legislation, we also collaborated with our counterparts in the House of Representatives. I am grateful for the leadership of Congressman CHRIS SMITH and Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, who did so much to get this legislation through the House. I commend my colleagues and their staffs for their hard work.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide some history and background that will explain why this reauthorization bill is so important. This legislation will reauthorize for another five years both the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, which are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. These vital programs provide access to life-saving treatments for serious conditions and disease.

Bone marrow contains blood-forming stem cells that develop into the three blood cell types that keep the body healthy. The body uses those red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets as building blocks for blood, tissue, and organs. These blood cells die naturally, and the body must continuously make new ones. Serious health problems can develop in people whose bone marrow cannot make enough new blood cells to replace the cells that die.

Cord blood is a newborn baby's blood that remains in the placenta or afterbirth. This blood can be collected after delivery at no risk to the mother and baby. Like bone marrow, cord blood is also rich with stem cells, and doctors can use it as an alternative to bone marrow transplant. In fact, research in the mid–1980s highlighted the promise of cord blood, demonstrating that it is more highly enriched with blood-forming stem cells than bone marrow.

Cord blood transplantation has been used successfully to treat leukemia, lymphoma, immunodeficiency diseases, sickle cell anemia, and certain metabolic diseases. In addition to treating cancer and other blood diseases, researchers are currently testing stem cells for a host of disorders, including autoimmune and genetic disorders.

Cord blood research is also showing potential for use in the innovative fields of cellular therapy and regenerative medicine. Vaccines derived from cord blood to use against viruses and certain types of cancers are currently in early trials. Research has also indicated that cord blood could be used to treat conditions for which few treatments are available, such as stroke, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, autism, and traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg of the Carolinas Blood Bank is one of the world's leading stem cell researchers at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. At the time of that groundbreaking scientific research in the 1980s, Dr. Kurtzberg was caring for a 5 year old boy named Matthew who had a rare, inherited blood disorder called Fanconi anemia—a disease that leads to bone marrow failure. In light of the new scientific findings, doctors planned a cord blood transplant for Matthew at a hospital in Paris, France, using fully matched cord blood that had been collected during the birth of his newly born baby sister. Matthew's transplant in 1988 was a success, laying the groundwork for cord blood transplantation.

Matthew is now in his 30s. He is married, working, and living a healthy and productive life. He is living proof that cord blood contains stem cells that can replenish the bone marrow and immune system throughout a patient's life.

In 1993, with the assistance of Dr. Pablo Rubenstein of the New York Blood Center, Dr. Kurtzberg performed the world's first unrelated donor cord blood transplant at Duke University. Over the following years, these amazing research doctors discovered more about the use of cord blood transplantation in patients who cannot find a fully matched donor.

Dr. Kurtzberg is also the president of the Cord Blood Association, CBA. I am thankful for Dr. Kurtzberg and the CBA's support in helping us develop meaningful legislation that will help cord blood banks do their jobs. I also owe gratitude for the input and guidance on this reauthorization bill that my staff and I received from Mike Boo and Dr. Jeffrey Chell with the National Marrow Donor Program, NMDP.

I am proud to have a long history of working on this issue. In early 2003, I met with Joanne Kurtzberg, Pablo Rubenstein, and Phil Coelho of Thermogenesis Corporation to discuss umbilical cord blood therapies as a promising alternative to bone marrow transplantation and how the Federal Government could help to increase collection efforts.

That night, I called Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to talk to him about this new science, and he agreed to meet with Joanne, Pablo, and Phil the very next day. Staff from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health joined us for that discussion. Secretary Thompson stressed that cord blood banks would need to be managed through HRSA and promised to support my legislation.

In October 2003, I introduced a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank Network to prepare, store, and distribute human umbilical cord blood stems cells for the treatment of patients and to support peer-reviewed research using those cells. That bill, the Cord Blood Stem Cell Act of 2003, S. 1717, gained strong bipartisan support over the last few months of the 108th Congress.

Although it did not pass the Senate, my 2003 bill helped to generate more interest in and support for blood stem cell transplantation. I kept working on legislation to help increase access to these life-saving transplants in the following Congress. In April 2005, the Institute of Medicine, IOM, issued recommendations to create a national cord blood network. Those of us in Congress who had been working on cord blood and bone marrow realized that combining our bipartisan, bicameral efforts would benefit patients by increasing treatment options and encouraging future research. We reviewed the IOM report and incorporated those important recommendations into one comprehensive bill.

That legislation, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, P.L. 109–129, that was signed into law on December 20, 2005, created the National Cord Blood Inventory and established an inventory goal of at least 150,000 new and diverse cord blood stem cell units.

The 2005 law also combined the NCBI with the bone marrow donor program that had been created in 1986 by the late Congressman Bill Young to create a single point of access for blood stem cell transplants and research. This single point of access allows physicians the ability to search for any potential adult volunteer bone marrow donor or umbilical cord blood unit anywhere across the globe.

Finally, our 2005 law also named the program the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, in honor of Bill's tireless efforts to promote bone marrow donation and transplantation.

Five years later, I was the lead sponsor of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2010, P.L. 111–264, which was signed into law on October 8, 2010, and reauthorized the Program and the NCBI for another 5 years. The 2010 law also placed new emphasis on exploring innovations in cord blood collection and increasing the number of collection sites across the nation.

Great progress has been made toward achieving the NCBI's goal of at least 150,000 diverse cord blood units; however, data suggest that the number of available cord blood units in the United States is still insufficient to meet the estimated need for unrelated transplant, which has increased by 25 percent since 2005. The number of transplants for patients in minority populations has increased from 253 in 2000 to 990 in 2014. Much of this increase can be attributed to the increased potential for bone marrow or cord blood transplant. This is exciting, promising science.

There are still challenges to the success of bone marrow and cord blood transplantation. Not all cord blood units contain enough cells to transplant into all patients. In many cases, more than one unit is preferred or necessary for larger children or adults. New science indicates the possibility that using larger, higher quality cord blood units will reduce the incidence of graft-versus-host disease, GVHD, a serious complication of blood cell transplantation in which the donor cells attack the recipient. GVHD is the biggest barrier to successful transplantation.

I am glad to know that the Advisory Council and HRSA have been working with public cord blood banks to discuss ways to increase CBU quality and diversity. As the inventory continues to grow, the diverse units within the NCBI will serve an increasing number of patients that have difficulty obtaining cells from well-matched adult donors.

Cell dose and degree of match between patient and CBU are both strongly associated with transplant outcomes. A larger inventory of publicly available CBUs also will contribute to improved patient survival after transplant because a growing inventory of high cell count CBUs will allow better tissue matches.

Cord blood banks have told us that they cannot do this on their own. Without continued support from HRSA, this life-saving science would be financially unsustainable. We must reauthorize this important program.

Today, I am introducing the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015 to further advance the important work of the bone marrow and cord blood programs.

Passage of this legislation will preserve the commitment that the Congress made three decades ago to help patients with blood cancers and other life-threatening diseases by helping to increase access to life-saving transplants. It will also open the doors to new discoveries within the fields of cellular therapy and regenerative medicine. I am proud to introduce the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015 with Senators HATCH, FRANKEN, and BURR. This bill offers promise to the tens of thousands of individuals diagnosed with leukemia and lymphomas, sickle cell anemia, and rare genetic blood disorders.

It will reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young National Marrow Donor Program, which has been helping to connect individuals in need of a bone marrow transplant with donors since 1986, and the National Cord Blood Inventory, which has been helping to connect individuals in need of an umbilical cord blood transplant with donors since 1999.

The public registries, made up of donors from all over the country, have been a true lifeline for the Americans who have found an unrelated match. By strengthening and enhancing the important programs operating these registries, many more Americans will be afforded the opportunity to find a match if they are ever in need.

I look forward to swift consideration of this legislation in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and working toward passage in the full Senate.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2283. A bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, small businesses are the backbone of America. They generate more than half of the country's private GDP and support millions of families. In Montana, thanks to technology, geography is no longer a constraint and entrepreneurs have been able to build world-class companies without leaving the state.

Access to the global marketplace is largely dependent on access to the Internet. Large incumbent carriers often do not have enough of an incentive to serve rural America so States like Montana really depend on small businesses to fill in the gaps and connect our communities. Without small broadband providers, many Montanans would remain unserved. This is why it is so important to support our small businesses and allow them to continue to provide jobs and economic growth in their communities.

Burdensome regulations like the FCC's net neutrality rules are strangling our small businesses and preventing growth and investment. The enhanced transparency requirements in particular require small businesses to disclose an excess amount of information including network packet loss, network performance by geographic area, network performance during peak usage, network practices concerning a particular group of users, triggers that activate network practices, and the list goes on. Small companies like Grizzly Internet in West Yellowstone, MO, operate with only three employees and do not have a team of attorneys dedicated to regulatory compliance. Small businesses simply do not have the bandwidth to take on additional regulatory burdens.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Small Business Broadband Deployment Act of 2015 with my colleague Senator RISCH. The bill makes permanent the FCC's temporary small business exception to the net neutrality enhanced transparency requirements. There is broad support in the record for a small business exception, including support from the American Cable Association, Rural Wireless Association, Competitive Carriers Association, Wireless Internet Service Providers Association, CTIA—The Wireless Association, Rural Broadband Provider Coalition, WTA—Advocates for Rural Broadband. Additionally, the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy filed comments with the FCC stating, ''Advocacy has concerns that compliance with the enhanced transparency requirements under the 2015 Open Internet Order is not feasible for small broadband providers, particularly small rural providers, and may ultimately degrade the quality of service that consumers receive from small providers.'' Providing relief from over 300 pages of net neutrality rules will allow small businesses to focus on deploying infrastructure and serving their customers rather than spending time on regulatory compliance. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this much needed legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2283

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Small Business Broadband Deployment Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO ENHANCEMENT TO TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term ''broadband Internet access service''—

(A) means a mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capability that is incidental to and enables the operation of the communications service; and

(B) does not include dial-up Internet access service; and

(2) the term ''small business'' means any provider of broadband Internet access service that has not more than—

(A) 1,500 employees; or

(B) 500,000 subscribers.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—The enhancements to the transparency rule of the Federal Communications Commission under section 8.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as described in paragraphs 162 through 184 of the Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order of the Federal Communications Commission with regard to protecting and promoting the open Internet (adopted February 26, 2015) (FCC 15–24), shall not apply to any small business.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS AND OFFERING THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THE VICTIMS, CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES, RESOLVE TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE, AND THE PLEDGE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE COUNTRY OF FRANCE AND ALL OUR ALLIES IN THE FACE OF THIS HORRIFIC ATTACK ON FREEDOM AND LIBERTY

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 313

Whereas, on November 13, 2015, at least eight armed gunmen and suicide bombers conducted six separate attacks across the city of Paris, France, killing at least 129 civilians and wounding over 350 innocent men, women, and children;

Whereas these horrific attacks mark the deadliest violence to strike the Republic of France since World War II, the worst act of terrorism to strike Europe since the 2004 attacks in Madrid, Spain, that killed 191 and wounded approximately 1,800 others, and one of the worst terrorist acts carried out on Western soil since the catastrophic attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas Paris is still grieving from the January 7, 2015, terrorist attack on the offices of the French newspaper Charlie Hebdo that brutally murdered 12 people and injured at least 11 others;

Whereas President of the Republic of France Francois Hollande has declared a national state of emergency and deployed approximately 1,500 military members across the city of Paris;

Whereas President Hollande condemned these events as ''an act of war that was committed by a terrorist army, a jihadist army, Daesh'';

Whereas President Hollande further declared that ''when terrorists are capable of committing such atrocities they must be certain that they are facing a determined France, a united France, a France that is together and does not let itself be moved, even if today we express infinite sorrow'';

Whereas President Barack Obama called these heinous actions not just an attack on Paris and the people of France, but an attack on all of humanity and the universal values that we share;

Whereas the Republic of France is America's oldest ally, dating back to Marquis de Lafayette, and the people of the United States and France mutually share a debt of gratitude that dates from the formation of our republics through two world wars;

Whereas the people of the Republic of France have expressed solidarity with the people of the United States, including following the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, which claimed the lives of thousands of innocent civilians in the United States;

Whereas the French people have made manifest their commitment to the United States by partnering with United States forces in Afghanistan and Iraq and as an important partner in the fight against extremist terrorism in Mali and around the world;

Whereas at least one United States citizen was murdered in these heinous attacks and at least four others were injured; and

Whereas these attacks represent both an assault on freedom and democracy and an unmitigated evil that the United States and United States allies must stand united to defeat: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the brutal attacks on the people of Paris that resulted in the death of at least 129 people, including one United States citizen, through shootings, hostage-taking, and suicide bombings of innocent, civilian targets;

(2) expresses its heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for the victims and family members of those attacked;

(3) renews the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the people and Government of the Republic of France; and

(4) pledges support for the Government of France to pursue justice against those involved in these heinous attacks and to prevent future attacks.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 16, 2015, at 5 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing entitled ''U.S. Policy Tools to Combat North Korea's Nuclear and Ballistic Missile Capabilities.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 313, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 313) condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris and offering thoughts and prayers for the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the people of France, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of France and all our allies in the face of this horrific attack on freedom and liberty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 313) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 17; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate

then observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris attacks; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, until 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

HESTER MARIA PEIRCE, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3036:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. NADJA Y. WEST

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. EDWARD E. HILDRETH III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JENNIFER G. BUCKNER
COLONEL SEAN A. GAINEY
COLONEL DAVID T. ISAACSON
COLONEL PATRICK B. ROBERSON

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRED M. MIDGETTE

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 16, 2015:

THE JUDICIARY

LASHANN MOUTIQUE DEARCY HALL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for working with me on both of my amendments.

The amendment I offer would require the Department of Transportation to submit a report to the House Transportation Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee on research managed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to develop a system to measure vertical track deflection caused by a moving railroad car.

Such a system should be able to identify a combination of factors that, individually, may not be able to cause a train derailment but that, together, could endanger safe train operations, such as deteriorated cross ties, fouled ballast, and other deficiencies in the structures that support rail tracks.

The amendment authorizes the Department of Transportation to develop a plan for using quantitative inspection criteria to identify poor track support systems if such an approach is supported by the FRA's research.

The amendment also authorizes the Department to develop a plan to install instruments to measure track deflection on its Automated Track Inspection Program geometry cars within 3 years of the date of enactment of this bill, if this approach is supported by the FRA's research.

I developed this amendment in very close consultation with the families of Rose Louese Mayr and Elizabeth Conway Nass, who were tragically killed in a coal train derailment that occurred in Ellicott City, Maryland, in my district, in 2012.

These families have worked tirelessly to understand the technical circumstances that led to the 2012 train derailment and to identify specific steps that can be taken to prevent future tragedies. I am deeply honored to have worked with them on this amendment.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) report on the Ellicott City accident, "the point of derailment was a rail fracture several hundred feet" before a bridge. After extensive laboratory analysis, the NTSB concluded that the broken rail segment, "showed evidence of rolling contact fatigue, a gradual breakdown of the rail-head surface."

The Ellicott City accident is one of several recent accidents that have involved rail-head wear and drawn attention to the ways in which the presence of multiple individual defects can eventually lead to a rail break.

While track conditions are addressed in current Federal Track Safety Standards, there are no quantitative inspection criteria. Consequently, these conditions are rarely cited as defects to be remediated.

I hope that we can build on the research foundation that my amendment requires and eventually develop rules that will address specific track conditions.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, it is a sad commentary on the state of this House that the highway bill we are considering is being called a victory, and that the mere act of bringing a bill to the floor is a major step forward.

As a nation with a D+ grade on infrastructure from the American Society for Civil Engineers, we need an ambitious plan to rebuild and modernize. We need to invest in transit, fix structurally-deficient bridges, connect people to jobs, and move goods across the country. We need to put people to work in every community bringing our transportation system into the 21st century. That's why I introduced a version of the President's GROW America Act that would have invested more in our infrastructure.

Instead, we are considering a very modest proposal. It's a six year bill at current funding levels adjusted for inflation, with only three years of funding. The pay-fors include bad and inefficient policies like hiring private debt collectors to harass taxpayers. It dramatically cuts the TIFIA loan program and fails to provide adequate funding for transit. And it needlessly erodes environmental and community review of projects.

This bill does have some positive provisions providing resources for major projects, continuing funding for bike-ped and Safe Routes to School, and strengthening Buy American requirements. I appreciate that my amendment to allow communities to protect consumers from predatory towing has been included in the bill. And I strongly support reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank to open up international markets for American goods.

But I am disappointed that this bill does not go farther to improve and transform our transportation networks. As we begin conference negotiations with the Senate, we must significantly boost investments, eliminate problematic offsets, and restore meaningful project review.

ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Wichita Falls, Texas, on its milestone of providing 100 years of service inside and outside of our community.

The Rotary Club of Wichita Falls consists of 90 dedicated men and women who make a difference on the local, national, and international level. The Club's motto is "Service Above Self," and this organization certainly abides by this statement with its many service projects and support for numerous organizations throughout the Wichita Falls area and beyond.

The wide variety of organizations supported by the Club includes the Boy Scouts, YMCA, Youth Leadership, and the Boys and Girls Club. In fact, the Boys and Girls Club has maintained a connection to the Rotary Club for an impressive 86 years and continues to flourish with its support. These programs provide needed growth and leadership opportunities for developing future leaders. The Club also plays a key role in a variety of adult programs, which includes the Adult Literacy Council, The Food Bank, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, and the Salvation Army, just to name a few.

Additionally, the Wichita Falls Rotary Club provides many services and support for Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB), a base that plays a key role in training and equipping U.S. Air Force personnel. A highly notable program is the Squadron Adoption Program with the goal to establish and maintain exemplary relations between the permanent party military stationed at Sheppard AFB and the proactive leadership of the communities throughout Wichita County. Units from both the 82nd Training Wing and the 80th Flying Training Wing participate in this program. Groups like the Rotary Club play an important role in ensuring our military receives the support and gratitude they deserve. The Rotary Club also helps remind us that our country remains strong because of the sacrifice made by our men and women in the military.

Another important program the Rotary Club has adopted is the flag project, which consists of Rotary members placing American flags around the City of Wichita Falls. With this project alone, the Club has managed to raise and donate approximately $700,000 to local and worldwide Rotary projects. These services

are proof that the dedicated men and women of the Wichita Falls Rotary Club can make a difference.

Serving others is one of the highest callings for any of us. For 100 years the Rotary Club of Wichita Falls has been serving and contributing in important ways. They deserve our congratulations and our appreciation as they move to their next 100 years of service.

THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND ANTHONY L. TRUFANT

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 25th pastoral anniversary of Reverend Anthony L. Trufant, senior pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. During his tenure, Pastor Trufant has overseen the church's exponential growth, community engagement, and raised its profile as one of the most innovative churches in the country. In recognition of his pastoral anniversary and invaluable service to our community Reverend Trufant was honored on November 13, 2015 at the Liberty Warehouse in Brooklyn, NY.

Rev. Trufant became the Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn's Clinton Hill neighborhood in 1990. Under his leadership the ministry stretches from New York to New Orleans, from Haiti's hovels to the townships of South Africa. Rev. Trufant has not only worked to improve the quality of life for our communities in Brooklyn but has partnered with Global Faith Works in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. Emmanuel Baptist Church hosts their annual Mission of Thanks to South Africa where they support women entrepreneurs and Thaba Primary, a school for the local youth. These programs have helped countless individuals over the past 25 years and continue to aid people today.

Reverend Trufant was raised in Chicago, Illinois and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Morehouse and a Master of Divinity from Colgate Rochester. Rev. Trufant was licensed to preach in July 1981 and ordained in May 1988 by the Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, California. Rev. Trufant has also received a diploma in pastoral counseling from the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health and has completed coursework towards a Doctor of Ministry at Hebrew Union College.

Pastor Trufant is married to Muriel Lynette Goode Trufant, Esq. and is the father of two wonderful daughters, Sharise Emmanuelle and Toni Niara.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Reverend Anthony L. Trufant on his 25th Pastoral Anniversary. For his commitment to the people of Brooklyn and his service to the least of those among us, he is worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING NDI NEW MEXICO FOR ITS WORK EDUCATING NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NDI New Mexico as a leader in excellent educational programming in the performing arts for New Mexico's children.

NDI New Mexico was founded in 1994 in Santa Fe. Over the last twenty years, NDI New Mexico has grown from serving 100 children in one school to reaching almost 10,000 children through in-school, after-school, summer, and advanced training classes in communities across the state. NDI New Mexico's mission is to provide inspirational programming in the arts that have a unique power to engage and motivate children. These programs have lasting effects on developing positive self-esteem and motivating students to learn inside and outside of the classroom. A recent long-term analysis of NDI's programming shows that students have on average a 1.0 higher GPA and higher standardized test score results than their non-participating peers. These results show the incredible impact that NDI has on its students' educational successes.

After-school and outreach programs are an important part of kids' educational opportunities. NDI's program gives students lessons in artistic expression, self-esteem, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to health and fitness. With over 90 programs in 34 communities across New Mexico, NDI works to improve educational outcomes and bridge opportunity gaps for New Mexico's students through the performing arts.

The strengths and impacts of NDI on New Mexico's children has been recognized throughout our communities, as it has been awarded Albuquerque Business First's Non Profit of the Year award in the Arts, Culture and Humanities category and Russell Baker, its Executive Director, was named Top CEO in the Non-Profit category. These awards celebrate NDI's outstanding, distinctive programs that aim to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.

Once again, I congratulate NDI New Mexico for its quality educational programming, and thank the entire team for its exceptional work for New Mexico's children.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA'S NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oath of citizenship on Friday, November 13, 2015. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry, was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On November 13, 2015, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Lenka Krstevska, Bertha Esthela Corral, David Tugba Tom, Raul Alonso Moreno Gonzalez, David Alarcon Hernandez, Yulia Yurevna Abair, Serena Taisir Ibrahim, Donna Ruth Ajayi, Hayet Adjerid, Celestino Olivares Manzo, Mijoon Lee, Thuy Thi Hong Le, Ezekiel Attah, Catherine Marjorie Charles, Francisco Alonso, Astrid Mariela Arnold, Chao Jung Chou, Maria Rosario Franco, Nancy Fuentes, Mayra Nancy Martinez, Jeff Nguefack Mbeleke, Maria Clemencia Mireles, Duncan Kanyi Nganga, Agnes Hop Nguyen, Veronica Giovana Perez, Mario Renteria, Oscar Martinez Ruiz, Yareli Sandoval, Perla Villanueva, and Dilcia Victoria Young.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on November 13, 2015. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

CONGRATULATING THE DALLAS TEXANS U–14

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dallas Texans U–14 on their success in World Youth Cup of 2015.

The United States sent 43 teams to compete at this year's Gothia Cup, the world's largest and most international youth football tournament. The Gothia Cup prides itself on its participants' diversity and understands football as a global, unifying force. The Dallas Texans U–14 team, one of 215 teams competing in the U–14 boy's age group, was the only winner from the United States this year. In the final play off, the Dallas Texans won 3–

0. There were 38 countries represented in the U–14 age bracket.

The Dallas Texans won 9 games over the course of 6 days. The boys on the Dallas Texans U–14 team were Logan Brown, Triston Edgington, Evan Hu, Anthony Perea, Seth Weprin, Omar Thompson Jr., Donovan Praslin, Arthur Ramirez, Tristan Robles, Noah Adames, Matthew Santos, Caleb Young, Benedict Lube, Cade York, Jorge Amaya-Gonzalez, Andrew Moore, and Joseph McGee. They are represented by their coach Hassan Nazari.

When the Gothia Cup started in 1975, it included 275 teams from 5 nations. In 2015, it attracted 1,754 teams from 74 nations. Overall, the Cup hosted 40,200 players. The Gothia cup has a long, rich history that continues to expand as more countries send young, active players.

PADGETT STRATEMANN & CO.'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 70th anniversary of Padgett Stratemann & Co., a newly selected Texas Treasure Business Award recipient. Run by the Texas Historical Commission, the Texas Treasure Business Award Program pays tribute to the state's well-established businesses and their historical contributions to the state's economic growth and prosperity.

Founded in 1945 by Sidney Padgett, Padgett Stratemann & Co. focuses on accounting and business advisory services. It has been a thriving member of the Central and South Texas business community. With over 200 employees in San Antonio, Austin, and Houston, the company is committed to the communities through financial and in-kind support of numerous non-profit organizations. By displaying professionalism, service, and quality, Padgett Stratemann & Co. exemplifies what it means to be an award-winning Texas-based business enterprise.

HONORING NESHANNOCK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I congratulate the Neshannock Township Volunteer Fire Company on 75 years of faithful service to their community. Since 1940, the Neshannock Township Volunteer Fire Company has provided fire protection, emergency medical response, and technical rescue services to the nearly 10,000 citizens of Neshannock Township, as well as the surrounding communities of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. The fire company, made up entirely of volunteers, responds to around 400 incidents per year, including structure fires, car accidents, medical emergencies, and hazardous material incidents. The volunteer responders complete at least 70 hours of training each year, with many members undertaking more than 100 hours of training annually.

I commend these volunteer responders for donating their time and efforts, especially for selflessly putting themselves in harm's way to keep their friends and neighbors safe. Communities across America rely on the generosity and courage of men and women like volunteer firefighters to maintain the safety and security of their farms, neighborhoods, towns, and villages. I congratulate the Neshannock Township Volunteer Fire Company for reaching this significant milestone and I wish them many more successful years of service.

IN CELEBRATION OF ANN WEST ON HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO PINKERTON ACADEMY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions Ann West has made to Pinkerton Academy and their performing arts program over the past 56 years. Ann is directing her last play with the Pinkerton Players on November 15, 2015 and I am pleased to join with Pinkerton Academy and the Stockbridge Theatre in recognizing the many contributions she has made to both the school and performing arts in her community.

Ann founded the Pinkerton Players, Pinkerton Academy's own performing arts group in 1988. Since that time she has directed dozens of plays and musicals such as Our Town, The Pink Panther and A Christmas Carol to name just a few. She was also instrumental in building both of the school's auditoriums—the Shephard Auditorium in 1963 and the Stockbridge Theatre that was built to replace the auditorium in 2002.

In addition to her time with the Pinkerton Players, Ann has served as an educator in many subjects at Pinkerton Academy, and heading up the English department at the school. She is a past president and active member of the board for the New Hampshire Council for Teachers of English, and an Executive Board Member for the New England Association of Teachers of English.

I am proud to join with my fellow Granite Staters in recognizing the many contributions Ann West has made to both Pinkerton Academy and her community over the last 56 years, and I wish her the best in all future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS P. HOLIAN

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to an outstanding civil servant and constituent of mine, Thomas P. Holian, Deputy Chief Counsel of the Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, who is retiring after 37 years of Federal service.

Tom is a graduate of Fordham University and received his juris doctor from New York Law School. Tom joined the FHWA as an Attorney Advisor in the Office of the Chief Counsel in 1978. From 1978 to 1982, he worked in the Chief Counsel's Office of Legislation and Regulations on such matters as the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978, the Motor Carrier Act of 1980, and the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982. Tom also served as a Trial Attorney in the Chief Counsel's Motor Carrier and Highway Safety Law Division where he handled motor carrier safety enforcement cases and regulatory and litigation work associated with driver qualification requirements, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and controlled substance and alcohol testing of commercial motor vehicle drivers. Tom also served as the first Executive Director of the FHWA's National Motor Carrier Advisory Committee.

Tom joined the Senior Executive Service in December 1999 when he was selected to serve as the Deputy Chief Counsel for Legislation and Regulations in the Office of the Chief Counsel. In this position through February 2008, Tom was responsible for directing a staff in providing legal advice and services on all aspects of the FHWA's legislative and regulatory programs. In this role, he greatly contributed to the implementation of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA–21) and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU). Tom also led the team responsible for drafting much of the TEA–21 reauthorization bill that became SAFETEA–LU. Prior to this appointment, Tom was an Associate Chief Counsel and served as the FHWA's Regulations Officer responsible for leading the comprehensive review of FHWA's regulations in response to Presidential directives in 1992 and 1995, as well as FHWA's ISTEA and TEA–21 regulatory implementation.

Tom became the Deputy Chief Counsel, the senior career attorney in the FHWA, in March 2008. As Deputy Chief Counsel, Tom supervises and coordinates the activities of a staff comprised of 60 employees, of whom 50 are attorneys responsible for providing legal services regarding all aspects of the FHWA's programs. The Office of Chief Counsel consists of three headquarters divisions and five field divisions, four of which provide services to Federal-aid Division Offices and the Resource Center, and one that provides services to the Federal Lands Highway. Tom directly advises the most senior officials in the FHWA and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Tom and his staff work with State and local government transportation attorneys and other customers to enhance their understanding of Federal laws and procedures relating to transportation.

Tom will be retiring this month after 39 years of Federal service. After his long career and especially his seven and a half years as Deputy Chief Counsel, Tom leaves FHWA a well-respected, dedicated public servant, who has used his knowledge and skills throughout his 37-year FHWA career to make significant contributions to the advancement of transportation law.

I am proud to represent Tom and so many other Federal workers. We are fortunate to have dedicated, talented, creative, hard-working, and patriotic public servants like Tom. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Tom

for serving the American public with such distinction and devotion and wishing him much success as he leaves Federal service. We also need to thank his wife Ginny and their three children for supporting him in his public career.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING VICKIE FISH ON HER RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GUAM GIRL SCOUTS, INC.

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Vickie Fish on her retirement as the Executive Director of Guam Girl Scouts, Inc. Vickie joined the Guam Girl Scouts in 1996.

Vickie was born in Milton, Wisconsin and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Education from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She left the mainland in 1974 after college to begin her service in the Peace Corps as a teacher and trainer in the Kingdom of Tonga, and she has made the Pacific her home since. She went on to be an acculturation counselor for Pacific Island students at Kahuku Elementary and High School in Hawaii and a program coordinator and trainer in Saipan before making Guam her home.

During her nearly 20 years of service with the Guam Girl Scouts, Inc., Vickie has served as the Chairman of the USA Girl Scouts Overseas Delegation during the Girl Scouts of the USA National Council Session. She is also a member of the Community Board of Directors for Sugar Plum Tree, a local organization that arranges an annual Christmas present drive.

During her time with Guam Girl Scouts, Vickie was able to develop positive relationships between the local Guam chapter and the national staff, as well as with local businesses, government agencies, organizations and individuals. Vickie led the Guam Girl Scouts with clean annual audits and full compliance with government reporting requirements. She also established a wide base of individual and corporate financial support within the community. Vickie and her team were credited for growing the membership in the Guam Girl Scouts to nearly 1,000 members and increasing awareness of what the Girl Scout program offers to all girls.

Additionally, Vickie helped expand many program activities throughout her time with the Guam Girl Scouts. These programs encouraged girls to seek higher education, develop leadership skills, respect and enjoy cultural differences, live healthy lives, and volunteer their time to others, among many other things. Vickie helped young girls understand the needs of others regardless of age, income or resources. She coordinated relief drives and programs for those facing hardship caused by natural disasters and other life-changing events. She always did her best to improve and honor, not only Guam Girl Scouts, but Girl Scouts of the USA with special celebrations and events.

Vickie worked diligently throughout her time on Guam and demonstrated true and genuine care for the people she served. I congratulate Vickie Fish on her retirement as Executive Director of Guam Girl Scouts, Inc. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her service and thanking Vickie for her many contributions to our island community.

TRIBUTE TO ALUMINUM INDUSTRY IN CONNECTION WITH AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, we celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15. I rise today to pay tribute to the aluminum industry, which has a prominent role in my district, indeed throughout Iowa, and which probably does more than any sector of our economy to advance the cause of recycling.

Before recounting the many ways in which aluminum, perhaps more than any other material, contributes to the success of recycling programs across the country, let me make clear why we in Iowa benefit so much from the aluminum industry and its hard-working employees.

The aluminum industry is an integral part of the economy of Iowa. The industry operates over 20 facilities, handling all aspects of aluminum manufacturing, throughout Iowa. All told, these facilities employ thousands of workers, and thousands more indirectly and through suppliers. Estimates are that the economic output, between the manufacturing and wholesaling operations in the aluminum industry in Iowa, are around $2.0 billion. Over one billion dollars more in economic impact in the state derives from suppliers and other indirect contributions to the aluminum industry.

Thankfully, these are good-paying jobs. Estimates are that wages paid are close to $800 million annually in Iowa as a result of the aluminum industry's footprint in Iowa, taking into account direct and indirect employment. And the state and local governments as a whole benefit, to the tune of well over $100 million in revenue from the aluminum industry.

With that backdrop, I am pleased to salute the impact of the aluminum industry on recycling. The list of ways in which recycling pays huge dividends to our nation is long. First, recycling aluminum saves more than 90 percent of the energy that would be needed to create a comparable amount of the metal from raw materials. Think of it this way: by recycling a single aluminum can, you are saving enough energy to power a large screen television for more than 2 hours. Rather than the expense and energy consumption associated with mining and processing raw materials to make aluminum products, recycling used aluminum can be done at a tiny fraction of the energy utilization.

That is why recycling is a core business of the aluminum industry. In the U.S., the industry collects nearly 12 billion pounds of aluminum each year for recycling, almost all of which goes back into North American supply. In fact, more than 70 percent of U.S. aluminum production today is in recycled metal—an exact reversal of the trend in 1980. What's more nearly 75% of all aluminum ever produced around the world is still in use today.

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the shelf as a new can in as few as 60 days—something that happens over and over again. And last year, the domestic aluminum industry recycled nearly 60 billion cans—that saved the equivalent energy of taking 1 million cars off the road for a year.

Aluminum saves energy in other ways as well. It can be a tremendous factor in enabling buildings to achieve modem energy efficiency standards. The first LEED-certified building in California, for instance, received this recognition in part because of creative uses of aluminum that cools the building naturally.

But energy savings are only part of the story. Companies across the country are incorporating environmental and sustainability objectives into corporate commitments, and aluminum is a major piece of their ability to meet their goals.

Perhaps the best aspect of aluminum's recycling story is its role in job creation. No matter our political persuasion, Mr. Speaker, each of us is committed to the creation of U.S. jobs, and aluminum has a wonderful story to tell here. The collection of aluminum at the curb or in the alley creates thousands of jobs around the country, as does the sorting of aluminum at processing centers. Even more jobs are created at plants that receive recycled aluminum, and turn it into new product. More than 157,000 workers are directly employed in the industry, and for each aluminum industry job, an additional 3.3 employment positions are created elsewhere.

This story will be enhanced by the commitment of car and truck manufacturers to the widespread use of aluminum in vehicle bodies and parts in the interest of increasing fuel economy by lightweighting vehicles. As these vehicles are no longer in use, rather than being thrown on the scrap heap, they too can be recycled, thereby creating even more jobs.

The aluminum industry is a major economic driver in my state and district. In recognition of America Recycles Day, it is appropriate to tip our hat to an industry that has such a positive influence on our nation's economy, and its people.

HONORING IDA SCHWARTZ IN CELEBRATION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Ida Schwartz in celebration of reaching her 100th birthday.

As she reflects on the great memories that have highlighted the past hundred years, I know she will think fondly on all that she's accomplished and the positive impact she's had on New Hampshire.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Schwartz on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LISA RAWLINS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Rawlins, who is retiring as Senior Vice President, Public Affairs for Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. after twenty-five years of exemplary service.

Ms. Rawlins, who holds a degree in cinema from the University of Southern California, began her career in story development for Ransohoff Productions and NBC. While working on film production issues and handling the press in former Governor George Deukmejian's office, Lisa saw the need to help combat the problem of runaway film and television production in California. In 1984, she established the California Film Commission, and in 1985, became the first Director of the California Film Commission, and served in that capacity for six years. During her time at the film commission, she wrote film-based legislation, streamlined the film permit process for state agencies, and developed a municipal filming ordinance for cities throughout California. In addition, Lisa founded the Film Liaisons in California, Statewide (FLICS), a network of dozens of local film offices throughout the state.

Lisa joined Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. in 1990 as Vice President of Production and Studio Affairs, where she focused on local and state government relations and successful advocacy for television and feature film productions, balanced with consideration of production impact on local communities. During her tenure at Warner Bros., she created their environmental sustainability program, leading the industry in green production and building, conservation, and waste reduction. In her capacity as Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, she managed community affairs, corporate responsibility, government affairs, environmental sustainability and philanthropy.

A selfless and generous volunteer in the Burbank community, Lisa has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations including the Burbank Chamber of Commerce, Burbank YMCA, Project Restore, Coalition for Clean Air and the Burbank Unified School District's Partnership Advisory Council. An advocate for the creation of a one-stop film office for Los Angeles City and County, which ultimately became FilmLA, Ms. Rawlins currently serves as a member of FilmLA's Board of Directors.

A visionary in the television and motion picture industry, Lisa Rawlins has been an invaluable asset to the film and television field and has left a legacy that will be enjoyed and utilized by generations to come. I ask all Members to join me in thanking Lisa Rawlins for over three decades of distinguished service to the motion picture and television community and the greater Burbank region.

RECOGNIZING THE DREAM FOUNDATION'S ''DREAMS FOR VETERANS'' PROGRAM AND MR. GEORGE ''RAY'' WEST

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Dream Foundation's new ''Dreams for Veterans'' program. As we pause to commemorate Veterans Day, I would like to acknowledge their unique and invaluable service to terminally-ill military veterans.

Dreams for Veterans is dedicated to serving terminally-ill veterans during their time of greatest need. They are the first national program specifically serving and honoring these individuals by fulfilling their final dream. Over the past year, Dreams for Veterans granted more than 100 dreams to veterans and are on track to double that number this year.

This spring, the Dream Foundation, which is based in my Congressional district, helped my constituent George ''Ray'' West realize his final dream of traveling with his family to Yosemite National Park. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. West at the ''Dreams for Veterans'' inaugural ceremony in Washington, DC earlier this year.

Mr. West is a U.S. Navy Veteran who served between 1944 and 1946. He was stationed first in Sampson, NY and later in Utah and Nevada. He eventually settled with his family in my hometown of Santa Barbara, CA.

Mr. West and his wife Jean first visited Yosemite on their honeymoon in 1950. The couple loved Yosemite so much that they have celebrated each anniversary by returning to the park. Ray had been diagnosed with heart disease and leukemia when he contacted the Dream Foundation to help his family travel to Yosemite at least one final time.

Each day, more than 1,800 of our nation's heroes die, accounting for nearly one-quarter of all American deaths. In addition to giving dream recipients and their families the opportunity to make the most of the time they have left, a final dream also improves their end of life care by addressing the emotional and psychological needs of terminally ill patients and those of their loved ones and caretakers.

The Dreams for Veterans program allows recipients the opportunity to reconnect with their former military service and provides a unique chance to reconcile memories and achieve a sense of closure. This one-of-a-kind program engages the military community by providing opportunities to refer applicants, contribute resources, or volunteer as Veteran Dream Hosts—volunteers who participate in Veteran-to-Veteran Dream deliveries.

The Dream Foundation is a leader in our community and has touched and inspired so many during its 21-year history of delivering final dreams to terminally ill adults. They fulfill more than 2,500 final dreams every year, working with hundreds of volunteers and more than 600 hospices and health care organizations nationwide.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AS THEY MARK 31 YEARS OF THE RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Cancer Society as they mark 31 years of the Relay For Life and bringing hope to communities across the country in the face of cancer. The American Cancer Society does lifesaving work and I join the organization in celebrating the progress it has made in the fight against cancer.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life was first started in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt ran and walked for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington to make a statement about cancer awareness. Dr. Gordy Klatt's efforts helped the American Cancer Society fight the nation's biggest health concern, and now, the Relay movement includes 3.5 million people around the world. The Relay For Life is now in more than 5,200 communities and 20 countries around the world. The Relay For Life brings together cancer survivors, caregivers, and all those touched by cancer. It gives everyone a chance to remember those who have lost their battle with cancer and empowers those who must continue the fight.

The Relay For Life began in Guam in the early 1990s and has steadily grown with most teams returning every year. 79 teams made up of families and businesses, and 280 cancer survivors and caregivers participated in the 2015 Guam Relay For Life. Together, the teams raised $470,000 and Guam Relay For Life was recognized for raising the second highest amount in the High Plains, South Territory which includes Guam, Hawaii, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Though Guam is a small community, it continues to be recognized on the national level based on its achievements and commitment to the fight against cancer.

Cancer does not discriminate. It touches all of our people, young and old, and the people of Guam stand behind the American Cancer Society, and has taken an active commitment to join the cause of fighting cancer. The Relay For Life is celebrated annually throughout the world and survivors and caregivers proudly wear the color purple to symbolize royalty as they are honored during the Relay For Life. This year, the Guam community is beginning its 2016 Relay For Life festivities with ''Paint Guam Purple'' week from November 8 to November 13, 2015. The goal of the ''Paint Guam Purple'' campaign is to make a visual statement of how the Relay For Life brings hope to a community and help increase participation, fundraising and volunteerism. Groups and individuals are encouraged to wear purple, decorate the town purple, and participate in activities to engage others to become involved.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I join the American Cancer Society in honoring cancer survivors, caregivers, those who have lost the battle to cancer and all those touched by the disease by pledging to ''Paint Guam Purple'' through the week of November 8 to November

13, 2015. I congratulate the American Cancer Society Relay For Life and I look forward to their future contributions and success.

HONORING JEWISH WAR VETERANS, MAURICE KUBBY POST 749

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the Jewish War Veterans, Maurice Kubby Post 749, as a distinguished Veteran Service Organization in El Paso, Texas. The Post has been active in our community since April 1965 and was named in honor of fellow El Pasoan, Maurice Kubby. Kubby was an Army veteran and founding member of Post 749, and served several times as the organization's Commander.

As one of six posts in Texas, Post 749 serves El Paso and Las Cruces area veterans of the Jewish faith. One of the most important efforts undertaken by the Jewish War Veterans is their dedication to combatting anti-Semitism and bigotry. The organization works diligently to eradicate these negative sentiments and foster a stronger American-Israeli relationship through sponsored trips to Israel each year.

The organization is well recognized in our community for supporting veteran, civilian and Jewish religious activities. Jewish War Veterans Post 749 works to provide assistance to all veterans and their families in our area. The Post volunteers with local organizations such as the Fisher House to help veterans and their families and participates annually in Fort Bliss's Veterans Week, which aims to raise awareness for Veteran Service Organizations throughout the country. Post 749 also offers scholarships to students and is actively involved in youth outreach through the Boy Scouts.

Jewish War Veterans, Maurice Kubby Post 749 is an asset to our community and I thank them for their commitment to honoring our veterans and promoting tolerance as one of their core values within our El Paso community.

HONORING TYLER DODD

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tyler Dodd of Rolla, Missouri on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. This award is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America, with only a small percentage of its members reaching this achievement.

Tyler has demonstrated a true enthusiasm towards service and spent countless hours helping others as he advanced through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Tyler has held several leadership positions, such as Patrol Leader, during which he used his skills and knowledge to help younger scouts with their own progression through the Boy Scouts. His achievements extend outside of the Boy Scouts as well; Tyler is a member of the National Honor Society—Rolla Chapter and a section leader in the Rolla High School Marching Band.

Tyler possesses the important values such as honestly, loyalty, and civility that inspire others. His commitment to good citizenship, physical fitness, and education is an asset to our community, as well as the nation. Tyler is a role model for young and old alike, and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE GRAYSLAKE CENTRAL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grayslake Central's boys cross country team on their first place finish at the 2A state championship. This victory marks the first time in the school's history that the boys cross country team has won state.

Consistently strong all year, the Rams won conference, regional, and sectional championships. This hard work culminated at the state championship, where, led by Coach Jimmy Cantella, six out of seven runners achieved their personal best time. Junior Jack Aho won the race with a time of 14:25, followed by junior Matt Aho in seventh place. Other all-state athletes include senior John Girmscheid who came in twenty third and sophomore Eli Minsky who rounded out the top twenty five. The final three competitors who helped Grayslake cinch the tide were seniors Jack Battaglia who came in twenty sixth, Danny Vincent at fifty first, and Alden Aaberg at one hundred and eighth.

Mr. Speaker, the Grayslake Central boys cross country team is an inspiration to the school and community, and I am proud to recognize these young men for demonstrating the power of teamwork and perseverance.

HONORING DANNY TRULL, SR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Danny Trull, Sr., on his retirement as the United Auto Workers Union's (UAW) Assistant Director for his service to the men and women of the United Automobile Workers, and for his years of service on the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee. Mr. Trull's well-deserved retirement comes after a forty-two year tenure in organized labor. During this time, Mr. Trull has been dedicated to advocating for worker's rights, promoting the values of the Democratic Party, and supporting the local, state and national labor movement.

During his years of work with the labor movement, Mr. Trull has made a direct impact on his community through his numerous roles at UAW and with the Democratic Party of Texas. Mr. Trull began his career at UAW on July 9, 1973, when he started working for Tyler Refrigeration and became a member of Local 514. Upon the closing of Local 514, he became a member of Local 276 and went on the International Staff in 1987, working in the Time Study Department. In 1996, he transferred to Region 5 as a Service Representative based in the Dallas office and continued to serve Region 5 out of the Dallas office when he was transferred to the National CAP Department in 2007. He was appointed to his current position of Assistant Regional Director in 2012, from which he is retiring at the end of this year.

Aside from his work with UAW, Trull has continued to be a community leader as a delegate to state and national Democratic Conventions, and as a State Democratic Executive Committee member in 2002. Mr. Trull is a well-known champion for Texas jobs and workers, coordinating UAW political activity in the state and region and fighting for higher wages and benefits for hardworking Americans. The automobile industry is a powerful economic engine in the 33rd Congressional District and will continue to be for years because of Mr. Trull's lifelong commitment to his community and the people who live and work there. I wish him all the best.

In honor of Mr. Trull's retirement and his dedication and leadership within the public service community, this statement will be submitted on Monday, November 16, 2015.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PFC. MARK JOSEPH ALLSTOTT

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pfc. Mark Joseph Allstott, of French Lick, Indiana.

I ask you all to join me in honoring the life of a fellow Hoosier veteran.

Allstott enlisted in the United States Army two short months after high school graduation. As a United States Infantryman, Allstott personified bravery and dignity while serving with his fellow Wolfhounds in the 27th Infantry Regiment.

Before deploying to South Vietnam, Allstott told his sister of foreboding premonitions that indicated he would not return home from the war. Rather than respond with fear, Allstott gave away all of his earthly possessions and went to serve his country.

Fellow Wolfhounds developed a great level of respect for Allstott's fearlessness. In correspondences to his family, soldiers spoke of Allstott's bravery in the face of peril, his easy-going manner, and his warmness to fellow comrades.

Allstott's true character is best summarized by one Wolfhound brethren who wrote, ". . . his mind was always on another buddy and the job to be done for the honor of his country instead of his own being. Not only did your son not turn his back on any of us in any firefight. All of us knew we could depend on him"

Allstott was a true American hero and it is a privilege to stand here today in celebration of his noble life, which ended on the battlefield in South Vietnam in February of 1968.

On that day in February, as the Wolfhounds maneuvered to capture an enemy position, it

is said Allstott's final actions saved a member of his unit from capture. As a United States soldier, there is no greater honor than laying down one's life to save a brother-in-arms.

While more than forty years have passed since Allstott gave his last measure of devotion, the cause he fought for lives on in the ripples throughout history his heroic efforts will have caused.

It is a privilege to honor Pfc. Mark Allstott's bold and courageous life. Such distinguished service to the United States of America continues to serve as an inspiration to us all.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from Governor Greg Abbott:

NOVEMBER 16, 2015.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: As governor of Texas, I write to inform you that the State of Texas will not accept any refugees from Syria in the wake of the deadly terrorist attack in Paris.

Further, I—and millions of Americans—implore you to halt your plans to accept more Syrian refugees in the United States. A Syrian ''refugee'' appears to have been part of the Paris terror attack. American humanitarian compassion could be exploited to expose Americans to similar deadly danger. The reasons for such concerns are plentiful.

The FBI director testified to Congress that the federal government does not have the background information that is necessary to effectively conduct proper security checks on Syrian nationals. Director Comey explained: ''We can query our database until the cows come home, but there will be nothing show up because we have no record of them.''

The threat posed to Texas by ISIS is very real. ISIS claimed credit last May when two terrorist gunmen launched an attack in Garland, Texas. Less than two weeks later, the FBI arrested an Iraqi-born man in North Texas and charged him with lying to federal agents about traveling to Syria to fight with ISIS. And in 2014, when I served as Texas attorney general, we participated in a Joint Terrorism Task Force that arrested two Austin residents for providing material support to terrorists—including ISIS.

Given the tragic attack in Paris and the threats we have already seen in Texas, coupled with the FBI director's acknowledgment that we do not have the information necessary to effectively vet Syrian nationals, Texas cannot participate in any program that will result in Syrian refugees—any one of whom could be connected to terrorism—being resettled in Texas.

Effective today, I am directing the Texas Health & Human Services Commission's Refugee Resettlement Program to not participate in the resettlement of any Syrian refugees in the State of Texas. And I urge you, as president, to halt your plans to allow Syrians to be resettled anywhere in the United States. Neither you nor any federal official can guarantee that Syrian refugees will not be part of any terroristic activity. As such, opening our door to them irresponsibly exposes our fellow Americans to unacceptable peril.

Respectfully,

GREG ABBOTT,
Governor.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Christian Life Center on its 25th anniversary.

With the prayers and planning of a small, but committed, group of Christians, the Christian Life Center was born in 1990. In the years since, the Center has continued to grow in faith and mission at its beautiful complex in Bensalem Township, Bucks County.

Through its tireless work, the Christian Life Center has taken the Gospel into homes and hearts throughout its community while growing a welcoming place of worship for Christian families and individuals dedicated to their faith, each other.

My best wishes for ongoing devotion and continued growth in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS DAY

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, as we come together today to recognize the service of all who have served in our nation's armed forces, let us take a moment to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms and could not be here today to join in the celebration. Let us also remember those young men and women who at this very moment are in far off lands, standing between the forces of oppression and freedom loving people everywhere.

We must also not forget the sacrifices made by the families of our service members, who go long periods of time without seeing their loved ones, and often have to perform the duties of two parents, while the other willfully places themselves in harm's way for our grateful nation.

As you know, our beautiful island, while small geographically in comparison to other states and territories, has the highest rate of enlistment into our nation's armed forces, a fact that I persistently remind Congress of. In fact, it is 10 times that of the states. This means that in American Samoa, today is just a little more special, and I want to personally salute all from our island who have served.

May God continue to bless the United States and those who stand to protect her.

RECOGNIZING THE TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION OF EL PASO, TEXAS

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand today in recognition of the Texas Veterans Commission offices located in El Paso, Texas. Created in 1927, the Texas Veterans Commission has a longstanding tradition of honoring Texas Veterans.

Working as a state appointed advocate, the Texas Veterans Commission represents Texas and its veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The commission operates in four areas: claims representation and counseling services for veteran's benefits; educational benefits; employment assistance; and grant services for veteran service organizations, charities, and government agencies. The El Paso offices have extended these important services to veterans in my district and have been helpful in getting these individuals the benefits they deserve.

The local offices are well known for their work in the community. Specifically, the Commission has dedicated itself to combatting veteran unemployment with fairs such as ''Hiring Red, White and You!'' Since the first job fair in 2012, the Commission has been able to connect over 1,500 job seeking veterans with potential employers and information on opportunities in the El Paso community.

The El Paso Texas Veterans Commission offices have improved the quality of life for our community's veterans and their families. I am grateful for the work of Bruce S. Biegel, Karen L. Rooks, Frances Holden and the entire staff for their unyielding advocacy and assistance to our veterans.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND ALBERT E. CHEW, JR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Reverend Albert E. Chew, Jr. for his service to Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church after 56 years of service to the church and his community. His passing on November 6, 2015 leaves a void in the Fort Worth community, and I join in giving our condolences to the Chew family.

Born in Bremond, Texas, Reverend Chew was the son of a Baptist preacher. He attended high school in both Bremond and Waco, Texas before pursuing a college education at Bishop College and Prairie View A&M and completing seminary studies at Brite College of the Bible in Fort Worth, Texas.

Reverend Chew served as a pastor at numerous Texas churches since 1946, but for the last fifty-six years, he served the community at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. During his time at Shiloh, he not only impacted the Northside neighborhood, but also the greater Fort Worth community through his community involvement.

Chew was a charter member of the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission, an organization that combated discriminatory practices

in the city. Alongside former City Councilman Bert Williams, Chew played a significant role in integrating Colonial Country Club, becoming one of its first black members.

Reverend Chew served as Moderator Emeritus and the Treasurer of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas, a position that he held for the past thirty-five years. He was also the first Vice-President of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. Until his passing, he served as the head of the Black Ecumenical Leadership Alliance, an organization he helped found that brings Christian ministers together in an effort to impact and change the lives of people throughout Fort Worth, Texas and the world.

Reverend Chew not only gave back to his church community, but also served his country during World War II. As a troop coordinate in the United States Army, Reverend Chew demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his country. He was also committed to bettering the conditions of the African American community and played an active role in his local NAACP chapter.

In honor of Reverend Albert E. Chew, Jr., for his lifelong commitment to both his local and church communities; this statement will be submitted on Monday, November 16, 2015.

RECOGNIZING DR. CAROL GOMEZ SUMMERHAYS' ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays, an accomplished dentist who recently was elected as the first Filipina President of the American Dental Association, a first the 156-year history of the ADA. Her election is a tremendous accomplishment for women and the Filipino-American community.

It is my honor to commend Dr. Summerhays on a lifetime of service and commitment to the field of dentistry and community service. Involved in a number of professional and civic organizations, she is a great choice to head this prestigious organization.

A graduate of the University of Southern California on a full scholarship through the Armed Forces Health Professions Act, she's owned a respected private practice for 32 years. Dr. Summerhays is a past president of the California Dental Association and a current member of the American College of Dentists, Academy of General Dentistry, the American Association of Women Dentists, the Hispanic Dental Association, and the Pankey Institute.

In addition to her numerous professional accomplishments, Dr. Summerhays served on Active Duty as a lieutenant in the United States Navy Dental Corps for four years.

Dr. Summerhays' time in the military was part of her life-long commitment to community service. As a board member of Rotary International Thousand Smiles, she helped establish a dental clinic in Ensenada, Mexico. She's also provided charitable dental services to St. Vincent De Paul's Homeless Shelter, Regional Access Medical LA, and USC's East LA Dental Clinic.

Her community involvement extends to the San Diego County Dental Society, the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Board, and the American Cancer Society-La Jolla League.

I commend Dr. Summerhays for her 37 years of distinguished leadership. I am proud to be a part of the Asian American community where our professionals go beyond what is required in order to make a positive impact on others.

I rise today to offer her my most heartfelt congratulations for her exceptional achievements in the field of dentistry and her continued commitment to community service.

RECOGNIZING THE SIKH MASSACRE OF 1984

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to honor those who were killed during the November 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms and massacre in Delhi, India. I also want to bring attention to the current desecration of the Sikh's Holy Scriptures. Sikhs are a minority group that should be officially recognized and I ask that this Congress support the plight of the Sikh people to gain recognition in India and halt the persecution against the Indian Sikh community.

TRIBUTE TO SWEET ALICE HARRIS

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate 50 years and community improvement in Watts and South Los Angeles, California, under the inspiration and leadership of Sweet Alice Harris.

Sweet Alice, as she is universally known, began speaking up against the health disparities and lack of access to services that she saw in her neighborhood five decades ago. She founded the organization Parents of Watts to give voice to those who were no longer willing to accept the circumstances in which they found themselves and their children after decades of civic neglect. Parents of Watts provided a platform for community organizing and self-empowerment.

Watts and greater South Los Angeles might be a very different place without Sweet Alice Harris. Fifty years ago she began clearly and effectively insisting that her children, her neighbors and her community should have the same access to education, health care, safety and employment that others have. Through her unrelenting, focused advocacy, her effective story-telling, and her development of relationships with both the neediest and the most powerful in Los Angeles, she has improved the quality of life for people well beyond her immediate reach.

I offer my personal thanks and congratulations to Sweet Alice on 50 years of service. I remember the founding of Parents of Watts, an organization that has grown to provide an array of services to a diverse segment of the community, including emergency food and shelter for the homeless, college preparation for teenagers, drug counseling, health seminars and parenting classes. I am pleased that this work has been recognized over the years, including by Essence Magazine, the California Lieutenant Governor's Woman of the Year Award, the Minerva Award from the California Governor & First Lady's Conference on Women, President George H. W. Bush's #702 Points of Light Award, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Southern California.

With a list of accomplishments too lengthy to list here, her greatest success is that her work will continue to benefit Watts and South Los Angeles for the foreseeable future. It is an honor to recognize her work.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, LUCIO G. MORENO, CHAPTER 574

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chapter 574 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) for their service to our country and support of Vietnam War Veterans, including those in El Paso. The Lucio G. Moreno Chapter has worked to assure that these veterans and their families are not forgotten in my district.

Named in honor of lifelong El Pasoan and United States Marine Corps Veteran Lucio G. Moreno, Chapter 574 expanded under Mr. Moreno's fifteen years of leadership as President. The chapter is now the second largest in Texas and has advocated for improved healthcare access for our service members and veterans.

Chapter 574 is an active force in our local community and the State of Texas. The Lucio G. Moreno Chapter held the Texas State Council convention for 37 VVA state chapters earlier this year, providing a space for Veterans to gather and discuss current issues facing veterans today such as reform efforts within the VA and access to benefits. The organization regularly performs color guard duty at my Town Hall meetings and volunteers their time to support local high school ROTC programs throughout El Paso.

The chapter has also worked to create a more welcoming environment for service members returning home. These Vietnam Veterans felt that their own homecoming and readjustment was difficult; they strive to ensure that "never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

I am honored to recognize the Lucio G. Moreno Chapter 574 of Vietnam Veterans of America and their work to diligently serve our community and our veterans.

HONORING CPL. ARNOLD ABEL

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cpl. Arnold Gordon Abel, of French Lick, Indiana.

I ask you all to join me in honoring the life of a fellow Hoosier veteran.

Cpl. Abel entered the military at the age of 19 and served in South Vietnam. As a United States Infantryman, Abel personified bravery and dignity while serving with his fellow Chargers in the 196th Infantry Brigade.

At home in Indiana, family and friends share fond memories of Abel and the character he embodied.

Abel was renowned for his steadfast work ethic. In the months leading up to his initial deployment in October of 1967, Abel spent much of his leave time working for his former employer at the Hayden Jones construction company. His former employer praised the young man for exhibiting a maturity and dedication well beyond his years.

Abel was cherished by his parents, Grace and Carl, and by his sisters, Brenda and Kathleen. He was a true American patriot and it is a privilege to stand here today in celebration of his life, which ended on the battlefield in South Vietnam on January 10th, 1968.

Each year on Veterans' Day, Americans around the world join together to pay tribute to all who served and to the soldiers who gave their last full measure of devotion fighting for the freedoms for which their nation still stands today.

While over four decades have passed since Cpl. Abel laid down his life in service to the United States of America, his noble sacrifice lives on in the memories of family, friends, and the many people whose lives are better for having crossed his path.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $18,649,024,795,838.78. We've added $8,022,147,746,925.70 to our debt in 6 years. This is over $8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS IN AMERICA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding landmark to community health and welfare. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the nation's Community Health Center program. Community Health Centers (CRC) are the family doctor to over 23 million Americans and, as such, are the largest network of primary care providers in the country. The CHC model is distinguished by its comprehensive range of health services, recognizing the particular needs and characteristics of the communities they serve. Community Health Centers are located in medically underserved areas, providing needed care for communities and populations that do not have adequate access to care. Community involvement in CHCs is guaranteed by the requirement that Federal Qualified Health Centers must have governing boards of directors that have patients of the center holding at least 51% of the board seats.

In Massachusetts we are particularly proud because the nation's first community health center opened in December 1965 on Columbia Point in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Drs. Jack Geiger and Count Gibson of Tufts Medical School founded the Columbia Point Health Center in order to meet the needs of the residents of an isolated public housing project, cut off from the City's health resources. Drs. Geiger and Gibson opened a rural center shortly thereafter in the Delta region of Mississippi. From that start, the community health center program expanded throughout the country. In 1966, the esteemed late Senator Edward M. Kennedy visited the Columbia Point Health Center and immediately understood its mission and its value. He became the greatest champion health centers have ever known. Over the next 50 years, with his leadership and support, the Community Health Center program expanded tremendously.

Mr. Speaker, there are now over 1,270 community health centers providing services at 9,000 sites across the country. CHCs have become the primary source of medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, social services and other community health services for neighborhoods and rural communities that would otherwise be inadequately served. CHCs have also provided employment and career opportunities for thousands of local residents.

Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago it all began here, in Massachusetts. I am proud to rise today to recognize and honor what has become a national model for providing services to our country's underserved areas and urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the efforts of our Community Health Centers.

HONORING WILLIAM S. MORIARTY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William S. Moriarty from Carter County, Missouri for his exemplary service to not only his community, but also his country.

Bill began serving his country in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. His heroic actions were acknowledged when he received the Silver Star, one of the highest military awards. After a long and successful career in the military that spanned over 22 years, he retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. However, his impact on the military did not end there as Bill has since spent countless hours helping other veterans in our area register for benefits.

Bill has proven to be an invaluable asset to the community through his numerous volunteer efforts. He makes a direct impact on the lives of others by lecturing on the dangers of drugs at local schools, donating his time at his local senior center, and working with the Meals on Wheels Program. Bill also volunteers through broader forums by serving on a branch of the University of Missouri Extension Council and as part of the Disaster Response Commission for Missouri.

Bill is an exceptional model of a true American who serves others and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and accomplishments before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT J. BEALL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Dr. Robert Beall, who recently stepped down as president and chief executive officer of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In his 35 years with the Foundation, Dr. Beall's efforts to advance cystic fibrosis research and treatment have had an extraordinary impact. When Dr. Beall began work with the Foundation in 1980, the median predicted life expectancy of a patient with cystic fibrosis was 18 years. Today, it is more than 40 years.

In 1976, Dr. Beall was first introduced to the disease when he attended the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's meeting outside of San Diego. There, he was shocked to see how little scientific understanding there was about the disease. In the words of Dr. Beall, "the foundation was so small at that point that the parents were bringing all the food and operating the projector—and I met the parents . . . Kids were dying then at a very young age. After I met the parents, I went back to the National Institutes of Health and said: 'I want to do this.'" Dr. Beall went on to manage the National Institutes of Health's cystic fibrosis program. There, he earned a National Institutes of Health Merit Award for his significant contributions to the field.

In 1980, Dr. Beall joined the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation where he served first as their executive vice president for medical affairs and, beginning in 1994, as their president and CEO. During Dr. Beall's time with the Foundation, medical awards for cystic fibrosis research grew from $4 million to over $85 million and supported groundbreaking research including the discovery in 1989 of the genetic defect responsible for the disease. Further, under Dr. Beall's oversight, the Foundation established 114 care centers and cutting-edge research facilities. We also have Dr. Beall to thank for developing and advancing the innovative concept of venture philanthropy. With this practice, Dr. Beall created the Therapeutics Development Program to connect researchers with biotech companies. Thanks to Dr. Beall's work, many children diagnosed with cystic fibrosis have lived into adulthood and it is no longer a pediatric disease. Today, more than 50 percent of patients are over 18 years of age.

As co-chair of the Cystic Fibrosis Caucus, I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Beall and seeing firsthand his passion and commitment to finding a cure for cystic fibrosis. His steadfast leadership and innovative

thinking has improved the lives of thousands of people with cystic fibrosis and their families.

Today, I ask all Americans to join me in thanking Dr. Beall for his tireless dedication to helping people with cystic fibrosis and in wishing him the best in his new endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPC. CHARLES BEALS

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Spc. Charles Beals, of French Lick, Indiana.

I ask you all to join me in honoring the life of a fellow Hoosier veteran.

Spc. Beals enlisted in the United States Army five months after high school graduation. By January of 1970, he had been assigned to Advanced Infantry Training and deployed to Vietnam the following spring. As a member of the renowned 506th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, Beals personified bravery and dignity while serving with his fellow Screaming Eagles.

A friend to all, Charles is said to have brought laughter with him wherever he went. He was a cherished son and a loving brother to his nine siblings.

Charles Beals gave his last full measure of devotion fighting on the hilltops of Vietnam. He sacrificed for his platoon, his brothers and sisters, and for every American who knows freedom today.

Like too many young American men who deployed, Spc. Beals's remains have yet to be recovered. I join his family, friends, and brothers-in-arms in praying for closure. I pray for his eventual return to rest alongside his family and loved ones in Indiana.

Each year on Veterans' Day, Americans around the world join together to pay tribute to all who served and to the soldiers who gave their lives fighting for the liberties for which their nation still stands today.

It is a privilege to honor Spc. Charles Beals's courageous life and recognize his distinguished service to his country.

HONORING THE 2015 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization hosted a celebratory event on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at Gamba Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana. Since 1992, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals who have made a significant positive impact on their community in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council honored Mamon and Cynthia Powers.

Mamon and Cynthia Powers were born and raised in Gary, Indiana. Mamon graduated from Froebel High School as an honors student, and Cynthia was valedictorian of her class at Gary's Tolleston High School. Following High School, Mamon graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Cynthia earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and college administration at Indiana State University. Soon after graduating from college, Mamon and Cynthia began working with Mamon's father at Powers & Sons Construction Company, while both maintained other full-time jobs. In 1970, they formed Powers Realty, Incorporated. Eventually, they purchased a Century 21 franchise which Cynthia began managing and proved to be immensely successful in every aspect of the business. Already making their mark in the business world, the couple wed in 1972. Over the years, Mamon has served as secretary and treasurer of Powers & Sons Construction Company. In 1987, he was named president and was later named the company's chairman and chief executive officer. Under his leadership, Powers & Sons changed its focus from residential to commercial and industrial construction and has become one of the largest African American owned construction companies in the world.

Aside from their work, Mamon and Cynthia give an extraordinary amount of their time and efforts to charitable endeavors. With over forty-five years of service to the community and to their alma maters, Purdue and Indiana State University, they are to be commended. Mamon serves as the chairman of the Methodist Hospitals Board of Directors. He is a member of the Fifth Third Bank—Chicago Regional Board of Directors, and he is also a member of the World Presidents' Organization and Chief Executives' Organization. In addition, Mamon is a former member and vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of Purdue University.

Cynthia is a member of Indiana State University's Alumni Association Board, a member of the Indiana University Northwest Board of Advisors, treasurer of The Friends of Emerson School for the Visual and Performing Arts, a member of the Northern Indiana Chapter of the Links, Inc., and a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, to name a few. Cynthia is also the former chairperson and member of the YWCA of Northwest Indiana. In addition, and most significant to both Cynthia and Mamon, is their service to the NAACP of Gary and the First AME Church, where Mamon serves as trustee and Cynthia is a long-time choir member and past youth choir director. Mamon and Cynthia have been honored and awarded many times for their outstanding work throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond. They serve as an inspiration to us all and have helped lead Northwest Indiana toward a new and bright future. To be their friend is a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council and its 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, Mamon and Cynthia Powers. For their lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to their community and to those in need, Mamon and Cynthia are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING ELEANOR MAGERA ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eleanor L. Magera on her 100th birthday. Eleanor has lived in Lake Villa Township for many years, spending the last 12 years at Cedar Village in Lake Villa. Maintaining a youthful persona, Eleanor is known for her positive and independent attitude, positively influencing everyone who has the pleasure of making her acquaintance.

Eleanor was born in Beachwood, Michigan on November 15, 1915. One of 11 children, Eleanor would go on to have her own big family with her husband of 60 years, Richard ''Dick'' Magera, who passed away in May of 2000. Together they had two children, Martin and Dorothy, six grandchildren, many great grandchildren, and a great great grandchild. Eleanor remains active not only by walking the floors of Cedar Village on a daily basis, but by leading a group exercise class three days a week. She also keeps her mind sharp through her love of board games, even earning the title of the ''Queen of Scrabble.''

Mr. Speaker, Eleanor L. Magera is a neighbor and friend to all those who reside in Lake Villa Township, and I am proud to recognize her for the continued service and inspiration she brings to the community.

CALLING UPON THE CFPB TO PROTECT OUR NATION'S VETERANS BY ISSUING A STRONG PAYDAY LENDING RULE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's veterans by asking the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to issue a strong rule protecting our former servicewomen and men from predatory payday lending schemes. The CFPB should ensure that the federal rule leaves no room for the payday lending industry to circumvent laws in states like New York that have set strong, enforceable prohibitions on payday lending.

Payday lenders have long targeted members of the military with promises of quick cash but realities of triple digit interest rates and even more debt. While the Obama Administration recently addressed many of these issues by closing loopholes in the 2006 Military Lending Act, our veterans are left vulnerable—and vulnerable they are indeed. The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that nearly 50,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates another 1.4 million veterans are at risk of homelessness due to poverty and a lack of community support networks. We must do better by those who risked their lives in service to this country.

It is because of financial challenges like those faced by our veterans—the struggle to find affordable housing, health care and a living wage—that payday lending has thrived

where it is permitted. But where it has not been permitted, such as in New York, people have found ways other than abusive, unfair, and predatory payday loans to address their financial needs. The rules issued by the CFPB must uphold the strong protections states like New York have in place. At a minimum, the CFPB should:

Require a meaningful ''ability to repay'' standard, without exceptions or safe harbors;

Provide that a violation of state usury law is an unfair, deceptive and abusive act and practice (UDAAP);

Provide that payday loans are subject to the law of the state where the borrower resides;

Prohibit abusive bank account access by payday lenders; and

Include enforceable protections against abuses by lead generators and other third-party marketing affiliates that sell people's sensitive personal and financial information to payday lenders.

On the battlefield, our military pledges to leave no servicemember behind. Our promise to them must be no less when they return home. They promised to protect and defend this nation, and we owe the same to them. I urge my colleagues to join me in asking the CFPB to issue a strong rule that is fair and that honors those who served this country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from the House on February 26, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on H. Res. 125, the rule for H.R. 5, Roll Call 93.

CONGRATULATING CATHY WHITEHEAD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and recognizing the extraordinary work of Chester County teacher Cathy Whitehead. Cathy's leadership skills among her colleges and her ability to tailor her instruction to each student's needs have led her to be named the 2015–16 Tennessee Teacher of the Year.

Cathy Whitehead has dedicated the past six years to teaching Middle Tennessee youth at West Chester Elementary School. Over those years she has earned a shining reputation for delivering high-quality personalized instruction, including creating project-based opportunities for advanced students.

Cathy's devotion to education spans beyond her classroom. She has served in several leadership positions in her district and regularly leads professional development classes for her peers.

When receiving the state's top teaching honor during the annual Teacher of the Year banquet, Cathy said, ''Every student can learn, and every student can grow, the potential is there. It's up to us to help them see it.'' I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Cathy Whitehead's dedication, passion, and commitment to helping tomorrow's leaders learn their potential today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PFC. RICHARD WOLFINGTON, JR.

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pfc. Richard Wolfington, Jr. of Indianapolis, Indiana.

I ask you all to join me in honoring the life of a fellow Hoosier veteran.

Wolfington was a fellow United States Marine. He enlisted at the age of 20 and deployed to South Vietnam in 1967. He served with great distinction and valor alongside fellow members of the renowned Fighting Third.

During his tour, Wolfington suffered combat injuries while defending a Vietnamese village. After weeks of hospitalization, Wolfington returned to the exact battlefield where he was wounded to rejoin his brothers-in-arms.

Wolfington was a true American hero. It is a privilege to stand here today in celebration of his life, which tragically ended upon his return to battle.

Each year on Veterans' Day, Americans around the world join together to pay tribute to all who served and to the soldiers who gave their lives fighting for the liberties for which their nation still stands today.

Like so many young American men of his generation, Wolfington endured the realities of war with noble dignity and gave his last full measure of devotion in service to his country. Oorah Marine.

It is a privilege to honor his courageous life and recognize Pfc. Richard Wolfington, Jr. for distinguished service in the United States Marine Corps.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF PENNSYLVANIA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Federation of the Blind who celebrate 75 years of service for the vision impaired. Established in November 1940 by Jacobus tenBroek, The National Federation of the Blind has prided itself for the better part of a century as being the voice of the blind Americans.

The Federation's initial convention took place in Wilkes-Barre, PA, uniting organizations of the blind from across seven states under one constitution. Once established, the NFB advocated for financial security, equal employment opportunity and equal access to housing, transportation and places of public accommodation.

Today, the National Federation of the Blind is America's largest organization of the blind with affiliates in all 50 states and over 50,000 members. Within the Federation are dozens of subsidiaries, such as the National Association of Blind Students, the National Association of Blind Lawyers, The National Association of Blind Merchants, the National Association of the Blind in Communities of Faith, and the National Association of Guide Dog Users. This vast network helps to educate the general public as well as legislators and policy makers at the local, state, and national levels. In addition, the NFB facilitates mentoring relationships, provides Braille certification courses, and has a division dedicated to educating the public about the use of guide dogs.

It is an honor to recognize the National Federation of the Blind for celebrating their 75th Anniversary. I congratulate them on the great strides they have made to advance the welfare of men and women with vision impairments. May they continue their honorable work promoting and defending the interests of the blind in America.

CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUDIATION ACT IN FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Frederick and Carrollton Manor Chapters of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution on their collaboration in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Repudiation Act in Frederick County, Maryland. This event was a defining moment in our nation's history and established a critically-important precedent in our judicial system.

On November 23, 1765, the twelve justices of the Frederick County Court took the bold and unprecedented step to repudiate ''taxation without representation.'' The British had passed the Stamp Act on March 22, 1765, which was to take effect on November 1st of that year. The new tax was imposed on all American colonists and required them to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper. This was the first internal tax levied directly on American colonists by the British government. Obviously unpopular, the Stamp Act raised the constitutional question of taxation without representation and the extent of the legislative powers of Parliament over the colonies.

The most significant reaction to the Act was expressed in Frederick County. The Frederick Court unanimously ordered that ''all proceedings shall be Valid and Effectual without the use of Stamps'' because, first, a ''Legal Publication'' had not been made ''of any Act of Parliament'' and, second, there was no stamped paper in ''the province and the Inhabitants have no means of Procuring any.'' They further wrote ''that it would be an Instance of the most wanton Oppression to deprive any person of a Legal Remedy for the Recovery of his property for omitting that which it is Impossible to perform.''

This decision came to be known as the Repudiation Act and earned the justices the

honor of being called the "Twelve Immortals." Thanks to this extraordinary ruling, the constitutional principles of representative government and political self-determination, critical to the success of the coming American Revolution, became engrained throughout the colonies. Indeed, it is noteworthy that these early jurists established through their bold ruling the principle of judicial independence, striking down the decree of Parliament and reinforcing the obligation of courts to protect the rights and liberties of people.

The judges' ruling set off great rejoicing in the streets of Frederick. A parade was held through the streets highlighted by a funeral procession. The community was so thankful for this decision that they covered a coffin in anti-Stamp Act slogans and symbolically laid the Stamp Act to rest.

This year, on the 250th anniversary, the celebration will include a reenactment of the parade that carried the coffin containing the now-deceased Stamp Act through the streets of Frederick. The current Clerk of the Frederick County Court, Sandra Dalton, will read the words that were recorded in 1765. A new sign will be dedicated on the grounds of the City Hall, recognizing the courage of the twelve judges who protected the rights and liberties of all people.

Mr. Speaker, Frederick County, Maryland has a proud history of patriotism and standing up against tyranny. I am proud that the community is gathering to celebrate this defining moment in our history.

TROOP 395 EAGLE SCOUTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three outstanding young men who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout with Missouri City Boy Scout Troop 395.

These three Scouts are among less than five percent of all Boy Scouts to earn such a prestigious rank by dedicating countless hours towards organizing and working on service projects with Troop 395. For his Eagle Scout project, Ethan Spendlove, a senior at Ridge Point High School, built a shade canopy for a local community garden. Matheus Meneses, a senior at Elkins High School, built a corral trap for wild hogs at an area nature preserve. Tyler Echard, a sophomore at Ridge Point High School, built bat houses in his neighborhood to help lower the mosquito population. These Eagle Scouts exemplify the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. We are extremely proud of their selfless dedication to our community and for demonstrating such strong leadership.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ethan, Matheus, and Tyler for earning Eagle Scout. They have bright futures as community leaders ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NOHEMI GONZALEZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the life of Nohemi "Mimi" Gonzalez, a 23-year-old senior at California State University, Long Beach, who was killed in the senseless terrorist attacks in Paris on Friday, November 13, 2015. Nohemi, a native of the San Gabriel Valley, was in the Petit Cambodge restaurant with another Long Beach State student when she was fatally shot by the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS. Nohemi was in Paris studying at the Strate College of Design during a semester abroad program.

A proud independent and energetic first-generation Mexican-American, Nohemi was born on October 19, 1992, in Whittier, where she grew up. She graduated early from Whittier High School and became a first-generation college student. Gonzalez was studying Industrial Design, paying her way through school with help from an on-campus job in the school's design shop. Nohemi was full of life. Her classmates called her a firecracker and a rabbit—hopping around the Cal State Long Beach campus's design school eager to help anyone who needed it. She loved life and was eager to learn and partake in our American dream.

Nohemi is survived by her mother, Beatrice and step-father, Jose Hernandez, residents of El Monte. Beatrice wanted her daughter to be remembered as a young Latina who worked hard to get ahead. I wish to express my sincere sympathy to her parents as well as her extended family, friends, and the entire Cal State Long Beach community, who have all been devastated by the loss of one so loved. I ask that all of my colleagues join me to honor the life of Nohemi Gonzalez and remember all those who lost their lives in Paris.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sorrow over the loss of so many innocent lives cut short by the outrageous and heinous acts of terrorism that shocked and rocked the people of Paris last Friday and earned the lasting enmity of peaceful and freedom loving people around the world.

Right now, our prayers are with the victims and their families at this terrible time.

And we stand in unyielding solidarity with the people of France, which like the United States, is one of the most welcoming nations in the world.

Mr. Speaker, for centuries Paris has been known to the world as the City of Light.

The title is richly deserved because Paris has been a world leader in the march of human progress in the arts, culture, science, democratic theory and governance, and embraces the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.

Those who think that they can terrorize the people of France or the values that they cherish underestimate a nation that has faced and prevailed against far more sinister and lethal adversaries.

And they will again, but they will not confront these adversaries alone.

They will be joined by the United States and the other countries of the civilized world.

The French are justly proud of their national motto, "Liberte, egalite, fraternite," (liberty, equality, fraternity) and no act of terrorism by cowardly perpetrators will succeed in leading them to renounce their heritage of freedom and justice.

It is a heritage that we here in the United States share.

And that is why the civilized world must and will rededicate itself to combating and defeating radical jihadism.

And as has been done many times throughout the long and special relationship between the United States and France, we will face and overcome threats to our way of life together.

We will not bow and will never break; we will not falter or fail.

We will respond. We will endure. We will overcome.

The terrorist attacks in Paris on Friday were horrific acts on innocent civilians perpetrated by depraved individuals who misuse the peaceful religion of Islam for their own misguided purposes.

Their horrible and heinous acts are their responsibility, and theirs alone, and for which they can be assured that they alone will be held accountable.

But that will come another day; today I ask a moment of silence for the victims killed and injured in the terrorist attacks last Friday in Paris.

HONORING MICHAEL FITZGERALD AND FINER FOODS FOR THEIR THANKSGIVING GENEROSITY

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Michael Fitzgerald of Finer Foods. Since 1934, Finer Foods and the Fitzgerald family have put food on tables of Chicagoland's restaurants, grocery stores and cafeterias. Finer Foods is truly one of Chicago's iconic family businesses.

For the last five years, Michael and Finer Foods have graciously donated and delivered turkeys and Thanksgiving fixings for families in North Chicago, Waukegan and Zion, Illinois. I have personally witnessed how this generosity has impacted the lives of people suffering temporary economic hardship during the Thanksgiving season.

On behalf of the people of the 10th Congressional and the hundreds of families who enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner, I want to offer our sincere and heartfelt thank you.

JOSHUA OKOLO CAN THINK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joshua Okolo of Katy, Texas for winning the Texas Summer THINK Challenge.

Joshua, a student at Fielder Elementary, dedicated his summer to keeping his mind sharp. Over the course of the summer, he completed over 2,000 math problems—approximately 52 hours of math. What a great way to spend a summer. Thank you to his parents and teachers for encouraging Joshua to love and excel in math. We are all proud of your hard work.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Joshua for winning the Texas Summer THINK Challenge. What a way to strengthen your math skills.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WEEK

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor community foundations all across the country that embody the generosity of spirit that is such an important American value. Community Foundation Week was founded in 1989 and every November 12th–18th it honors the tremendous contributions of these organizations made up of Americans voluntarily working together to improve their communities. Since the first community foundation was founded in my home state of Ohio in 1914 these groups have filled a unique place in American society and provide assistance and inspiration to millions of people.

Today there are more than 750 community foundations in the United States, with 84 in Ohio, and several who serve communities in the 12th District such as the Delaware County Foundation, the Dublin Foundation, the Granville Foundation, the Licking County Foundation, the Morrow County Foundation, the Muskingum County Community Foundation, the Richland County Foundation, and the Columbus Foundation. These foundations work with their communities to make meaningful contributions in many areas like education, the arts, social services, and healthcare, and have provided millions of dollars over the years to these causes.

As just one example of the huge impact these foundations can have, the Licking County Foundation is working to transform a parking lot in downtown Newark into the Canal Market District through a $4 million fund established by the Evans Foundation. The district will feature new walkways and green spaces centered around the Canal Market Plaza, three new structures that will form an open air farmer's market and provide a venue for many different events from the spring through the fall. This project would not be possible without years of working with local leaders, business owners, and the citizens of the community. Since the project was announced last year, Denison University, Licking Memorial Health Systems, the City of Newark, Bon Appétit Management, USDA Rural Development and the Ohio and Licking County Farm Bureaus have all come forward to help with the district. This project will provide economic benefits to Newark, as well as increased access to fresh food.

The Columbus Foundation, the seventh largest community foundation in the nation, provides other great examples of the importance of community foundations. Recently, the Columbus Foundation set up a trust using a generous gift by David and Nanci Gobey that will allow graduates of Columbus City Schools to keep the instrument they have been using in high school. As a member of the marching band in high school and at The Ohio State University, I personally experienced how the arts can have an everlasting impact on one's life. The arts and art education are important for personal and intellectual growth of students and people of all ages. Music programs have been shown to increase academic performance, and programs like the one the Columbus Foundation facilitated help keep music in our schools and our students' lives despite a tough budgetary environment.

These examples merely hint at the outstanding work done by community foundations in central Ohio and all across the nation. I am honored to recognize Community Foundation Week this year, and acknowledge the tireless philanthropic efforts of these organizations to improve communities all across the country.

NLRB REFORM ACT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for too long, the partisan bias of the National Labor Relations Board—has caused instability in how the NLRB will interpret labor policy rules, harming employees and destroying jobs. The President's 'Big Labor Bully' has constantly abused its authority by overregulating and restricting right-to-work states.

Today, I have introduced the NLRB Reform Act to end the bias in the NLRB by adding a sixth member—establishing equal representation for each political party. It will benefit employers and employees and will help create jobs by reining in the unfair general counsel and enforcing timely decision-making.

A non-partisan board would restore fairness to promote new jobs. Last week, I announced my introduction of this legislation at Nephron Pharmaceuticals in Lexington County with CEO Lou Kennedy, Representative Todd Atwater, President of the South Carolina Manufacturer's Alliance Louis Gossett, and former CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Otis Rawl; and at CommuniGraphics in North Augusta, with owners Mark and Tracy Cook, and Representative Bill Hixon.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. Our sympathy for America's First Ally, France, as the latest target in the Global War on Terrorism.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARC OF YATES

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arc of Yates on its 40th anniversary.

Arc of Yates is a non-profit organization located in Penn Yan, New York. Since 1975, it has provided services to individuals with developmental disabilities, empowering them to lead "self-directed" and "meaningful" lives.

Arc of Yates serves more than 400 children, adults, and seniors across the Finger Lakes region. It provides a wide range of services, including day habilitation, residential living, employment training, and various educational opportunities. In addition, Arc of Yates offers several clinical programs, focusing on social work, nursing, and nutrition.

Last month, Arc of Yates reopened its facility in Penn Yan, less than eighteen months after it was badly damaged by devastating floods. This resiliency is a testament to their commitment to serving our local families and communities.

I commend the staff and volunteers of Arc of Yates on everything they have achieved in the past forty years, and I look forward to their continued efforts to empower our neighbors with disabilities to live independent and inclusive lives.

TEXAS REAL ESTATE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rayito Stephens of Pearland, Texas on her appointment to the Texas Real Estate Commission by Governor Greg Abbott.

Mrs. Stephens is a licensed realtor and broker with over twenty-one years of experience. Throughout her career, she has been involved in almost every aspect of the real estate industry from home construction to real estate negotiation. She shows her big, Texas-sized heart by dedicating her time to helping veterans and people with disabilities become homebuyers. Rayito's appointment is a reflection of her impressive career and dedication to others.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Rayito Stephens on her appointment to the Texas Real Estate Commission. Governor Abbott made a great decision in selecting you.

H.R. 1694

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I asked unanimous consent that my name be removed as a co-sponsor of H.R. 1694.

I urged a change in the language to strengthen support for our veteran business

owners by establishing a dedicated funding stream. Unfortunately the bill sponsor declined to make this change.

I urge my colleagues to instead support H.R. 3997 which would much more effectively ensure that our veteran business owners have the opportunity to compete and succeed.

TRIBUTE TO DEB WEILAGE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deb Weilage of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named a Parent Educator of the Year. She was honored recently at the Parents as Teachers Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Deb, along with four other parent educators from around the country, accepted the award before 1,300 conference participants. Each of them there were representing early childhood, child care, health, mental health, social services, and government agencies from across the nation and around the world. The Parent Educator of the Year award is intended to honor those individuals and affiliate programs whose practices exemplify the mission of Parents as Teachers.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Deb in the United States Congress, and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better the state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE VICTIMS OF TERROR PROTECTION FUND—HOUSE RESOLUTION 528

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past 36 hours have been a very trying time for the world family as we grapple with the reality of terrorists wreaking havoc in our world.

One only needs to look at the current news events across the globe to appreciate the imperative of countering violent extremism, empowering and protecting victims of terror, refugees and displaced persons.

In the past three months alone, ISIS has claimed responsibility for crimes, atrocities and terroristic attacks, claiming lives in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Beirut and Paris.

Daesh-ISIL and other terrorist networks that have pledged allegiance to ISIS today pose the gravest extremist threat faced by our generation and those of our children.

But we must not be moved by their evil ways, for eventually, the arc of the moral universe always tips on the side of justice of peace of equity of the rule of law.

This is why I remain steadfast in my commitment to combatting violent extremism and protecting victims.

Today, I introduced legislation expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the creation of a Victims of Terror Protection Fund.

I urge support of this legislation.

As a result of terrorism in the region and Boko Haram in particular in Nigeria, recent reports inform us that Nigeria has the highest number of displaced persons in Africa and the third largest in the world, following Syria and Columbia.

As we know, the recent coordinated attacks in Paris, following military interventions by at least two United Nations Security Council permanent members: Russia and France highlights the fact that we are dealing with an enemy of humanity and compels us to launch an international and coordinated strategy to diminish ISIS to protect our children and our children's children.

Moreover, the recent events underscore the importance of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to degrade and permanently destroy ISIS and its vitriolic ideology that is inflicting pain on innocent people.

As we all know, humanitarian crises triggered by sectarian and ideological violence has plagued our world at a disheartening rate.

According to one United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR's) annual Global Trends report, which is based on data compiled by governments and non-governmental partner organizations, and from the organization's own records, over 60 million people have been forcibly displaced across the globe.

Moreover, according to a report by the International Displacement Monitor Center, an estimated 3,300,000 persons have been displaced and 5,500 killed as a result of the violence wreaked by Boko Haram.

One United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report asserts that as the most populous nation in Africa with 174,000,000 persons, 1,500,000 people have fled their homes to escape Boko Haram.

In April, 2014, 276 girls were terrorized and kidnapped from their dormitories in Chibok by Boko Haram.

In addition to the still missing Chibok girls, approximately 3,300,000 persons are displaced in the Lake Chad Basin which sits on the edge of the Sahara which encompasses Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria.

We must not forget these girls or displaced persons and must work to provide the support they will need to recover from the trauma they have suffered.

The victims will be in dire need of humanitarian assistance which the Victims of Terror Protection Fund can provide.

The Victims of Terror Protection Fund should be modeled after the cases of Khazistan and Equatorial Guinea where prior kleptocracy initiatives have been created to benefit communities and victims in need of support.

A kleptocracy is when a government in power exploits or steals national resources, which unfortunately has happened all too often across the globe.

Here, the United States Department of Justice through its Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative has identified the forfeited "Abacha Funds," funds stolen by former Nigerian dictator Sanni Abacha.

Indeed, the "Abacha Funds" is the largest kleptocracy forfeiture action ever brought in the United States resulting in a $450,000,000 judgment of the forfeited assets facilitated by Justice's remarkable Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative.

The Abacha Administration embezzled Nigerian public funds under other false claims, that the Administration was investing in national security measures to protect Nigeria and the Nigerian people.

As we all see now, as a result of or in part because of the Abacha Administration's failure to invest in and implement security measures, the security in Nigeria and the region is tenuous, with the country and region currently under continuous threat by the ISIS affiliated group Boko Haram.

Indeed, Boko Haram and other sectarian terrorists have trafficked, kidnapped, murdered and caused the displacement of millions of children, women and men.

Recovered victims displaced by terrorist activity as well as refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons fleeing for their lives will be in dire need of protection and support.

A Victim of Terror Protection Fund can supply health aid, educational support, employment training, economic empowerment, dignity and overall improved social welfare of these victims.

I continue to have a deep appreciation of the patriotism, resilience, and commitment of the Nigerian people under the leadership of their newly democratically elected President Muhammadu Buhari.

As an emerging democracy, Nigeria is a country that has faced its set of challenges, conflicts, and contradictions analogous to the human condition itself.

Yet, resiliency flows through the veins and into the hearts of the Nigerian people.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support the victims through the protection fund to protect, support and address the unprecedented migrant and refugee crisis across the Mediterranean triggered by violent extremism, conflict and natural disasters.

Boko Haram is an existential threat to the human rights, well being and security of the Nigerian people and their regional neighbors with its relentless drive to commit genocide.

Part of the strategy to help address the scourge of Boko Haram's atrocity should be through the creation of a Victim of Terror Protection Fund and accessibility of military technical assistance to Nigeria and its regional neighbors pursuant to the UN Security Council and neighboring African countries call for accelerated military collaboration to combat this extremist group.

This is why I commend the U.S. Administration's announcement that it is deploying 300 U.S. troops to Africa to set up a drone base to track fighters from Boko Haram, which continues to seek to destabilize Nigeria and neighboring countries during its blood thirsty assault on innocent people.

The U.S. forces' presence will be critical to combatting Boko Haram, which now appears to continue to wage its vicious insurgency in Nigeria and now spilling into neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger and leaving an estimated 20,000 people dead.

In light of these atrocities and its pleading of allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS), we must remain vigilant of Boko Haram, since both groups are fighting to establish a caliphate across the Middle East and in Africa.

Our global strategy for ending the suffering, preventing displacement and creating solutions for displaced persons in Africa requires a

multi-pronged strategy which would involve a sustained humanitarian response, government and civil society capacity building, and the creation of resilient political and security infrastructures and landscapes.

This proposed Victims of Terror Protection Fund is one of the strategies for addressing the growing African migrant and refugee crisis.

I commend President Buhari's commitment to Nigerian security and his directive to local authorities to tighten vigilance in vulnerable places.

I hope we continue to build a stronger alliance with President Buhari and Nigeria.

To succeed at all our objectives, Nigeria must have continued U.S. support in protecting victims of terror, technical training, logistical and infrastructural capabilities and professionalizing its military force to battle Boko Haram.

Nigeria has emerged from so many trials and tribulations stronger, more united, more focused, and committed to reestablishing the stability, peace, security, growth, and development of the country.

I invite all Members including those who have supported previous efforts, letters and resolutions related to combatting terrorism and Boko Haram and the promotion of U.S. Nigeria relations to join me in sponsoring this resolution expressing a sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Victims of Terror Protection Fund.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 18

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To receive a closed briefing on undersea critical infrastructure protection.

SVC–217

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the international climate negotiations.

SD–406

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider H.R. 2820, to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, S. 1719, to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and the nominations of Victoria A. Lipnic, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2020 (Reappointment), and Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine National Adoption Month, focusing on stories of success and meeting the challenges of international adoptions.

SD–226

11 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 571, to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, S. 1143, to make the authority of States of Washington, Oregon, and California to manage Dungeness crab fishery permanent and for other purposes, S. 1518, to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, S. 1685, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications, S. 1886, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and for other purposes, S. 1916, to include skilled nursing facilities as a type of health care provider under section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934, S. 2044, to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, S. 2206, to reduce the incidence of sexual harassment and assault at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to reauthorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, the nominations of Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years (Reappointment), and Derek Tai-Ching Kan, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR–253

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine millennial voices on advancing the American dream.

SD–106

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, and S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 410, to strengthen Indian education, S. 1163, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and S. 1928, to support the education of Indian children.

SD–628

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar business.

SR–418

NOVEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, Franklin R. Parker, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, and Stephen P. Welby, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

SD–G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 329, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 556, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, S. 782, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, S. 1592, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1694, to amend Public Law 103–434 to authorize Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project for the purposes of improving water management in the Yakima River basin, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R. 1554, bills to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon, S. 2083, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project, H.R. 373, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, H.R. 1324, to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and the nominations of Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological

Survey, Department of the Interior, and Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary, John Francis Kotek, of Idaho, to be an Assistant Secretary (Nuclear Energy), and Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, all of Department of Energy.

SD–366

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy

To hold hearings to examine democratic transitions in southeast Asia.

SD–419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine human trafficking.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, and S. 1318, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism.

SD–226

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine lessons from the Paris terrorist attacks, focusing on ramifications for the homeland and refugee resettlement.

SD–342

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

DECEMBER 1

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Well Control Rule and other regulations related to offshore oil and gas production.

SD–366

DECEMBER 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine implementation of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, including perspectives on the Act's impacts in Alaska and suggestions for improvements to the Act.

SD–366

POSTPONEMENTS

NOVEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States refugee resettlement and the intersection of foreign and domestic policy.

SD–419

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7959–S7971

Measures Introduced: Two bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2282–2283, and S. Res. 313. **Page S7966**

Measures Passed:

Condemning the Terrorist Attacks in Paris: Senate agreed to S. Res. 313, condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris and offering thoughts and prayers for the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the people of France, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of France and all our allies in the face of this horrific attack on freedom and liberty. **Page S7970**

Measures Considered:

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. **Page S7963**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, November 18, 2015. **Page S7963**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 93 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 305), LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Pages S7960–61**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Hester Maria Peirce, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2021.

6 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Coast Guard nomination in the rank of admiral. **Page S7971**

Messages from the House: **Page S7966**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7966–68**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7968–70**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7965–66**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7970**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—305) **Page S7961**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S7970–71.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 3996–4022; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 93 and H. Res. 524, 525, 527, 528, were introduced. **Pages H8239–40**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8241–43**

Reports Filed: A report was filed on November 9, 2015 as follows:

H.R. 1737, to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending (H. Rept. 114–329).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1210, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating depository institution's portfolio, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–330);

H.R. 2912, to establish a commission to examine the United States monetary policy, evaluate alternative monetary regimes, and recommend a course for monetary policy going forward (H. Rept. 114–331);

H.R. 3189, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to establish requirements for policy rules and blackout periods of the Federal Open Market Committee, to establish requirements for certain activities of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is audited, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–332, Part 1);

H.R. 3859, to make technical corrections to the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (H. Rept. 114–333);

H.R. 3875, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Department of Homeland Security a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–334);

H.R. 2270, to redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Historic Site within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 114–335);

H.R. 2360, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the approval of certain programs of education for purposes of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–336);

H.R. 3032, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal a certain reporting requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission (H. Rept. 114–337);

H.R. 1317, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–311, Part 2);

H.R. 1478, to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–338);

H.R. 2243, to suspend the current compensation packages for the senior executives of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and establish compensation for such positions in accordance with rates of pay for senior employees in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–339, Part 1); and

H. Res. 526, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1737) to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 511) to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–340). **Pages H8238–39**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foxx to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8157**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. **Page H8159**

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Keep the Promise Act of 2015: H.R. 308, to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 263 yeas to 146 nays, Roll No. 626. **Pages H8159–64, H8209–10**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Partners for Aviation Security Act: H.R. 3144, amended, to require consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee regarding modifications to the prohibited item list, and require a report on the Transportation Security Oversight Board; **Pages H8170–71**

Critical Infrastructure Protection Act: H.R. 1073, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic threats; **Pages H8171–74**

Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015: H.R. 1338, amended, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans

in national cemeteries, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 627;

Pages H8174–75, H8210–11

Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act: H.R. 1384, to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 628;

Pages H8175–76, H8211

Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act: S. 599, amended, to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project; **Pages H8176–80**

Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015: S. 799, to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome; **Pages H8180–82**

Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015: H.R. 2583, amended, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission; **Pages H8182–85**

U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2262, to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions; **Pages H8185–96**

Highway Trust Fund Extension: H.R. 3996, to provide and extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund;

Pages H8213–17

Policyholder Protection Act of 2015: H.R. 1478, amended, to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets; **Pages H8217–19**

Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act: H.R. 3032, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal a certain reporting requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission; **Page H8219**

Amending the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions: H.R. 1317, amended, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions;

Pages H8219–21

Equity in Government Compensation Act of 2015: S. 2036, to suspend the current compensation packages for the chief executive officers of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; and **Pages H8221–23**

Superstorm Sandy Relief and Disaster Loan Program Improvement Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 208, to improve the disaster assistance programs of the Small Business Administration. **Pages H8223–27**

Directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to H. Con. Res. 90, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356. **Pages H8196–H8209**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in France. **Page H8210**

Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 639, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing. **Pages H8212–13**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of the marble bust of Vice President Richard Cheney on December 3, 2015: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and agree to S. Con. Res. 24, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of the marble bust of Vice President Richard Cheney on December 3, 2015. **Page H8213**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Con. Res. 93, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment. **Page H8213**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015: H.R. 1694, to amend MAP–21 to improve contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small business concerns; and **Pages H8164–69**

Providing funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities: H.R. 3114, amended, to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities. **Pages H8169–70**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H8158–59.

Senate Referrals: S.J. Res. 22 was held at the desk. S. 1004 was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. S. 2280 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. S. 1203 was referred to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, Education and the Workforce, and the Budget. **Pages H8235–36**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8209–10, H8210, and H8211. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TRIBAL LABOR SOVEREIGNTY ACT OF 2015; REFORMING CFPB INDIRECT AUTO FINANCING GUIDANCE ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 511, the "Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015"; and H.R. 1737, the "Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act". The committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 1737. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments to H.R. 1737 printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such 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 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. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Additionally, the rule grants a closed rule for H.R. 511. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 3, for the purposes of requesting a conference with the Senate, the rule provides that the House has taken S. 1177, the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015, from the Speaker's table, adopts an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of H.R. 5, as passed by the House, and adopts S. 1177, as amended. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or his designee is authorized to move that the House insist on its amendment to S. 1177 and request a conference with the Senate thereon. In section 4, the rule provides that in the engrossment of H.R. 3762, the Clerk shall strike title I and redesignate the subsequent titles accordingly. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kline, Chairman Hensarling, and Representatives Scott of Virginia, and Maxine Waters of California.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense reform, focusing on overcoming obstacles to effective management, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine past wildfire seasons to inform and improve future Federal wildland fire management strategies, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine physician owned distributors, focusing on whether they are harmful to patients and payers, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine options for reforming United States overseas broadcasting, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of South Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency to examine ongoing challenges at the Secret Service and their government-wide implications, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts, to hold hearings to examine the relationship between the Federal government and state and local law enforcement, 2:15 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Joseph Missal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: to hold hearings to examine drug trafficking across the Southwest Border and oversight of U.S. counterdrug assistance to Mexico, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture; and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, joint hearing entitled ''U.S. International Food Aid Programs: Transportation Perspectives'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining the Regulation of Diagnostic Tests and Laboratory Operations'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1321, the ''Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015''; H.R. 2017, the ''Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015''; H.R. 3014, the ''Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act''; H.R. 3537, the ''Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015''; H.R. 3716, the ''Ensuring Terminated Providers Are Removed from Medicaid and CHIP Act''; H.R. 3821, the ''Medicaid Directory of Caregivers Act''; H.J. Res. 71, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units''; H.J. Res. 72, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units''; and S. 611, the ''Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act'', 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''Dodd-Frank Five Years Later: What Have We Learned from Conflict Minerals Reporting?'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Women and Technology: Increasing Opportunity and Driving International Development'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Terrorist Financing: Kidnapping, Antiquities Trafficking, and Private Donations'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats; and Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, joint hearing entitled ''Charting the Arctic: Security, Economic, and Resource Opportunities'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''Assessing TSA's Management and Implementation of the Screening Partnership Program'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the United States Department of Justice'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled ''The State of Competition in the Pharmacy Benefits Manager and Pharmacy Marketplaces'', 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''U.S. Department of Education: Information Security Review'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1210, the ''Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act''; and H.R. 3189, the ''FORM Act of 2015'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space; and Subcommittee on Environment, joint hearing entitled ''Exploring Commercial Opportunities to Maximize Earth Science Investments'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''National Entrepreneurs' Day'', 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 1319, the ''Ask Veterans Act''; H.R. 1603, the ''Military Sexual Assault Victims Empowerment Act''; H.R. 1904, the ''Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act''; H.R. 2639, the ''Marriage and Family Therapists for Veterans Act''; H.R. 3234, the ''Failing VA Medical Center Recovery Act''; H.R. 3471, the ''Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2015''; H.R. 3549, the ''VA Billing Accountability Act''; draft of the ''Promoting Responsible Opioid Management and Incorporating Medical Expertise Act''; and the ''VA Purchased Health Care Streamlining and Modernization Act'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled ''Moving America's

Families Forward: Lessons Learned from Welfare Reforms in Other Countries'', 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency to examine ongoing challenges at the Secret Service and their government-wide implications, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of November 17 through November 20, 2015

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 10 a.m., Senate will be in a period of morning business.

On *Wednesday*, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2577, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: November 17, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense reform, focusing on overcoming obstacles to effective management, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

November 18, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to receive a closed briefing on undersea critical infrastructure protection, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

November 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, Franklin R. Parker, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, and Stephen P. Welby, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: November 18, business meeting to consider S. 571, to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, S. 1143, to make the authority of States of Washington, Oregon, and California to manage Dungeness crab fishery permanent and for other purposes, S. 1518, to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, S. 1685, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions on its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications, S. 1886, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and for other purposes, S. 1916, to include skilled nursing facilities as a type of health care provider under section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934, S. 2044, to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, S. 2206, to reduce the incidence of sexual harassment and assault at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to reauthorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, the nominations of Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years (Reappointment), and Derek Tai-Ching Kan, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, and routine lists in the Coast Guard, 11 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: November 17, to hold hearings to examine past wildfire seasons to inform and improve future Federal wildland fire management strategies, 10 a.m., SD–366.

November 19, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 329, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 556, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, S. 782, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, S. 1592, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1694, to amend Public Law 103–434 to authorize Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project for the purposes of improving water management in the Yakima River basin, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R. 1554, bills to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon, S. 2083, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project, H.R. 373, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, H.R. 1324, to

adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and the nominations of Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, and Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary, John Francis Kotek, of Idaho, to be an Assistant Secretary (Nuclear Energy), and Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, all of Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: November 18, to hold hearings to examine the international climate negotiations, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: November 17, to hold hearings to examine physician owned distributors, focusing on whether they are harmful to patients and payers, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: November 17, to hold hearings to examine options for reforming United States overseas broadcasting, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

November 19, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine democratic transitions in southeast Asia, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: November 17, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of South Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–430.

November 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider H.R. 2820, to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, S. 1719, to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and the nominations of Victoria A. Lipnic, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2020 (Reappointment), and Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: November 17, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency to examine ongoing challenges at the Secret Service and their government-wide implications, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

November 19, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine human trafficking, 10 a.m., SD–342.

November 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine lessons from the Paris terrorist attacks, focusing on ramifications for the homeland and refugee resettlement, 2 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: November 18, business meeting to consider S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, and S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 410, to strengthen Indian education, S. 1163, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and S. 1928, to support the education of Indian children, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Judiciary: November 17, Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts, to hold hearings to examine the relationship between the Federal government and state and local law enforcement, 2:15 p.m., SD–226.

November 18, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine National Adoption Month, focusing on stories of success and meeting the challenges of international adoptions, 10 a.m., SD–226.

November 19, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, and S. 1318, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: November 17, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Joseph Missal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

November 18, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: November 17, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

November 19, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: November 17, to hold hearings to examine drug trafficking across the Southwest Border and oversight of U.S. counterdrug assistance to Mexico, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House Committees

Committe on Agriculture, November 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: The National Commission on Hunger'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, November 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Outside Views on the Strategy for Iraq and Syria'', 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled ''Effects of Reduced Infrastructure and Base Operating Support Investments on Readiness'', 8 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled ''Acquisition Efficiency and the Future Navy Force'', 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled ''Advancing the Science and Acceptance of Autonomy for Future Defense Systems'', 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, November 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Does Biennial Budgeting Fit in a Rewrite of the Budget Process?'', 9:45 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy an Commerce, November 18, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1321, the ''Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015''; H.R. 2017, the ''Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015''; H.R. 3014, the

''Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act''; H.R. 3537, the ''Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015''; H.R. 3716, the ''Ensuring Terminated Providers Are Removed from Medicaid and CHIP Act''; H.R. 3821, the ''Medicaid Directory of Caregivers Act''; H. J. Res. 71, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units''; H.J. Res. 72, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units''; and S. 611, the ''Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act'' (continued), 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''U.S. Public Health Preparedness for Seasonal Influenza: Has the Response Improved?'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled ''The Disrupter Series: The Fast-Evolving Uses and Economic Impacts of Drones'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, November 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining the SEC's Agenda, Operations, and FY 2017 Budget Request'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Financial Stability Oversight Council: Due Process and Transparency in Non-Bank SIFI Designations'', 9:15 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, November 19, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Goldman Act to Return Abducted American Children: Ensuring Administration Action'', 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, November 18, Full Committee; and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, joint hearing entitled ''The Rise of Radicalism: Growing Terrorist Sanctuaries and the Threat to the U.S. Homeland'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, November 19, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled ''The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Its Impact on the Security of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program'', 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, November 18, Full Committee, hearing on discussion draft of the ''Protecting America's Recreation and Conservation Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, November 18, Subcommittee on Government Operations; and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, joint hearing entitled ''Federal Student Aid: Performance-Based Organization Review'', 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

November 18, Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets; and Subcommittee on Information Technology, joint hearing entitled ''The Internet of Cars'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, November 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Administration's Empty Promises for the International Climate Treaty'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

November 18, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Recommendations of the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, November 18, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled ''Continuing Challenges for Small Contractors'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade, hearing entitled ''Improving Size Standards for Small Farmers and Ranchers'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, November 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Choice Consolidation: Assessing VA's Plan to Improve Care in the Community'', 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

November 18, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Examining VA's On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Program'', 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, November 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider changes to the Committee's rules, 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: November 18, to hold hearings to examine millennial voices on advancing the American dream, 2 p.m., SD–106.

Joint Hearing: November 17, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency to examine ongoing challenges at the Secret Service and their government-wide implications, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: At approximately 10 a.m., Senate will observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris attacks. Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 17

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 511—Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule). Motion to Go to Conference on S. 1177—Every Child Achieves Act of 2015. Consideration of the following measure under suspension of the rules: H. Res. 524—Condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Paris, France, on November 13, 2015.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bass, Karen, Calif., E1624
Beyer, Donald S., Jr., Va. E1619
Blackburn, Marsha, Tenn., E1627
Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E1620, E1621
Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E1623
Bustos, Cheri, Ill., E1629
Capps, Lois, Calif., E1621
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E1627
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E1625
Cummings, Elijah E., Md., E1617
Dold, Robert J., Ill., E1622, E1626, E1628
Fitzpatrick, Michael G., Pa., E1623
Guinta, Frank C., N.H., E1619, E1620
Honda, Michael M., Calif., E1624
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E1628, E1630
Jeffries, Hakeem S., N.Y., E1618
Kelly, Mike, Pa., E1619
Loebsack, David, Iowa, E1620
Luján, Ben Ray, N.M., E1618
Lynch, Stephen F., Mass., E1625
McGovern, James P., Mass., E1625
McNerney, Jerry, Calif., E1624
Napolitano, Grace F., Calif., E1628
O'Rourke, Beto, Tex., E1622, E1623, E1624
Olson, Pete, Tex., E1628, E1629, E1629
Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman, American Samoa, E1623
Reed, Tom, N.Y., E1629
Richmond, Cedric L., La., E1618
Schiff, Adam B., Calif., E1621
Slaughter, Louise McIntosh, N.Y., E1626
Smith, Jason, Mo., E1622, E1625
Smith, Lamar, Tex., E1619
Thornberry, Mac, Tex., E1617
Tiberi, Patrick J., Ohio, E1629
Van Hollen, Chris, Md., E1617, E1627
Veasey, Marc A., Tex., E1622, E1623
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E1618, E1626
Waters, Maxine, Calif., E1627
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1629
Young, David, Iowa, E1630
Young, Todd C., Ind., E1622, E1624, E1626, E1627

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