United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016 No. 147

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 28, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ARNOLD PALMER: THE KING OF GOLF

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we lost the greatest golfer ever, the man who brought the sport to the masses, a name synonymous with competition, the king, the legend: Mr. Arnold Palmer.

Arnie was a favorite son and native of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, a city where roads, an airport, a drink, a hospital, and so much more are named after him. Latrobe is also the home of Mr. Rogers, the banana split, and summer home to the Pittsburgh Steelers; but Arnold clearly is their favorite. And with good reason.

Some athletes play to make a name for themselves, but Arnie did it to build up the sport. And build it up he did. He made the sport of golf a game for the common man. It is no wonder he was followed by Arnie's Army through the world.

Some athletes won't give autographs unless you pay them, or they will walk by, unmoved when a child asks for one; but Arnie never refused. He signed his name millions of times, never refusing anyone in his entire lifetime.

I saw him just last month, surrounded by his usual stack of letters, pictures, and paraphernalia piled next to his desk, waiting to be signed by him. He signed every single one with that perfect and unmistakable signature and not with a generic scribble so you have no idea whose name it was. Arnie made sure he made his name legible.

Later in life, he stopped signing golf balls not because he did not want to, but, rather, he thought it was important that whoever he was signing for could read his name clearly.

Some athletes are famous for their family problems, but Arnie was a quiet, dedicated, and loving family man. He loved Winnie and Kit, and their children and grandchildren.

And while some sport players refuse to stand during our national anthem, as a proud veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, Arnie would tear up at the sound of the Star-Spangled Banner with admiration, pride, and love for his Nation. He worked hard to get where he was. It was not handed to him.

Once in the spotlight, some celebrities forget their roots, but Arnie never did. He was proud of his humble beginnings. He helped his father, Deacon Palmer, who worked as a greenskeeper for Latrobe Country Club, by mowing lawns and driving tractors. Arnie was never afraid of getting his hands dirty. In fact, he continued this work all the way up, even selling paint just before he turned pro.

Some feel no sense of loyalty to their team or sport, enamored by their own fame and the big paycheck, but Arnie was fiercely loyal. A contract was a handshake. Your word was a contract based on that handshake, not a piece of paper. His lifetime relationship with his manager was set with that handshake, and Arnie never wavered from it.

Playing golf with Arnie is an unforgettable experience not just as a pro, but for those of us lucky enough to play a round. He made you feel like it was the best part of his day. He never failed to give you his gentle smile or words of encouragement. Even when he teased you in a good-natured way, you cherished every word he said. He made the game fun to play no matter how well or how bad you were playing.

A few years ago, Jim Leland, the legendary manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Detroit Tigers, was playing with Arnie during an all-star break. On what Leland describes as ''the greatest day of my life,'' the two played at Laurel Valley.

After shooting a respectable 41 on the front nine, Jim's game began to fade away on the back nine. Perhaps he hooked or sliced a few, and perhaps he let out a few colorful words in exasperation. But Arnie sensed Jim's game was unraveling and walked over to offer him the best golf advice ever.

I imagine if any of us have had the opportunity to get a golf lesson from the king, we would feel in that moment that the wind would stop, the clouds would part, perhaps a shaft of light would stream down from the sun, the trees might even lean in a little to listen. But in that moment, Arnie put his arm around Jim and said: ''Enjoy the

Printed on recycled paper.

day. You're not good enough to get mad.''

That is the best golf advice ever. Not just great golf advice, it is great advice for life. Enjoy the days God gives you. Don't waste them on being angry.

And maybe that is one of the reasons we will miss this man. He had a way of telling tens of millions to believe in yourself, to respect others, to face challenges, to demonstrate courage and respect, and to always show dignity in defeat and restraint in victory.

Arnie claimed he did so well not just because he wanted to win, but because he hated to lose. And so it is today with us. We hate to lose you, Arnie. You made us feel we could all be better and that loving the game was the best of all.

We will miss you.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night, several hundred people gathered to wish SAM FARR farewell to his congressional career, celebrating a half century of public service.

SAM started in the Peace Corps, volunteering in Colombia in the sixties. He was active as a local government official, and in the California State legislature and finally 23 years in Congress.

He came by his calling honestly. He was born on the Fourth of July.

Son of Fred Farr, a State senator and a Johnson administration official, SAM has been dedicated to the widest range of issues of anybody I have worked with in my years in Congress. He has worked on issues of livable communities, transportation, land use planning, and healthy agriculture. He took very seriously the fact that he represented California's ''salad bowl.'' He has been a leader in marijuana reform, with the famous Farr-Rohrabacher amendment slapping the Federal Government's hands back from interfering with medical marijuana.

You know, there is a movie from 1983 with Woody Allen. In ''Zelig,'' this kind of nebbish chameleon-like person showed up everywhere in all of these important events in the twenties and thirties. Well, SAM has sort of that characterization. Although, unlike a nebbish or chameleon, SAM was bold, he was infectious, he was warm, but he was everywhere in the course of the last 20 years.

Just this last year alone, we saw the unprecedented oceans protections that were implemented by the Obama administration. SAM FARR's fingerprints are all over that act, working for 20 years on oceans protections as the major oceans advocate in Congress.

SAM was in Cuba with President Obama as we opened up relations with that island after a half century of isolation. He has been on the right side of that issue from the beginning. Luckily, he was able to be there.

He has been honored by the nation of Colombia, where he served as a Peace Corps volunteer. Last weekend, SAM was there with Secretary Kerry, celebrating the peace accords that brought an end to that tortuous conflict.

You know, people complain about Congress being too partisan, too gridlocked. It is true. But for 23 years, SAM FARR has shown that no matter who is in charge or how bad it gets, a smart person with a big heart, a great staff, persistence, and passion can make amazing things happen. He has given many gifts to his constituents and to the Nation, but one gift may be overarching, if people here take seriously, is his example of how to be a Congressman.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OVERTIME RULE

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Some Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

This bipartisan legislation offers a responsible solution to the U.S. Department of Labor's overtime rule that would jeopardize the ability for small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges to maintain current operations and good-paying career jobs.

H.R. 6094, which I have cosponsored, would require a 6-month delay in the effective date of the DOL overtime rule. No, this isn't the outright repeal of the overtime rule that I, along with many others, have called for, but it is a practical step towards helping those organizations take steps to mitigate the impact of this regulation.

Without passage of H.R. 6094, the overtime rule will take effect in 2 months. This is simply not enough time to allow affected employers and employees an opportunity to adjust and prepare for the adverse economic consequences.

Over 10 million workers, including many in my home State of Pennsylvania, will be impacted. Companies will be forced to shift employees from salary to hourly pay, nonprofits will have to cut back on critical services, employees may lose the opportunity to work remotely, while seeing fewer opportunities for career development.

Our employers need fewer administrative costs and compliance burdens, not more. Employees deserve flexibility and autonomy and the opportunity to build successful careers. However, these regulations, no matter how well intended, would drain our economy and hurt the very people they are attempting to help.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6094.

DON'T PUNISH TAXPAYERS

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act, which would provide temporary relief from ObamaCare's individual mandate for Americans directly impacted by failed ObamaCare CO-OPs.

At the outset of this law, 23 CO-OPs provided insurance options for enrollees in 25 States. However, nearly 2 years later, we have learned that a majority—17 of them—have failed. The reason for the failure has been painfully obvious. The ACA manipulated insurance markets and created CO-OPs as a means to establish government-managed competition.

The cost of this ill-fated attempt at market manipulation has been borne by the American public. Over $1 billion of hard-earned taxpayer dollars were sunk into failed CO-OPs. Worse, for American consumers who enrolled in a failed CO-OP, they did not just lose their health coverage, but due to another glitch in the law, these individuals may be forced to pay the IRS a tax penalty for failing to have adequate health coverage under the individual mandate.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals should not be penalized for the failings of the law. That is why I rise to explain my support of H.R. 954. This is a commonsense solution to provide temporary relief to those individuals affected by the failed CO-OPs.

This legislation states simply that if you lose your health coverage midterm due to a failed CO-OP, then you should not be forced to pay a 2016 tax penalty for lacking health coverage. Put simply, to allow this law to harm those individuals who lost their health coverage at no fault of their own is unacceptable.

I thank my colleagues for their action on this bill.

SUPPORTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA for short. I supported this legislation in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in May, as it would authorize infrastructure projects important to my district, Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District, as well as across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and, indeed, across the country.

If passed, WRDA would include a review of projects to enhance ecosystem restoration and water supply along the Delaware River Basin, including at the Blue Marsh Lake. Locks and dams in Pennsylvania would also be eligible for reconstruction. Finally, WRDA would authorize an expedited study for a navigation project along the upper Ohio River in Pennsylvania.

Projects included in WRDA support jobs and keep businesses and homes protected by providing critical oversight of our water infrastructure so that our country remains safe, productive, and competitive.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HYDE AMENDMENT

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Hyde amendment, which, for too long, has been denying women their constitutional right to access safe and legal abortion.

Mr. Speaker, restrictions on abortion do not make it go away. They make it less safe. For the last 40 years, the Hyde amendment has created an often insurmountable barrier for women across the country struggling to access affordable health care because it prohibits Medicaid coverage for abortion.

It disproportionately affects low-income women: young women, immigrant women, women of color, women in rural communities. In fact, more than half the women who have their rights restricted by the Hyde amendment are women of color.

It is long past time to do away with this harmful provision, which has been expanded over the years to deny coverage to Federal employees and their dependents, our military servicemembers, Native Americans, and even Peace Corps volunteers.

□ 1015

Restricting Medicaid coverage of abortion means that about one in four low-income women carry to term an unwanted pregnancy. That is not a decision the government should make for women. There are many things that Congress should be doing, but one thing we should not be doing is interfering with a woman's constitutional right.

So what should we be doing? We should be supporting policies that prevent unwanted pregnancies, like funding Planned Parenthood; and we should also pass the EACH Woman Act to lift the coverage ban that stands in the way of too many women who have the right to make their own decisions about what is best for them and their families.

Two generations of women have been affected by the Hyde amendment over the last four decades. Let's end this policy and let each woman be able to do what is best for herself and her family.

HONORING SPECIALIST JONATHAN R. KEPHART

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over this past weekend people in Oil City, Venango County, located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, joined to honor an American hero.

On April 8, 2004, Specialist Jonathan Kephart was killed in Iraq after his convoy patrol was ambushed outside of Baghdad. Kephart was credited with protecting his fellow soldiers by laying down fire against hundreds of enemy fighters, even after being wounded twice. He was the first soldier from Venango County killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Last Saturday, the Petroleum Street Bridge in Oil City was named after Specialist Kephart, and September 24 was declared Jonathan R. Kephart Memorial Day in Oil City.

I want to commend the efforts of everyone who worked to make this a reality, including State Representative Lee James, who authored and led the effort to pass the bill that made this distinction possible, earning unanimous approval in the Pennsylvania State House and Senate.

It is my hope that, because of this memorial to Specialist Kephart, his bravery and his sacrifice will live on in the hearts and the minds of the people in Oil City and Venango County for generations to come.

PROMESA

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, there is an important meeting in the Financial District of New York City, right in the heart of stock traders, the investment banks, and the bond buyers and sellers who trade in the debt of companies, countries, and municipalities. Right there in the nerve center of our financial market, they are holding a meeting.

Is it a meeting about Wells Fargo opening up thousands of accounts without the knowledge or consent of their customers? No, nothing like that. Nor anything related to the financial meltdown that our country is still recovering from that started right there. Nope.

This is the first meeting of the Puerto Rico financial control board, the junta de control, that has supreme power to rule over Puerto Rico.

Now, in case there is any confusion with the geography, New York City has a lot of Puerto Ricans, but it is not, in fact, the capital of Puerto Rico. My staff checked. San Juan is still the capital of Puerto Rico.

No, the meeting of the junta de control that has dominion over all aspects of the Puerto Rican people is not meeting in Puerto Rico. The meeting is taking place pretty close to Wall Street, which, I think, is symbolic of the way the junta de control over Puerto Rico came about.

It is a very bad omen for the future. Let me explain.

There are seven people—not elected, but appointed—who oversee every aspect of Puerto Rico's governance. Four are Republican nominees, there are three Democrats, and there is one nonvoting member of the junta.

Several of the members of the Puerto Rico junta de control appear to have deep ties to Wall Street, where you can find many of the bondholders who traded and profited off Puerto Rico's $72 billion in debt.

Judge Juan R. Torruella, the first Hispanic appointed by Ronald Reagan to the prestigious U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals summed it up pretty well. He said to the Colegio de Abogados, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, that: ''The principal purpose of PROMESA is to establish a collection agency for bondholders.''

The person who is rumored to be the executive director of the junta de control is a big-time corporate energy lobbyist. He is the former head of the Center for Liquefied Natural Gas, a trade association of energy producers, which makes everyone concerned about Puerto Rico's environment nervous—with good reason.

So holding the first meeting in Lower Manhattan confirms to Puerto Ricans that the junta de control is by, for, and about the bondholders and corporate interests on Wall Street. So I consider the junta meeting on Friday as a home-court game.

The board will elect their chairman on Friday. Yeah, they are going to elect a chairman. Kind of ironic because they are electing the chairman to an unelected board because, well, democracy is good for some people—just not the people of Puerto Rico.

We have been told that members of the control board met secretly in Washington last week at the Treasury offices. Whether this is actually the first meeting of the control board is in great doubt.

And all of this raises the bigger problem of transparency. There isn't any. Under the law, this group can meet in secret anywhere in the world, and their proceedings can be conducted in executive session.

The board members can receive unlimited and unreported gifts, meals, even tickets to Hamilton and anything else, and we will never know. The scandal is coming. They are under no obligation to translate anything into Spanish, which, in case you forgot, is the language of the people that they are to control.

I will say, to their credit, that, after I wrote to each member of the control board and asked for a public commitment to transparency, a few of them wrote back. None of them made a public commitment to transparency, but a few acknowledged that keeping Puerto Ricans informed, making the meetings publicly accessible, and translating materials in the language of the people being governed were good principles.

It remains to be seen whether anyone on the junta de control really fights to inform the people of Puerto Rico, really sets up to be a champion for the schoolteachers and the doctors and the moms and the dads who are struggling, and the firemen, and the policemen who serve the people of Puerto Rico and are heroes.

And it is unclear that this control board will step up on behalf of the Puerto Rican people and make creating jobs, creating more jobs and creating more jobs the number one priority of the junta. That is the way we create a tax base for Puerto Rico. That is the way we give puertoriquenos a viable option to live and work in Puerto Rico rather than moving to Florida or some other State.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we leave Washington this week and head home for the great exercise in American democracy in November, I want all of us to keep in mind that the island of Puerto Rico, our colony in the Caribbean Sea, is a place that now, more than ever, only dreams of true democracy.

COMMENDING EDEN DETENTION CENTER

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with concerns about a recently issued memo from the Department of Justice to the Acting Director of the Bureau of Prisons directing the nonrenewal or reduction of contracts with private detention facilities. I strongly disagree with this policy change, as private prisons play a critical role in our current Federal Bureau of Prisons system.

One facility in particular, the Eden Detention Center, located in Texas' 11th District, is an excellent example of a private prison operating in an efficient, effective, secure, and safe manner for both the community and those incarcerated.

Let me take a moment to brag about these constituents.

The American Correctional Association has awarded the Eden Detention facility a 100 percent score on their mandatory requirements, and a 99.08 percent score on nonmandatory requirements. These are undoubtedly phenomenal rankings by any measure, and the Eden facility meets these high standards at considerably lower costs than similar Federal facilities.

Eden is more than a detention facility; it is a rehabilitation center. The Bureau of Prisons has long placed significance on rehabilitating those incarcerated, directing facilities to invest in the lives of their inmates. The goal—to turn individuals from a life of crime to contributing members of society—is at the center of the Eden facility's mission.

It is this responsibility for one's fellow man that the people of Eden understand and put into practice daily, providing inmates with extensive training, educational services, and recreation, all for the purpose of improving life after incarceration.

The Eden facility has partnered with many civic and charitable organizations in the surrounding community to support this goal. As a result, the center is able to provide many vocational, computer, and life skills training opportunities, as well as educational opportunities for basic adult education, English language training, GED, a full library, a law library, and much more.

The Bureau of Prisons takes extreme pride—and rightfully so—in a strong value system that includes, but is not limited to, respect, integrity, service, safety for all parties, successful rehabilitation, and exceptional staff and operations. I am proud to report that Eden and the greater community not only meet these core values, but they share them as well.

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, Americans everywhere are tired of reading headlines about mass shootings. What happened in Orlando in June broke all our hearts, and we have felt similar outrage about the shooting in Houston this week. But while incidents like this command headlines, we forget just how frequent shootings have become.

In New York City, already this year, there have been 897 shooting victims. According to Gun Violence Archive, which tracks shootings daily across the United States, there have been 10,717 gun-related deaths this year and more than 22,000 injuries, and it is only September.

There are steps this Congress could take to help stem this violence. Will any one solution stop gun violence completely? Of course not. There are anywhere from 270 million to 310 million guns in the United States, close to one firearm for every man, woman and child. So we will not solve this problem overnight. But there are some steps we could take, steps that Republicans continue blocking.

First, it makes no sense that if you cannot legally get on an airplane, you can still purchase a firearm. If you are prohibited from flying, you shouldn't be buying a gun. That is just common sense.

Now, some on the other side of the aisle like to drag up an incident or two where someone was incorrectly placed on the no-fly list. If that is the case, I will say, let's also fix the no-fly list. But we cannot use this as an excuse to do nothing. That is what the NRA and the gun manufacturing lobby want Congress to do—nothing.

Second, for 10 years, this Nation used to have an assault weapon ban. President Bush let that law expire. We need to reinstate it.

Third, we need a universal system of background checks, something that 87 percent of the American public supports.

Mr. Speaker, there are other, tougher steps I would like to see implemented. I have legislation that will invest in community organizations that combat gun violence. My bill will also help stop the flow of stolen guns into New York City and hold accountable gun owners who lose their guns and irresponsibly do not report them missing.

For now, there are three basic steps we should take immediately to help reduce this epidemic. Yet Republicans can barely fund the government, let alone take on difficult problems like these.

Let me make one last observation, Mr. Speaker. The American people are watching on this issue. If Republicans are in such a hurry to get back to your districts, I promise, you will hear from your constituents on this issue.

We are all tired of tragedies like Orlando and what happened in Houston this week, and we are also outraged by the daily shootings that do not make national news but still shatter families.

The American people are watching. They are telling the Republican leadership: ''Do your job. Do your job with funding to address Zika. Do your job with money for Flint. And do your job to address the tragedy of gun violence.''

ICANN

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it was recently revealed that 500 million Yahoo email accounts were hacked in 2014, making it the largest data breach in U.S. history. Even more troubling is the fact that the perpetrators have been reported to be state-sponsored actors, with China and Russia among the likely suspects.

Yet, in the face of such vulnerabilities, President Obama wants to give the Chinese and Russian Governments more control over how the Internet operates. The President has even promised to shut down the Federal Government budget so that he can meet his goal of giving away a portion of America's control over the Internet to these foreign governments by October 1, 2016.

□ 1030

Rushing headlong to meet an arbitrary date to hand over our Internet control is incredibly foolish. In fact, it is stupid. No one rewards a criminal for their criminal acts, but that is exactly what the President's policy does.

Sadly, it is yet another example of how this administration has sacrificed U.S. leadership and values across the world to advance a reckless agenda. The policies from this administration have only led to America losing standing and influence across the globe on a wide range of fronts—and it must end.

Our adversaries have become bolder, taking advantage of the vacuum of leadership created by the pulling back of U.S. leadership. The forces of extremism, violence, totalitarianism, and criminal enterprises have filled the void, and the American people are suffering as a result.

The disastrous nuclear deal with Iran is a very good example. It has not only failed to curtail the Iranian regime's plans to develop nuclear weapons, it has also resulted in a ransom payment of $1.7 billion for four Americans who were being held illegally by Iran.

This display of weakness has only emboldened the largest state sponsor of international terrorism. It has provided Iran with over $1 billion to fund terrorism, enhance its illegal ballistic missile development programs, and ramp up its aggression against U.S. military forces.

President Reagan warned us: ''Weakness, after all, is a temptation—it tempts the pugnacious to assert themselves—but strength is a declaration that cannot be misunderstood. Strength is a condition that declares actions have consequences. Strength is a prudent warning to the belligerent that aggression need not go unanswered.''

Whenever this administration pulls back, the belligerent have happily stepped in to fill the void. That is why we must reject this latest effort to relinquish U.S. leadership over the Internet.

The excessive hacking encouraged by the Governments of Russia, China, and others should not be rewarded. We must stand up to these dangerous actors and put the safety, security, and interests of the United States first. Simply put, Russia and China cannot be trusted with a larger role in the operation of the Internet. We have a duty to block the President's foolish and reckless Internet giveaway before it goes into effect October 1, 2016.

It will further cede more control to our adversaries and weaken America's influence on the international stage. Stopping this giveaway must be included in this year's spending bill. It is absolutely critical that Congress takes action.

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise to announce that later today the Environmental Protection Agency will issue its final plan to clean up the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, a Superfund site in eastern Harris County, Texas.

The communities of eastern Harris County, especially Channelview and Highlands, have fought for a decade to ensure that toxic waste that was dumped alongside the San Jacinto River 50 years ago will be fully removed and permanently protect our children and our children's children from the dangers found at the site.

I thank the EPA and Region 6 for its hard work and diligence on this very important issue for our community. I would also like to thank the community members and local officials who have fought to clean up the site and ensure our community is made whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to EPA's announcement today.

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents to express my outrage about the White House's ransom payment to Iran.

On January 17, 2016, the Obama administration announced that it would give the Islamic Republic of Iran a total of $1.7 billion to settle a 1979 arms deal. However, they failed to announce that, the day before, the administration had delivered an advance payment in cash of $400 million in unmarked bills to Iran in exchange for four American hostages. In fact, the American people did not learn that the White House had made this secret ransom payment at all until this past August.

The Obama administration's decision to violate our Nation's own historic policy against ransom payments has established a frightening precedent for the future. The President's willingness to bend to Iran's demands and use unmarked bills demonstrates to the world a fundamental weakness that emboldens our enemies while ceding to the demands of state sponsors of terrorism.

American soldiers, diplomats, and citizens living and traveling abroad are less safe this year than they were last year. And global beliefs and perceptions of American leadership and intentions—among our allies and, more disastrously, among the bad actors in the world—have been forever altered.

Indeed, Iran is already celebrating its leverage over the United States. One commander of an Iranian Revolutionary Guard militia exulted that ''taking this much money back was in return for the release of the American spies.''

Since the January ransom payment, Iran has, unsurprisingly, arrested additional Americans. The American people deserve answers about why the President felt it was acceptable to give nearly $2 billion to radical extremists supporting terrorism across the Middle East and beyond.

That is why this month I interrogated officials at a Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing. My colleagues and I questioned the timing of the secret payment, the White House's insidious and foolish decision to use unmarked bills, and implications on terrorism in the region. But the administration refused to answer my simple questions that would give Americans the answers they deserve. Instead, officials said they could only share information behind closed doors.

I took them up on that offer, and I and my colleagues had that 2-hour-long, closed-door, classified meeting. After that briefing, I am now more certain than ever, Mr. Speaker, that the Obama administration paid an irresponsible and dangerous ransom to Iran. Why is the Obama administration so desperate to cover up the details of its ransom payment from the American people?

The White House has made a reckless national security decision to bend entirely to the demands of Iran without assurances that Iran would not use this money for its military.

Keep in mind that the Iranian military blatantly funds Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations. Shockingly, the administration told me publicly that, even if they had received assurances from Iran, they wouldn't have trusted the country to keep its promises.

Why, then, would we have given $400 million in unmarked bills to the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism? Why would the Obama administration accommodate and fund a foreign military that funds terrorism around the world?

Why didn't the White House write legally binding restrictions on the use of the money into the settlement agreement? Why did we agree to the settlement with a state sponsor of terrorism in the first place?

The entire $1.7 billion was reportedly transferred to the Iranian military to fund a 90 percent increase in Iran's military budget. This is public information, and the Obama administration dismissively pretends that no one can use the Internet.

The Obama administration's gift to the Iranian military is a disgrace to America's allies in the Middle East, especially to Israel. It is a degradation of America's counterterrorism efforts and geopolitical leadership. It is a failure to protect Americans abroad and the new prisoners who have been detained in Iran.

As a member of this free Nation's assembly of the people, I will hold our President accountable for his deception and negligence and will work to reverse this dangerous precedent that this administration has made for the future of our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

MACADAMIA TREE HEALTH

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, when most people think of Hawaii, my home State, they immediately think of our beautiful beaches, mountains, vistas, and wonderful people and culture, and they dream about when they might come and visit our home State. This contributes, no doubt, to our tourism industry being the major driver of our economy in Hawaii.

But, along with our beautiful year-round climate comes a great opportunity for our agriculture industry. In fact, most people are not aware that

agriculture is the third largest industry in our State, accounting for over $2.9 billion of our annual economy and at least 42,000 jobs, according to our State Department of Agriculture. So, like States all across the country, we are working within government and the private sector to diversify and strengthen our economy, specifically our agriculture sector.

However, one of the greatest threats that we are seeing in Hawaii and across the country to agriculture are invasive species. The macadamia felted coccid is one of more than 4,300 invasive species that threaten our agriculture industry. In Hawaii alone, the invasive species costs our local farmers, landowners, and ag industry millions of dollars every year and puts hundreds of our local small farms and thousands of local workers and the future of one of our most important crops at risk.

Just last month, I had the chance to visit multiple farms on Hawaii island in my district, an island that produces 80 percent of Hawaii's world-renowned macadamia nuts that are shipped and sold all around the world. I heard one story after another from our farmers about how this tiny, invasive insect is destroying farms and threatening livelihoods that really bring many of our communities together. At just one of these more than 620 macadamia growing farms in Hawaii, this insect destroyed 500,000 pounds of macadamia nuts in just 1 year.

Like most things, you can't fix a problem that you don't fully understand. Very little is known about this invasive pest—from its lifecycle to its seasonal pattern to its basic vulnerabilities—that directly impacts our ability to fight back. That is why I have introduced the macadamia tree health initiative today.

My bill would authorize much-needed research and development to combat the macadamia felted coccid and establish an area-wide integrated pest management plan in areas badly affected by this invasive pest. For years, these pest management plans have helped farmers across the country manage invasive pests in a sustainable, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective way.

My bill would build off this pattern of success by bringing together local stakeholders, researchers, and other key players as we search for comprehensive solutions to keep the macadamia felted coccid and other invasive species from destroying our local farms and this important part of our domestic agriculture industry.

In Hawaii, our macadamia nut industry employs thousands of people and is the economic lifeblood to many of our rural communities. Their jobs, their livelihood, and the vitality of our agriculture industry are at stake if we fail to act.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and empower our Nation's agriculture industry to fight back against these invasive harmful pests.

PERMANENT, FOREVER WARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I am now the only Republican remaining in Congress who voted against going to war in Iraq. For about 3 or 4 years, that was probably the most unpopular vote I ever cast. But slowly, slowly it became so that now probably it is the most popular vote I ever cast, because the American people do not want forever, permanent wars.

So, Madam Speaker, you can understand why I was very interested in two very recent columns that I read.

Adam Walinsky wrote in the September 21 Politico Magazine that he was a lifelong Democrat, former aid to John Kennedy, and former speechwriter for Robert Kennedy. He wrote, though, that he will be voting Republican in the Presidential race this year.

He said: ''But today's Democrats have become the Party of War: a home for arms merchants, mercenaries, academic war planners, lobbyists for every foreign intervention, promoters of color revolutions, failed generals . . .''

□ 1045

He added that ''Our first answer to trouble or opposition of any kind seems always to be a military movement or action.''

He wrote that Secretary Clinton, unlike the Kennedy brothers, has not sought peace, but ''instead she has pushed America into successive invasions, successive efforts at 'regime change.' ''

Perhaps worst of all, according to Walinsky, ''Her shadow War Cabinet brims with the architects of war and disaster for the past decades, the neocons who led us to our present pass, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, in Ukraine, unrepentant of all past errors, ready to resume it all with fresh trillions and fresh blood.''

Also, in yesterday's Washington Times, Jed Babbin, a former Deputy Secretary of Defense in the administration of the first George Bush, said the second George Bush made a terrible mistake allowing the neocons to lead him into nation building in the Middle East after he had spoken so strongly against such nation building when he was running for President. Secretary Babbin wrote that Islam is incompatible with democracy, and Iraq and Afghanistan—and I suppose these other countries where we are still sending troops—will go back the way they always have been when we leave, whether we stay 6 more months or 60 more years.

George Will wrote that the neocons were magnificently misnamed and really were the most radical people in Washington. These neocons have caused many thousands of young Americans to be killed or maimed for life. They should be ashamed, but they seem to have no shame.

The American people, Madam Speaker, I repeat, do not want permanent, forever wars. They want to do whatever it takes to win wars, get them over with, and go back to days of peace and prosperity.

REMEMBERING BATTALION CHIEF MICHAEL FAHY

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, yesterday there was an explosion in my district and yesterday New York City lost one of its bravest: FDNY Battalion Chief Michael Fahy, a 17-year veteran of the department and a father of three. He was a resident of Yonkers, New York, in my district, and a constituent of mine as well.

Fahy was responding to a house fire when the building exploded, taking Battalion Chief Fahy's life and wounding nine others, including another firefighter, seven NYPD officers, and one electrical worker. Thanks to these brave first responders, nobody else was hurt.

Every New Yorker mourns this loss today. Battalion Chief Fahy was a second-generation firefighter. His family's example is a reminder of the courage and dedication that the FDNY exemplifies.

We honor Battalion Chief Fahy and his family for their service and their sacrifice. I want to send along my personal prayers, thoughts, and condolences to his wife, his children, and the rest of his family. He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. Today and forever more, we will mourn his loss.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS D. FAULCONER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a decorated World War II Army liaison, an accomplished radio and television broadcaster, and my beloved great uncle, retired Lieutenant Colonel Francis D. Faulconer.

Soon after graduating from Lafayette High School in Lexington, Kentucky, Frank Faulconer enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 and was deployed to Europe in the Liaison G3 section of the first United States Army. In this capacity, he traveled with Combat Command A of the 3rd Army Spearhead Division from Meaux, France, to Rottgen, Germany.

He earned five Bronze Stars for his service in Normandy, northern France; Rhineland, Central Europe; and the Ardennes. He additionally was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for helping to escort the reserve elements of the Combat Command, at night, from the rear to the forward elements of the battle line.

In 1946, Faulconer enrolled at the University of Kentucky under the GI

Bill and earned a degree in oratory. He got his first start in broadcasting after he accepted a part-time job at radio station WKLX, where he became the station's official announcer to broadcast the Big Bands from 1948 to 1949 from Joyland Dance Casino.

In 1950, Faulconer joined the Officers' Reserve Corps, where he eventually retired from the Army Reserve in 1974 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Faulconer continued his broadcasting career by joining the WKYT Channel 27 news team in Lexington, where he became the station's first weatherman. He later transferred to Channel 36, where his career soared as a TV and weather broadcaster until 1986. There, he developed a reputation for having a melodious baritone voice with a colorful and entertaining style in delivering the daily weather forecast.

Faulconer then became radio station WKQQ's first weatherman, where he became known as Fearless Frank Faulconer, and known for his Fearless Frank's Five Day Forecasts until he retired in 2001.

During Faulconer's long and illustrious career, he received various awards both nationally and locally for his unique approach to weather broadcasting.

This year, on his 93rd birthday, June 16 was declared Frank Faulconer Day by the city of Lexington, Kentucky, honoring his years of service on radio, television, and as a World War II veteran.

I am proud of Lieutenant Colonel Faulconer's service to this country and for the many years of weather broadcasting. He has truly helped keep millions of Americans safe both at home and abroad. We recognize his service to our country, this true patriot and inspiration to us all.

END SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I rise to acknowledge the brave Houstonians' law enforcement from many different jurisdictions who came to the aid of nine individuals who were shot randomly by a shooter in the last couple of days in Houston in a southwest shopping center, a place where many go for groceries, visit small businesses, and do their daily business, where many people are at work. Out of nowhere came a shooter whose home was ultimately investigated, where many items of military apparel and a load of guns were there to provide fear, I guess, in his decision to go on a shooting rampage after having a calm dinner with his family the night before.

This was an attorney, and our law enforcement are still investigating. My appreciation to the work and the detailed work that they are doing, and as well my appreciation and applause for the resiliency of Houstonians who came to the aid of their neighbors. Then those who are recovering, I express my concern. But we will draw together and find a way to end this senseless violence and to begin to heal this Nation.

RUSSIA IS IMPACTING AND ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE FABRIC OF DEMOCRACY

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as well to make it very clear that we do not have to speculate as we begin to see unfolding the Russian hacking of a number of governmental entities and, yes, the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and many others.

There is no doubt that Russia is impacting and attempting to undermine the very fabric of democracy in this country. Now, I believe that we should engage with all nations the values of this Nation of democracy. The rights of freedom, a Declaration of Independence that guarantees unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are wonderful values, and we should not be afraid to engage with despotic regimes who disagree with us—Russia being one.

We should be alert and realize that, as we go into this election process, every well-informed citizen should be able to see something and say something. All of our law enforcement and intelligence community should be sensitive to the possible destruction and undermining of our democratic process.

Today it has been announced and determined that Russia did have something to do with the downing of that flight over Ukraine. How sad for those families and how hurting for the people of Ukraine to be able to know that they, as a sovereign nation, in a time that one would be advocating for peace and living harmoniously with their neighbors—that their very large neighbor, in addition to taking Crimea, would also be threatening their skies and their people. This is serious.

The electoral political system that we have come to depend upon requires us to be diligent without ceasing that every vote of every American is counted. However they vote, there should be no aftermath of a foreign entity having hacked into any process that would deny America her precious right to vote and the decision on those who will serve them and certainly the Presidency of the United States. Let no candidate be so close to the Russian apparatus that we do not follow the trail and investigate wherever it is necessary to ensure the sanctity of that process.

Let me also say that it is important, as this Congress begins to deal with the confusion of the continuing resolution, that it be noted that we have not addressed the question of gun violence, ending gun violence, closing the loophole that is so important in a background check that allows people to get guns because they get it without the background check being completed; or in the issue of terrorism, that those who are on the terrorist watch list have random access to buying guns.

Simple legislation that could be passed. I think it is crucial in America that we do so because the violence has many roots—housing, health care, poverty—but certainly it has the tool, and that is guns. That is automatic weapons like AK–47s and others more sophisticated.

America has a right to the Second Amendment, but the people of America have a right to safety and the prevention of gun violence in their community.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me also talk about Houston, Texas, and the tax day floods. It is important that the CR covers the floods of Houston and covers Baton Rouge, as well as the water crisis in Flint. Let us do what the American people ask us to come here for: to be an umbrella on a rainy day, helping people, coming to their aid, clean water in Flint, providing for the people in Greenspoint, the reimbursement of the city of Houston, and helping the people of Baton Rouge get on their feet. Let us help America as we should.

OBAMACARE IS FALLING APART

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this has been an interesting week for many of my constituents in Tennessee. Over 100,000 Tennesseeans were forced—100,000 Tennesseeans were forced off their healthcare plan. They did nothing wrong. It is not their fault.

What has happened is another of the Affordable Care Act's—or ObamaCare, as we call it—providers has said: Guess what. This is too expensive to offer a product.

And they have exited the marketplace.

Now, what we are seeing is exactly what we in Tennessee told you would happen with ObamaCare.

Why?

Because in Tennessee, we were the test case back in the midnineties for Hillary Clinton's grand healthcare experiment. HillaryCare became TennCare in Tennessee.

We knew that a product that was too expensive to afford was not going to be utilized and that eventually providers would drop out of the marketplace, eventually the networks would narrow, and eventually individuals would have a very difficult time accessing health care.

□ 1100

So, through no fault of their own, 100,000 Tennesseeans who are in the Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville areas are going to find that they have fewer choices in health care. They didn't get to keep the doctors whom they wanted or liked or had. They didn't get to keep the healthcare plans that they wanted or liked or had. Certainly, they were not saving $2,500 per

family on their health insurance. Quite the opposite has happened.

What we have before us now are thousands of Tennesseeans who are going to have to scramble to find health insurance because a product isn't offered. The costs continue to go up. The choices have begun to be eliminated and narrowed. The networks—the physicians you can go to for care—are fewer in number. The hospitals that you have the ability to go into to seek that care are fewer in number.

Why is that?

It is because the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, as we call it, is too expensive to afford, too expensive to have, too expensive to use, and—yes, indeed—too expensive for the insurance companies that are offering a product.

It is time for us—yes, indeed—repeal this—to admit that it was a mistake, to admit, like Tennessee did years ago, that it is too expensive, that it does not work, and to replace it with components, items, and ideas—many ideas that we have had in this Chamber for years, Mr. Speaker—such as portability with the across-State-line purchase of health insurance, liability reforms, and making certain that individuals can choose an insurance product and then be able to go see physicians where they live. Affordability and access—that is what we need in the marketplace. We continue to push those ideas forward.

To our Tennessee neighbors who are finding themselves without a health insurance option, we understand the plight that exists; and we, again, say it is time to repeal and replace ObamaCare.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Gene Hemrick, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Lord of Mercy, since the beginning of time You have sustained us with Your heartfelt love and care, a love and care that bonds us in friendship with You, with each other and the world.

Lord, may You bless Congress with a loving heart, which, more than anything else, has power to touch and move humankind and renew friendly unity that is the crux of America's strength.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, my community in south Florida will be dressing in pink and hosting a myriad of activities to support the millions of women and men who have been afflicted by this terrible disease. With our combined efforts to educate and encourage early detection, we can save lives.

A celebration of survivorship, Strides of Miami-Dade, put together by the American Cancer Society, is working toward groundbreaking research and patient services. This wonderful event will be taking place at the Miami Marlins Park on October 8.

The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation will also be hosting its annual Kick Event for Breast Cancer on October 13, and that will help advance breast cancer treatment and lab research.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone in south Florida to participate in these events around our community to support those who are fighting this disease, to honor victims, and to reminisce about those whom we have lost to breast cancer.

Let us make sure that we can redouble our efforts to defeat this terrible disease and continue at full force in order to do it.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this chart shows that the ratio of unemployed workers to job openings is at the lowest level since 2001. It shows that, in 2007, before the Great Recession, the ratio was 1.4 unemployed workers for every job opening.

Then, during the prior administration, it peaked at a staggering 6.6 unemployed workers to every job opening under former President Bush. Then a whole wave of Democratic policy initiatives took effect, and the ratio began to drop and drop and drop and drop. In our most recent data, which is as of July 2016, the ratio was 1.3 unemployed workers to every job opening.

I think we can sum up the recovery in 4 words: Thank you, President Obama.

REMEMBERING KYLER AUSTYN WILLIAMS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, the city of Springdale, Arkansas, is remembering the life of 17-year-old Kyler Austyn Williams, a promising young student athlete from Springdale High School who died this past Saturday in a vehicle accident.

He was an accomplished athlete, the star on his football team. The night before he died, Kyler caught 10 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns against a conference opponent. But, Mr. Speaker, he was also a terrific young man, outstanding student, spiritual leader, role model.

Our hearts are broken over his loss, and the entire Third District of Arkansas mourns with his parents, Tysha and Rodney Williams; his stepmother, Kimmy; his sisters, Makenzy, Kayden, and Lily; and his brothers, Bralen, Hudsyn, and Parker.

Kyler's death leaves us all with an empty feeling and struggling to cope with such a tragic outcome. And when Springdale High lines up against its crosstown rival, Springdale Har-Ber, on Friday night, number 3 in red won't be on the field, but he will be on the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved him.

May God bless those he leaves behind.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIMON PERES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Israel in mourning the loss of Shimon Peres, a statesman, a lover of his country, but a lover of people around the world, one who, in 1976, won a Nobel Peace Prize for laying out one of the unique and important although, unfortunately, short-lived framework for peace. He was one who believed in a two-state solution, respected by Israel and its people, but also the leaders and people around the world.

I had the privilege of meeting him on a number of occasions, and I might say that his calm voice was a welcome intrusion in, sometimes, a world of discord.

Although he stood by his nation in time of war, and may, in times of analysis, have many thoughts about his leadership as President and Prime Minister, several times, and many other positions, one can say that clearly he loved his country, but he loved the people of the world and he loved peace.

I give my deepest sympathy, again, to the people of Israel, his family and friends. We in the world and, of course, this Nation have lost a dear and beloved friend who truly believed in peace.

NEW BOMBSHELLS OF THE CLINTON INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on late Friday afternoon, to avoid the American media, the FBI released over 180 pages concerning the 46 interviews of investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails. The Daily Caller has provided ''12 Biggest Bombshells in FBI's Clinton Investigation Notes.'' A few of the most notable include:

Obama's top negotiator for the dangerous Iranian Nuclear Deal may have had her private email hacked. She also admitted to using her private email to conduct government business.

Secretary Clinton's lawyer asked about a computer technician to wipe out computer data in 2013.

President Obama emailed Ms. Clinton at least 18 times while claiming he did not know she had an email server, which are now kept secret.

The State Department computer technician was against housing Clinton's server in her basement.

These are just four of the revelations of the investigation. It is clear that Secretary Clinton's actions displayed a lack of judgment, putting American families at risk of attack.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ENDING HYDE AMENDMENT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, for over 40 years the Hyde amendment has been the flagship in the assault on a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. Because of Hyde, a low-income woman is able to use her Medicaid for her healthcare needs, but not in one area—abortion.

In effect, a woman on Medicaid who faces this tough decision may be forced to forgo groceries, her utility bills, or her rent just to pay for the procedure. Even worse, she could be driven to a dangerous, back-alley abortion or seek an unlicensed practitioner. And if she cannot find the funds for the procedure and goes on to give birth, she is at greater risk of sliding deeper into poverty.

That is why I am a cosponsor of the EACH Woman Act, which would ensure that every woman has access to abortion coverage, regardless of how much she earns. We must ensure that every American woman can access her constitutional right to an abortion. We must end the Hyde amendment.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW THOMPSON

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

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Staff Sergeant Matthew Thompson of Irvine, who was tragically killed on August 23 while on patrol in Afghanistan.

He enlisted in the Army in March of 2011, and though this was his first deployment to Afghanistan, he had also been deployed to Iraq to combat the Islamic State. He was awarded over a dozen medals in his military career and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

Staff Sergeant Thompson was just 28 years old, and he leaves behind his wife of 5 years, Rachel. Our prayers remain with her, his family, friends, and fellow soldiers.

Staff Sergeant Thompson gave everything to protect our freedom. It is because of him, because of his service, because of his sacrifice, that we live in the most free nation on Earth. We will always remember this, and we will remain forever grateful for his selfless sacrifice.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIMON PERES

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep sadness on the passing of former Israeli President and Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Shimon Peres was devoted to the cause of the Jewish state and worked tirelessly to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East.

He was the founding father of the State of Israel and remained, throughout his life, one of its greatest champions. He was the central architect of the Oslo Accords and was respected around the world for his strong leadership as Prime Minister and President of Israel. His example should be an inspiration to us all, as he fought so long for peace.

My thoughts are with his family and friends as well as the people of Israel, who have lost a beloved leader.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AUSTIN CURRY

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a local hero in my district, Mr. Austin Curry, who passed away on September 18 at the age of 86.

Friends remember him as a ''young soul who spent days in prayer or sharing his sunny demeanor and faith in prolific Facebook posts.''

With a full life devoted to God and service to his country, Mr. Curry was an Air Force veteran who served in the Korean war.

As a passionate advocate in the elderly community, Mr. Curry served in leadership roles for the Florida Silver-Haired Legislature, the Hillsborough County Hospital Association, and the Health Council of West Central Florida. He also served as a delegate to the White House's 2005 Conference on Aging.

His accomplishments and the lives he touched will remain in our memories.

IT IS TIME FOR ACTION TO END BREAST CANCER

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and it is estimated that, this year, almost a quarter of a million women will be diagnosed with the disease, including, already, a close friend of mine. Thousands of those women live in my home State of Iowa.

It is time for action, and passage of the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act is a great next step. This bipartisan bill, which has over 270 cosponsors, would establish a commission aimed at ending breast cancer by January 1, 2020. That commission would look for gaps in the public and private sector where investment is needed and then recommend initiatives and strategies to work toward finding a cure for

breast cancer, discovering the cause, and identifying preventative measures. It is an important bill in the fight against breast cancer, and I am proud to support it.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the volunteers of Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 for continuing to advocate for these critical issues.

□ 1215

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the month of October is quickly approaching. As you know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to shed light on a battle many women and men in this Nation have to endure.

According to the American Cancer Society, almost 250,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will have been diagnosed in the United States among women this year.

Mr. Speaker, this statistic is heartbreaking. There are very few people who have not been affected by this horrific disease. We have already lost too many family members, neighbors, folks in our communities, and friends to the painful fight, the reality that is this disease.

In Congress, we must stand by our brave women and men tirelessly fighting. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have joined over 270 of my colleagues as a cosponsor of H.R. 1197, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act. This critical, bipartisan bill would establish a commission to help end breast cancer by 2020.

Through facilitating public-private partnerships, encouraging advancements in promising research, and coordinating research activities, this commission would help to get us closer to a cure and give patients and families hope.

I am here today to honor those who have fought this fight and won, and I am humbled and saddened to remember those who have lost it. Those affected and recovering from breast cancer deserve to know their elected Representatives stand with them.

Actions speak louder than words. It is time to make real progress on the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act and finally get the supporting bill signed into law.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIMON PERES

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the world in mourning the loss of Shimon Peres, former prime minister and president of Israel and one of the country's last surviving founding fathers.

Peres dedicated his life to the difficult challenge of establishing a lasting peace for Israel and its neighbors. He negotiated the landmark Oslo Accords and, in 1994, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work and commitment to ending ongoing violence.

Near the end of his presidency, I had the honor of sitting down with President Peres at the Peres Center for Peace on a trip to Israel. I was struck by his vision for the future and his commitment to peace no matter what the obstacles.

For seven decades, Shimon Peres has been a trusted partner to the United States and helped to forge the unbreakable alliance between our two countries.

Two years ago, we held a ceremony here in the Capitol to award him with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian award Congress can bestow and the first to go to a sitting president of Israel.

As the world mourns the death of this visionary leader, let us ensure that his legacy lives on and recommit ourselves to a lasting peace for Israel and our entire world.

OBAMACARE'S CO-OPS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week the House took action to provide relief to hundreds of thousands of Americans who lost their insurance due to yet another flawed piece of the President's healthcare law.

Despite spending over $2 billion in startup taxpayer money, 17 of ObamaCare's 23 CO-OPs have collapsed, leaving half a million individuals without coverage.

This is a double blow for many Americans who were already forced to purchase insurance through these CO-OPs after losing their own plans and now are left with two options: either quickly find adequate coverage and face paying their deductible twice, or pay a steep penalty at the end of the year—all due to the law's own failure.

Meanwhile, these CO-OPs, sold as a public option feature in ObamaCare, showed warning signs of insolvency since their inception, plagued with flawed business models and inept management.

The bill we passed, H.R. 954, simply shields individuals who lost their insurance as a result of one of these failed CO-OPs from being penalized under the individual mandate through the end of the year.

On top of higher premiums, rising costs, and difficulty accessing care, Americans should not be penalized for the outright failure of a program that is preventing compliance.

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. The National Civil Rights Museum is located at the former Lorraine Motel, the site of the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From that horrific incident rose from the ashes a phoenix in a wonderful story of the efforts and the achievements of many—both Black and White—to achieve a more perfect union in the civil rights for people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everybody who has a chance to go to Memphis and tour the civil rights museum and pay tribute to the civil rights soldiers who made America more what it was intended to be and make it a more perfect union.

CONGRATULATING OMAK AND EPHRATA FFA CHAPTERS

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to two central Washington FFA chapters that recently received national awards for their creativity, leadership, and commitment to community.

FFA expects their members to be leaders on campus and foster school community. In this respect, the Omak High School FFA has been honored as a finalist for the National Model of Innovation Award for development of their officer mascot social media challenge. Through this campaign, the Omak FFA helped to raise chapter morale and school awareness of FFA.

Not to be outdone, the Ephrata High School FFA is a finalist for the National Model of Innovation Award for community development. By partnering with the local rotary, Ephrata FFA raised crop signs next to fields throughout the region so passing drivers could take interest and learn what was growing in the fields.

As an FFA alumnus myself, I am proud to see the good work that these young men and women are doing and wish them the best of luck at the FFA national convention in October.

BELLAMY COMMONS REVITALIZES COMMUNITY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, the Bellamy Commons will emerge as a new community fixture on Jefferson Avenue in Buffalo, New York.

Upon opening, the Bellamy Commons will become home for many, with all 30 affordable apartments already filled. This space will also serve as the new home for the Buffalo Black Achievers Museum to share success stories of Buffalo African Americans.

This project was a collaboration of Federal, State, local, and private investment along with the aid of over $4 million in Federal low-income housing tax credits. These credits encourage development and construction in communities that are often neglected and increase affordable housing options.

Developments like the Bellamy Commons have the power to create, encourage, and empower more residential and commercially integrated neighborhoods. A full community effort is something we are no stranger to in western New York. Over the years, it has been a key in revitalizing our region.

It is time that we begin to see the same development and much-needed investment in Buffalo's east side neighborhood.

NATIONAL HUNGER ACTION MONTH

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hunger Action Month. Throughout September, families and advocates, volunteers and experts, and community leaders and elected officials have worked together to highlight the problem of hunger in this country.

This summer, I had the privilege of seeing some of the great work being done on the front lines in Indiana's Second District, and I brought their insights back to Congress.

This month, the Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee, which I chair, held its 17th hearing of the 114th Congress examining the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. We looked at innovative approaches States are taking to help those who fall into the safety net find good jobs and lift themselves out of poverty. These hearings have laid the groundwork for real reform.

Mr. Speaker, no one in this Nation should go hungry, and that is why House Republicans have a plan—a better way—to fight poverty. Our plan puts new ideas to the test so we can stop the cycle of poverty and end hunger in America.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, here we are a few short weeks before national elections, so it is a good time to take account of the outlandish flood of money pouring into the Presidential campaign. The American people don't want this out-of-control spending anymore.

Why should it cost 16 times more to conduct an election in 2016 than it did in 1980 in inflation-adjusted dollars? The last time I looked, we still have just one President, 100 Senators, and 435 Congressional Districts. So why the outlandish increase in campaign spending?

The public gets sick and tired of the TV campaign ads. It costs a fortune. All the while, the public is becoming more disillusioned and distrustful of our very instruments of government.

We need campaign finance reform. It is far too much that candidates have to raise today. Actually, in 1980, it cost $107 million for President Carter and President Reagan to conduct that Presidential campaign. Already this year, $1.6 billion has been spent—16 times as much as 1980.

It is no surprise that, of the largest givers of the financial industry, not one of them has gone to jail after the financial crash of 2008.

My constitutional amendment, H.J. Res. 38, grants Congress and our States the power to set limits on the amounts of contributions and expenditures with respect to candidates in Federal, State, and local elections.

So when the Presidential candidates pass through your town, ask them exactly what they intend to do about out-of-control campaign spending and when they intend to do it. How about making campaign finance reform the first bill they send up to Congress in 2017 as H.R. 1.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with Breast Cancer Awareness Month right around the corner, the time is now to show American families that we are working to end breast cancer. In fact, we have a bill, H.R. 1197, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act, which has 273 bipartisan cosponsors.

It should be brought to the floor immediately for debate and a vote. Why? Because even with so much advancement in medical research, a woman's chance of developing breast cancer has increased from one in eleven in 1975 to one in eight today. This year, over 40,000 women and over 400 men will die of breast cancer in this country alone.

H.R. 1197 will focus on identifying strategies for the primary prevention of breast cancer and identifying methods to prevent breast cancer metastasis, thereby saving lives. With such broad bipartisan support, there is no reason why the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act should not be brought up for a vote as quickly as possible.

I want to thank the large majority of my colleagues for cosponsoring the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act, and I encourage the Republican leadership to bring H.R. 1197 to the floor right away.

CONGRATULATING U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the United States Olympic Team, some of whom are visiting Capitol Hill today.

This year's team won 121 medals overall to lead the world for the sixth straight games and win the most medals in U.S. history. They won 46 gold, 37 silver, and 38 bronze. Notably, 61 of the medals were brought home by American women.

Overall, 210 American athletes contributed to the medal count, including 32 multiple medalists and 13 who won multiple Gold Medals. Of the 27 sports in which U.S. athletes competed, the U.S. brought home hardware in 20, including Overland Park's own Jack Sock taking home the gold in mixed doubles in tennis with his partner, Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Mr. Speaker, this is the most decorated team in U.S. history. I want to congratulate all of the athletes for their amazing performances on behalf of our Nation and thank them for making all of us proud here at home in the United States of America.

□ 1230

VETERANS OWED A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, our Nation owes our veterans a debt of gratitude for putting their lives on the line, but too often, all we do is pay lip service to our military heroes.

This past weekend, I hosted a veterans housing symposium, where I connected veterans with housing professionals and experts to answer questions about their housing benefits, mortgage options, and tax exemptions, and displacement assistance. Our veterans have earned our Nation's gratitude, and I urge this Congress to do more to serve our military families.

In mentioning gratitude and service, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge an outstanding and brilliant servant, Mimi Mesirow, who is moving on after 20 years of service to the Second Congressional District of Illinois.

Mimi was an original hire of the Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr., and was kind enough to stay on and help me launch my grant operation when I came to Congress. Mimi secured millions of dollars in funding for the Second District

and left her mark in making it a better place to live.

On behalf of Second District families and a grateful Congress, thank you, Mimi, for a job well done.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 897 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 897

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes. No further amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute referred to in the first section of House Resolution 892 shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment pursuant to this resolution the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from September 29, 2016, through November 11, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 7. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar or legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I told you yesterday that I would be back down here today with part 2 of the Water Resources Development Act bill.

This structured rule in House Resolution 897 provides for further consideration of H.R. 5303. This rule today will make an additional 19 amendments in order. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, yesterday we gathered here and passed a rule that made 25 amendments in order to this legislation. To put that in perspective, this was a bill that passed unanimously out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, on which I serve; and the Rules Committee gathered, and in its wisdom has now made 44 additional adjustments and improvements in order that have been recommended by Members of this Chamber.

This rule also provides, Mr. Speaker, for closed consideration of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. That is a bill that requires a 6-month delay in the effective date of the Department of Labor's new overtime rules. It moves the current effective date of December 1, 2016, out to June 1, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I know you have heard about this issue from your constituents, as every Member in this Chamber has. The Department of Labor, in its wisdom, sought to raise the maximum wage at which overtime rules would apply, and effectively doubled that wage rate. That is all going to go into effect on December 1.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is a single Member of this Chamber that doesn't believe those numbers should be adjusted, but to double them overnight with virtually no warning to the small business community, the education community, or the nonprofit community is not the right way to govern. This is going to impact not just the hardworking Americans who run these institutions, it is going to impact the hardworking Americans who are dependent on these jobs and are currently doing the heavy lifting that feeds the Nation's economic engine.

Delaying this rule for 6 months to give us an opportunity to either come together as a body and make changes or to allow small businesses and nonprofits and educational institutions to begin to adjust is just the right thing to do. You will hear more about that, Mr. Speaker, from one of my colleagues on the Rules Committee, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who doesn't just serve on the Rules Committee, she also serves on the Education and the Workforce Committee that has jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, again, if we pass this rule, we will have an opportunity to not just complete work on the WRDA bill with the 19 additional amendments, but also to move forward to protect small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, last night in the Rules Committee, after a year of Democratic calls to address the terrible water crisis in Flint, Michigan, House Republicans finally moved forward an amendment offered by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), to provide assistance to the families of Flint.

It was a year ago this month that we learned of the man-made drinking water crisis in Flint, which exposed thousands of our fellow Americans to contaminated water. These are real people, Mr. Speaker. Families with children—9,000 children under the age of 6—that have been drinking and bathing in poisonous water for over 2½ years. And even today, these families still do not have access to clean water from their taps.

The fact that it has taken a year for Congress to stand up and do the right thing, to finally allow us to have a vote for the families of Flint, is astonishing. America is supposed to be a place where we look out for one another and lift our neighbors up when they are in need. Those are the values that define our country. As the people's representatives here in Congress, we need to honor those values. Whenever an American community is hit by a disaster, we come together. This should include not just hurricanes and earthquakes, but also man-made disasters, like the one that Flint continues to face today.

I thank the leadership, especially our leadership, our Leader PELOSI, and the persistence of my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE). I am pleased that we are finally set to consider a measure to authorize the $170 million for the repair and replacement of infrastructure in Flint. I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will enthusiastically support Mr. KILDEE.

But this is just a first step, Mr. Speaker. While the amendment we are set to consider today, if adopted, authorizes these funds, it is important that we come together to ensure that the much-needed funding actually reaches Flint as soon as possible.

The Senate's Water Resources Development Act, which passed that Chamber earlier this month by an overwhelming vote of 95–3, includes $220 million in relief for Flint. As we advance our water bill this week and set up a conference on the two measures, it is imperative that we keep funding for Flint a top priority.

So while I am pleased that we were able to reach a bipartisan agreement on a vote for Flint, I am disappointed, however, that the House Republican leadership is still advancing a terrible, misguided bill this week to, once again, undermine regulations put forward by the administration to help working families.

With all of the work left to be done on the most pressing issues facing our communities, I cannot, for the life of me, understand why my friends on the other side of the aisle are so intent on denying long overdue compensation to millions of their constituents in payment for their hard work and long hours.

This rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 6094, legislation designed to delay the Department of Labor's new overtime rule, which increases the overtime salary threshold from $23,660 a year to $47,476 a year. With the Department of Labor's update to the Fair Labor Standards Act, an additional 4.2 million salaried workers are eligible for overtime pay, and 262,000 working people in my home State of Massachusetts will benefit.

American workers have waited long enough to get their fair day's pay for a long day's work that they deserve. This Republican bill will take $600 million out of the pockets of 4.2 million American workers who would have gained overtime protections on December 1. This is $600 million that they will never see if we delay these important updates for another 6 months. That means, for example, the workers will have less money to spend on holiday presents for their families and less time to help their kids with their schoolwork and extracurricular activities.

The simple truth is that this Republican bill is a cynical ploy to, once again, try to stop the rule from ever, ever going into effect. My Republican friends like to lecture families in poverty about what they are doing wrong. We hear it all the time on this floor. They tell them that they need to work harder to get ahead. These families are already working hard, very often working overtime, but they are not receiving the pay that they deserve for putting in the extra time.

□ 1245

Republicans like to say that they think hard work should be rewarded. This is it. This overtime protection is a way for us to reward the hard work of millions of Americans who are doing all of the right things. This is a way for us to ensure that every American who puts in a hard day's work is able to earn the fair pay that he deserves. Only in this place would that be considered a radical idea.

How can Members of Congress lecture millions of hardworking American families who are struggling to escape poverty when they won't even support a measure that rewards them for the hard work that they are putting in every day to help their own families get ahead?

Speaker RYAN has a lot to say about fixing poverty—rolling out a whole agenda to convince us that, somehow, he is serious about making progress in helping families. So why on Earth would Speaker RYAN and the House Republicans stand in the way of hardworking families receiving the fair pay that they deserve? That doesn't sound like a party that truly cares about helping every family succeed.

America's working families are the ones who lay the foundation that makes our economy strong. It is simply shameful that denying hardworking families the overtime protections they deserve is something that Republicans think should be a top priority of this Congress—so pressing, in fact, that the House Republicans considered this bill in the Rules Committee as an ''emergency measure.''

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing and defeat this bill. It is an antiworker, antifamily bill, and it would only make it harder for America's hardworking families to get ahead. Our economy only works when hard work is rewarded, and it is time for Congress to stand up for those values and to support working families.

It is time for us to do our jobs, Mr. Speaker. We need to be providing funds to fight the terrible Zika virus and the opioid crisis. We should be addressing the gun violence that is plaguing our communities. We ought to be finalizing a continuing resolution to ensure that our government remains open come Saturday, and I hope that the Senate will vote on that soon so that we can consider it.

We need to get much-needed assistance to the families of Flint. Again, I think it is a stain on this Congress' reputation that this leadership has dragged its feet for so long on this issue of providing funds to the residents of Flint. This is the United States of America. People ought to know, when they get water out of their faucets, that they are not poisoning themselves or their kids. These are emergencies, Mr. Speaker, and not what this bill is all about that my friends are bringing to the floor.

What they are trying to do is to actually score some points with some in the business community who don't want to reward the work of the people who work in their companies, and I think that that is unfortunate. We ought to stand up for working families. They are the ones who need help. What this bill would do is make that less likely.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the vice chair of the Rules Committee and a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Ms. FOXX. I thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on this rule.

Mr. Speaker, all too often, the executive branch enacts policies that sound wonderful but impose unintended consequences and burdens that make the lives of hardworking Americans more difficult. The issue underlying H.R. 6094 is another tragic example of that pattern.

The Department of Labor acted in May to revise overtime regulations covering millions of American workers. This regulation will require companies to reclassify a significant portion of their workforce, eliminating flexibility in work times, bonus compensation, and opportunities to advance. It will also impose significant compliance costs that will only serve to further bury job creators under red tape.

While members of both political parties want to see all Americans earn more, we cannot ignore the financial consequences of this rule. By dramatically increasing the number of employees who do not qualify for an exemption under the regulation, the Department is significantly increasing the cost of delivering services and is making it more difficult to maintain existing staffing levels.

In plain English, this regulation could cost hardworking Americans hours at work or even their jobs. Entire sectors could be less profitable with a predictable result for the employees who are doing that work. These

impacts do not fall solely on frequently and unfairly demonized big business. They affect nonprofits and schools as well as local and State governments. This will raise the cost of operation for nearly every organization and company in the country.

I have heard from small-business owners, nonprofits, and universities across North Carolina that are deeply concerned about this rule. For example, an independent supermarket owner said that this rule would ''effectively put him out of business. Most of our managers make less than $40,000 a year. When you make only one penny on the dollar net profits, this would force us to raise prices and make us uncompetitive against Walmart and other national chains.''

For many employees, the biggest impact this legislation will have on them is the loss of prized flexibility and advancement opportunities. No longer will they be able to work flexible hours to cover children's doctors' appointments or other family needs. They will be forced to clock in and out, lose aspects of their positions that provide positive morale, and be reclassified into positions that do not provide the same satisfaction.

It is fair to say that our Nation's overtime rules need to be modernized, but the Department of Labor's extreme and partisan approach will lead to damaging consequences that the American people simply cannot afford. That is why I cosponsored H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act, which would provide a 6-month delay in the implementation of this rule in order to allow the small businesses, nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, and corporations confronting it with desperately needed time to prepare and make changes to accommodate the needs of their employees.

The rule before us today will provide for the consideration of this important legislation, and I commend both of them to my colleagues for their support.

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

I would like to point out for my colleagues that, while many of my colleagues who support this legislation argue that the new overtime rule would overburden nonprofits or educational institutions, I think we need to point out a few facts here—most importantly, that that is just not the case. The overtime rule provides exemptions for nonprofit charitable organizations without sizable commercial activities. The overtime rule also provides educational institutions exemptions for teachers, coaches, graduate and undergraduate students, and administrative personnel.

I just want to repeat one thing that I said in my opening. I am really amazed when my Republican colleagues routinely come to the floor and lecture poor people and people who are struggling in poverty. They regularly come to the floor and demonize people in this country who are on benefits, like SNAP—putting food on the table. You always hear, ''You ought to work.'' ''You ought to work harder.'' Of the people on SNAP, for example, who are able to work, the majority of them work, but work doesn't pay enough to get them out of poverty. All that is being suggested by this rule from the Department of Labor is that people ought to get paid what they deserve. They ought to be able to earn enough to be able to have a decent life and to get out of poverty.

I know what my friends are trying to do. They are saying it is only a 6-month delay. They are hoping that their candidate for President—God forbid—would win the Presidency and would, basically, null and void any modernization of the overtime rules. We ought to be concerned more about people in this country who are working hard and who are not able to make ends meet. I think my colleagues ought to know there are exemptions in this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have waited long enough to update our Nation's overtime pay rules. After years of debate and regulatory review, proposed rules and final rules, it is time to ensure that Americans are paid for the hours they work.

When I go home to my district, I hear how hard it is for working women and men to meet their families' basic needs. Americans need a raise. The Republican majority has blocked any vote to raise the minimum wage, and they have blocked bills to provide women with equal pay for equal work. Did you know that working single mothers are paid about 57 cents on the dollar that men are paid right now? Today's bill will take $600 million in earned overtime pay from 4.2 million working men and women. Half a century ago, 60 percent of salaried employees qualified for overtime pay; today, only 7 percent do. This is because we did not update overtime rules until this administration stepped forward.

We have heard the arguments for inaction and delay—that it is too hard for businesses, the false argument about nonprofits; ''this is happening too fast'' is another argument. They don't hold up. It has been 12 years since the overtime rule was changed, nearly 3 years since President Obama asked for action, and more than a year since the proposed rule was issued. The Department of Labor reviewed more than 270,000 comments, and it changed its proposal as a result of those comments. It has provided flexibility for businesses, and it has lowered the salary threshold. The Department of Labor has been responsive to concerns, and now it is time for the House of Representatives to be responsive to the concerns and the needs of working families.

In my home State of Illinois, nearly 194,000 working men and women and their families would be helped by overtime protections. They shouldn't have to wait any longer. Extra work should mean extra pay. It is a simple matter of fairness. Workers who are hired full time should not be paid the same salary whether they work 40 hours a week or 60 hours a week. They should either be paid for the hours they work or be able to spend those extra hours with their families.

Many Americans are balancing their jobs with caring for children and aging parents. Delaying the Department of Labor's update to overtime protections is unfair to those workers and their families.

It is really time now to get on with it, to move forward. I urge my colleagues to reject today's rule and vote against this bill. Let these long-overdue overtime rules—overtime pay—for Americans take effect.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), a member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice today in support of this rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 6094, which is the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

In recent months, I have heard—and, I am sure, the Speaker has as well—from a growing number of constituents who are gravely concerned about the impact that the Department of Labor's new one-size-fits-all overtime rule would have on their jobs, would have on their businesses, as well as would have on nonprofit organizations.

When the rule goes into effect on December 1, it will impose enormous new costs on businesses, lifting the cap of workers who are eligible for overtime pay from $23,600 to $47,476. I admit, on its face, this sounds like a real benefit for workers; however, the impacts, likely, will be devastating. Small businesses and nonprofits that are confronted with this new burden will be faced with some very difficult choices: having to pay thousands of dollars in additional labor costs, they end up having to limit their employees' hours; moving salaried workers to hourly positions; or, even worse, laying off workers.

□ 1300

Worse than that, the Department of Labor has made no attempt to make this rule workable for small business. There is no phase-in. On December 1, it will hit every business, every school, and every nonprofit in America full force, just like a freight train.

The rule was not curtailed to geography either. It will take effect in the Seattle metropolitan area, where the

annual mean wage is around $61,000, the same way it will impact the Yakima area, where that annual mean wage is just over $41,000.

The way the Department of Labor went about issuing this very flawed one-size-fits-all rule just isn't right. H.R. 6094—which I was proud to cosponsor, and I thank Congressman WALBERG for introducing—would simply delay the rule for 6 months so that we can work with the Department of Labor as well as stakeholders to address this issue in a responsible, workable way.

Sadly, to not adopt this delay will result in job losses for the very people the rule was intended to help: your constituents and mine.

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

Let me just make a comment for the benefit of my colleagues before I yield to the next speaker, and that is about this rule.

This is a closed rule. Again, this is another pattern that my Republican friends seem to have developed since they have taken over the House; and that is, basically shutting down debate and shutting down the opportunity for Members to have an opportunity to express themselves.

This bill was noticed in the Rules Committee, I think on Monday, and we did the rule yesterday. Members didn't even know this was coming up. So to bring a bill like this to the floor under a closed process I think is unfortunate. It denies Members on both sides of the aisle an opportunity to offer different points of view and to have a vigorous debate.

Many of us believe that this Congress ought to do more to help strengthen opportunities and benefits for those in the middle class. We believe that more people ought to have the opportunity to get into the middle class. That is why we are fighting for a livable wage, yet we can't even bring that to the floor. The only things that seem to get to the floor are tax breaks for big businesses or repeals of the Affordable Care Act or bills like this that would basically take the pay that has been earned by workers away from them.

Again, I think this kind of illustrates where the priorities of this Republican Congress really are. I mean, they are not with working people. They are with those who are privileged and those at the very top. And my hope is that maybe after this election, we can get some changes made where we can get back to doing the people's business, not just the rich people's business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GRAHAM).

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with deep disappointment that the Rules Committee didn't make in order any of my amendments to improve the management and health of the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers.

Floridians are incredibly frustrated that the Apalachicola River is dying because of mismanagement and overuse upstream. Just this year, it was named one of the country's most endangered rivers.

Two years ago, in a rare show of collaboration and bipartisanship on this very issue, Members from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, agreed to language that actually acknowledged the mismanagement and encouraged the States to stop the arguing and work together to find a solution. What a novel concept, but even that tiny compromise is being stricken in this bill. We have an egregious problem that my amendment would have fixed, and this Congress won't even allow it to be discussed.

I am well aware that other States involved in this issue have a lot at stake. It is infuriating that other States won't recognize what is at risk in Florida. There are people all over the country, even some of you in this Congress, who spend time in the region and enjoy the Apalachicola's beauty and resources. It is shameful and shortsighted that we are letting it die because of politics and dysfunction in this House.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I would tell my friend from Massachusetts that I do not have any further speakers remaining, and I am prepared to close when he is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question; and if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would allow those with outstanding student debt to refinance their existing high interest rate loans to lower interest rates. Mr. Speaker, this legislation gives us an opportunity to provide immediate relief to those struggling with student loan debt.

You know, when interest rates go down, people can refinance their home mortgages. Why can't we extend that same ability to people with high student loan rates?

Everybody says that we want to make sure that everybody who wants a college education ought to be able to get one, yet we make it very difficult for people to be able to afford one. The debt that is accumulated—and especially the interest on that debt that is accumulated—is very, very difficult for people to absorb when they get out of school.

So that is why Democrats have been asking time and time again for us to address issues like that, college affordability. How do we ease the burden on our young people who are trying to get a college education?

So rather than bringing up legislation that basically will not increase the overtime salary threshold, thereby denying people who are working the ability to have a little bit of extra cash in their pockets when they work overtime—that is what this is all about, and we are actually punishing working people—maybe we ought to do something to actually help working families.

If you vote ''no'' on the previous question, we will be able to have a debate and a vote on this. I hope that not just Democrats, but Republicans as well will see that it is important for us to address this issue of college affordability. I, again, urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote ''no'' on the previous question.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I was just with a group for lunch, and I was talking about all of the amazing things that we are able to do in here together. It really is amazing. I think back on what has become known as the Bush tax cuts.

You may remember, Mr. Speaker, we had President Bush; he had a Republican Senate; he had a Republican House; and he was trying to provide tax relief for the American people. But because of the way the rules work around here and it takes a lot of votes to get work done, he was not able to make that tax policy permanent. He didn't have enough votes. Republicans were running the entire show, but he couldn't get enough agreement on tax relief for Americans to make that tax policy permanent.

You, me, Mr. MCGOVERN, and President Obama, we got together and we made that tax policy permanent for 99 percent of Americans. We did together what Republicans couldn't do alone.

My friends from the other side of the aisle often talk about infrastructure and how important it is to America, and they are right every single time they do it, Mr. Speaker. But when they passed a trillion-dollar stimulus bill that I opposed with every fiber of my being, we didn't see infrastructure grow in this country; we saw dollars get squandered. They controlled the White House, the U.S. House, the U.S. Senate. They controlled every single branch of government, and they were not able to succeed at creating the kind of infrastructure improvements that every American knows that we need.

But you know who did, Mr. Speaker?

You, me, Mr. MCGOVERN with President Obama in this divided Congress and divided government, we got together and passed the longest surface transportation funding bill this country has seen since the 1990s. We did that together. I could go down the list:

education, water resources, taxes, regulation. The list goes on and on and on of things, when we sat down and when we talked to one another, we were able to get passed.

You may remember, Mr. Speaker, we were down here yesterday on the House floor. We were talking about the situation in Flint. We were talking about amendments that were not made in order. And word came down that the only reason they weren't made in order is because we are just a bunch of racists here in the House of Representatives. The only reason that they weren't made in order was because Republicans have no conscience, is what we heard from the other side of the aisle.

I will ask anyone in this Chamber: Who thinks that gets us closer to a solution? Who thinks it does?

It pushes us further apart not just as an institution here, but as a Nation of citizens who care about one another.

So what happened after that, Mr. Speaker?

We went back to the drawing board together. We worked together, and we are back here today together with an amendment to address the situation in Flint.

How?

Not with a nongermane amendment, as it was yesterday. Not with an amendment that tries to deal with another committee's jurisdiction, as it did yesterday. But with an amendment that is squarely within the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on which I serve and from which this bill comes today.

I know it is an election year, and I know that as much as constituents say they don't like negative ads, they show up and vote based on them every single time. So I know that it would be easy for my colleagues to conclude that the best thing to do running up to an election is to come down here to the House floor and denigrate absolutely everyone who doesn't agree with them. It is not that we have policy disagreements, Mr. Speaker; it is that you must be a scoundrel, they would say. It is not that we have policy disagreements; it is that you must not have a conscience, they will say. It is not that we have policy disagreements; it is that you don't care.

It makes me sad because, as I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of this body on a personal level, and I know every single one of them cares. We are down here today doing something that matters, and I don't know why folks aren't taking a victory lap for our successes together. I don't know why they want to continue to tear at the fabric that makes this Nation great. Caring about each other is what we do. It is a legitimate disagreement about how to care.

My friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) just talked about student loans. I have this conversation with every single high school class I visit with, Mr. Speaker: How do we love you best from Washington, D.C.? Do we give you all the money you can possibly borrow so you can go anywhere in the country you want to go to get that bachelor's degree with which you may not be able to find a job and you now have a mortgage-sized debt? Or do we not lend you that money? Do we create work-study programs? Do we create co-op programs? Do we put you to work in contact with employers so that when you leave school, you have no debt and real skills and real experience?

It is a fair disagreement. Some folks may think you love people more by giving them all the free money they can handle and the mortgage debt that goes with it. Other folks think you love folks by giving them real-world experience, real-world skills, and a real employer to talk to.

I don't think that you hate children if you make that wrong decision. I think that we are having a discussion about how to love on those children.

Mr. Speaker, what we are down here doing today is not about stepping on low-income Americans. We could have a better debate about this issue if that wasn't what folks would come down and perpetuate. It is undeniable—and every single Member of this institution has seen it back home. It is undeniable that real working families are showing up on our doorstep, saying: Congressman, there is a problem; I need you to fix it.

The administration just moved forward and doubled—doubled—the wage for which you now qualify for overtime. Now, in my part of the world—we are not New York City; we are not Los Angeles, California; we are not San Francisco. $45,000 a year in my part of the world is what a manager makes. It is what a manager is going to make—a manager.

What the Department of Labor has said is: You know what? Overtime—which is what is paid to workers, not management. Salary is paid to management; hourly pay to workers. What the Department of Labor has said is: You know what? We are going to have a one-size-fits-all solution because, clearly, people living in small town Georgia should be regulated by the same rules as people living in downtown New York City. Surely, if we are going to fight poverty, what works in downtown New York City is the exact same thing we are going to need in small town Georgia.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, you know that is nonsense. It is not true in your area; it is not true in my friend from Massachusetts' area; and it is certainly not true in my hometown.

My friends will come to the floor and tell you it is because Republicans just don't like working people. This bill exempts three categories of people and three categories only: educational institutions, small businesses, and nonprofits.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America are headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. They wrote to the Department of Labor when the Department of Labor released this regulation. They said they opposed it. They said the regulation in its current form was going to undermine their ability to serve young people. They are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, those concerns are real, and if my friends on the other side of the aisle would sit down and talk to us about them, I know that they care about these issues like I care about these issues. We can all work to change what that limit is, but we don't have to throw families out of jobs. As a result, we don't have to punish small-business owners trying to make it work. As a result, we don't have to punish nonprofits who have one goal and one goal only, and that is to make a difference in people's lives. As a result, I don't believe, when I disagree with my colleagues on the House floor, it is because they are bad people. I think they are good people with bad ideas.

If we can sit and talk together, a group of good people around the table with differing ideas, I know that we can come to a conclusion, which is what we have done with the second bill in this rule, Mr. Speaker, the WRDA bill.

My friend from Massachusetts mentioned a terrible habit of closed rules. There were 44 amendments made available to this bill, Mr. Speaker—44. That is a bill that passed unanimously with unlimited debate and unlimited amendments coming out of committee. We made 44 more amendments in order on this House floor.

I am constantly amazed at the improvements that come from right here, colleagues who may not be on the committee who don't have an opportunity to make a difference. They bring an amendment to the Committee on Rules, we come together and we make it in order. We bring it to the House floor. It makes a difference.

Mr. Speaker, the WRDA bill is going to affect something in every single district we have in this Chamber—every single district—whether it is direct, as it will be in the Port of Savannah or the Port of Charleston; whether it is indirect, as it will be for all the inland ports in the country; whether it is indirect because of all the job growth that happens around the country as a result. Ninety-nine percent of all of the imports and exports coming through this country, moving through our ports system, we did that together.

I sat through those long committee hearings, Mr. Speaker. I don't remember anyone being called a scoundrel. I don't remember anyone being accused of not having a conscience. I don't remember anyone being called a racist. And I distinctly remember the bill coming out of committee on a voice vote, unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will believe us if we tell them how incapable we are; the American people will believe us if we tell them how broken self-government is; and the American people will believe us if we tell

them that nobody else has anything to bring to the table except their Member of Congress. But those things will not be true.

We are not just moving a bill to protect nonprofits and educational institutions and small business, Mr. Speaker. We are not just moving a bill that is going to do more to protect inland waterways and the economy than what we have seen in previous years, Mr. Speaker; we put together a package that I believe is going to start the logs rolling for all of the other priorities that we have in this Chamber. But we can't get to them unless we pass this rule.

This rule came out of the Committee on Rules last night about 11:30, Mr. Speaker. The Committee on Rules was working late on your behalf last night. They say nothing good happens after midnight. That is why we finished up at 11:30. We have got a good rule for you. It is worthy of the support of this Chamber.

I ask all of my friends to support the rule, to support the underlying legislation, and to allow us to continue to be about the business of the American people.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 897 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1434) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 8. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1434.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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 the motion 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.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3283) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3283

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC IN PUEBLO, COLORADO.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3283 to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Pueblo, Colorado, the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

I am grateful to this bill's sponsor, Senator CORY GARDNER, for his efforts introducing this legislation. I am also grateful to my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), for his work championing this

bill in the House and ensuring that Private First Class Dunn is honored for his service.

PFC Dunn was a Colorado native and a long-time resident of the city of Pueblo. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1942, when he was just 22 years old.

While serving in the Solomon Islands in the Pacific theater later that year, PFC Dunn and 12 of his fellow marines were separated from the rest of their patrol and pinned down by hostile fire. After the commanding officer and the second in command were severely wounded, PFC Dunn—on his own initiative and with complete disregard for his own safety—assumed command.

In the face of fierce mortar and machine-gun fire, he successfully led his men to cover and eventually to safety. In recognition of his bravery and leadership throughout that incident, he was awarded the Navy Cross.

S. 3283 satisfies the committee's naming criteria and is supported by the entire Colorado congressional delegation as well as by veterans service organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 3283, a bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

Marine Reservist PFC James Dunn, Jr., was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroism in Guadalcanal in 1943. His award is the second highest award for valor that the Navy has. I am often told this about heroes: ordinary men do extraordinary things.

Later in life, Jim Dunn was asked why he joined the Marines, and he simply responded: ''Uncle Sam needed me.''

Let me highlight from his citation for the Navy Cross:

> When the combat patrol with which he was serving came under heavy machine-gun shelling, Private First Class Dunn, along with 11 marines and their command officer, became separated from the remainder of the patrol and were pinned down by hostile fire. After the commanding officer and the second in command had been severely wounded, Private First Class Dunn, on his own initiative and with complete disregard for personal safety, promptly assumed command and led the men to jungle cover in the face of fierce mortar and machine-gun fire. Again trapped by Japanese, he reconnoitered and finally succeeded in leading his group, including the wounded, to their own lines.

As you can see by this citation, PFC James Dunn put the safety of his colleagues above his own. For his courage in the face of grave danger, he was decorated with the Navy Cross.

Following the war, James Dunn returned home to Pueblo, Colorado, where he lived with his family before passing away in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I salute this brave marine and support the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), my friend and colleague from the Third Congressional District. I serve with Representative TIPTON, and his district includes Pueblo. Many times we have discussed what is good for the people of Colorado and what we can do to help, where the Federal role is appropriate; and I have to tell you, Representative TIPTON is a strong fighter and tireless in serving his district, and especially Pueblo itself.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the bipartisan support on this legislation, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to Congressman LAMBORN for all of his hard work on behalf of our VA and the healthcare issues for our veterans who are so in need of making sure those promises are fulfilled for them.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of naming one small part of that healthcare system after a true American hero, Private First Class James Dunn. James Dunn was born in Stratton, Colorado, and found work in Pueblo, Colorado, at the steel mill after he graduated from high school.

While walking down the street one day in June of 1942, he saw what we now consider a classic poster of Uncle Sam pointing straight at him saying, ''I want you.'' Fascinated, he entered the recruiting station and noticed that the line to enlist in the Marines was empty compared to the line for the Navy. That made his choice easy. When asked later why he joined, his reply was simple: ''Uncle Sam needed me.''

PFC Dunn was initially placed with a group of marines that were being reorganized as L–3–6 at Camp Elliott, California, before they were shipped to New Zealand to train and maneuver in the mountainous terrain that could be found there.

□ 1330

Then, in early January 1943, PFC Dunn's group of Marines was sent to relieve the original force that invaded Guadalcanal.

On January 20, 1943, Dunn's platoon was split into three squads and were conducting a scouting mission when they came under heavy enemy fire. The citation describing his actions that day states, in part, ''After the commanding officer and the second in command had been severely wounded, Private First Class Dunn, on his own initiative and with complete disregard of personal safety, promptly assumed command and led the men to jungle cover in the face of fierce mortar and machine-gun fire.''

Dunn was later awarded the Navy Cross for his action that day and was credited by many of the surviving members of his platoon for saving their lives.

PFC Dunn went on to serve in the campaigns on Tinian and Okinawa. All told, when he was discharged, Dunn had spent all but 6 months of his 3½ years in the Marines overseas. When he returned to Pueblo, he married the love of his life Mary Knez and they had two sons, Mike and Jeff. In his civilian life, he became a Mason, enjoyed reading, and, for many years, delivered meals to shut-ins, continuing his service to others. After 54 years of marriage, James passed away in Pueblo on July 5, 2000.

PFC James Dunn embodies the proud military traditions and rugged spirit of the city and the county of Pueblo, Colorado, and I am happy to support the naming of this outpatient clinic in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to be able to tour that clinic and to be able to visit with veterans. He would be honored and pleased to see that PFC James Dunn is now going to be affixed to that facility. Pueblo is known as the home of heroes, and rightly so. PFC James Dunn certainly fits that category.

I would like to thank the Pueblo VA Naming Committee for all of their efforts to support the renaming of this clinic, the support of the United Veterans Council of Colorado, and the many veterans service organizations that it counts as members.

I would also like to thank all of my colleagues in the Colorado delegation for their support and the staff and leadership of the Committee on Veterans Affairs for working with my office to accomplish this important task.

I would like to encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank the Dunn family for their heroic father and husband and for his service to our country.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I simply just want to say that I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

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

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

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House to support this. I think this is one of those opportunities where, with strong bipartisan support, we can pass this legislation and honor the memory of a true American hero, as Representative TIPTON and the ranking member of the subcommittee have both talked about.

This is appropriate for Pueblo, I agree. Pueblo is the home of heroes. They got that name because there were so many people from Pueblo who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. I don't know if there is something in the water or what, but it is touching to see that kind of patriotism coming out of the people of Pueblo. That really warms my heart.

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 Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3283.

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. LAMBORN. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate having proceeded to reconsider the bill (S. 2040) ''An Act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.'', returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the Senate, in which it originated, it was

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110–315, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, announces the re-appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Dr. Paul LeBlanc of New Hampshire.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the Senate:

The Senate having proceeded to reconsider the bill (S. 2040) entitled ''An Act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.'', returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the Senate, in which it originated, it was

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 2040, the ''Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act'' (JASTA), which would, among other things, remove sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated state sponsors of terrorism.

I have deep sympathy for the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11), who have suffered grievously. I also have a deep appreciation of these families' desire to pursue justice and am strongly committed to assisting them in their efforts.

Consistent with this commitment, over the past 8 years, I have directed my Administration to pursue relentlessly al-Qa'ida, the terrorist group that planned the 9/11 attacks. The heroic efforts of our military and counterterrorism professionals have decimated al-Qa'ida's leadership and killed Osama bin Laden. My Administration also strongly supported, and I signed into law, legislation which ensured that those who bravely responded on that terrible day and other survivors of the attacks will be able to receive treatment for any injuries resulting from the attacks. And my Administration also directed the Intelligence Community to perform a declassification review of ''Part Four of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11,'' so that the families of 9/11 victims and broader public can better understand the information investigators gathered following that dark day of our history.

Notwithstanding these significant efforts, I recognize that there is nothing that could ever erase the grief the 9/11 families have endured. My Administration therefore remains resolute in its commitment to assist these families in their pursuit of justice and do whatever we can to prevent another attack in the United States. Enacting JASTA into law, however, would neither protect Americans from terrorist attacks nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. As drafted, JASTA would allow private litigation against foreign governments in U.S. courts based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil. This legislation would permit litigation against countries that have neither been designated by the executive branch as state sponsors of terrorism nor taken direct actions in the United States to carry out an attack here. The JASTA would be detrimental to U.S. national interests more broadly, which is why I am returning it without my approval.

First, JASTA threatens to reduce the effectiveness of our response to indications that a foreign government has taken steps outside our borders to provide support for terrorism, by taking such matters out of the hands of national security and foreign policy professionals and placing them in the hands of private litigants and courts.

Any indication that a foreign government played a role in a terrorist attack on U.S. soil is a matter of deep concern and merits a forceful, unified Federal Government response that considers the wide range of important and effective tools available. One of these tools is designating the foreign government in question as a state sponsor of terrorism, which carries with it a litany of repercussions, including the foreign government being stripped of its sovereign immunity before U.S. courts in certain terrorism-related cases and subjected to a range of sanctions. Given these serious consequences, state sponsor of terrorism designations are made only after national security, foreign policy, and intelligence professionals carefully review all available information to determine whether a country meets the criteria that the Congress established.

In contrast, JASTA departs from longstanding standards and practice under our Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and threatens to strip all foreign governments of immunity from judicial process in the United States based solely upon allegations by private litigants that a foreign government's overseas conduct had some role or connection to a group or person that carried out a terrorist attack inside the United States. This would invite consequential decisions to be made based upon incomplete information and risk having different courts reaching different conclusions about the culpability of individual foreign governments and their role in terrorist activities directed against the United States—which is neither an effective nor a coordinated way for us to respond to indications that a foreign government might have been behind a terrorist attack.

Second, JASTA would upset longstanding international principles regarding sovereign immunity, putting in place rules that, if applied globally, could have serious implications for U.S. national interests. The United States has a larger international presence, by far, than any other country, and sovereign immunity principles protect our Nation and its Armed Forces, officials, and assistance professionals, from foreign court proceedings. These principles also protect U.S. Government assets from attempted seizure by private litigants abroad. Removing sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated as state sponsors of terrorism, based solely on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad had a connection to terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil, threatens to undermine these longstanding principles that protect the United States, our forces, and our personnel.

Indeed, reciprocity plays a substantial role in foreign relations, and numerous other countries already have laws that allow for the adjustment of a foreign state's immunities based on the treatment their governments receive in the courts of the other state. Enactment of JASTA could encourage foreign governments to act reciprocally and allow their domestic courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials—including our men and women in uniform—for allegedly causing injuries overseas via U.S. support to third parties. This could lead to suits against the United States or U.S. officials for actions taken by members of an armed group that received U.S. assistance, misuse of U.S. military equipment by foreign forces,

or abuses committed by police units that received U.S. training, even if the allegations at issue ultimately would be without merit. And if any of these litigants were to win judgments—based on foreign domestic laws as applied by foreign courts—they would begin to look to the assets of the U.S. Government held abroad to satisfy those judgments, with potentially serious financial consequences for the United States.

Third, JASTA threatens to create complications in our relationships with even our closest partners. If JASTA were enacted, courts could potentially consider even minimal allegations accusing U.S. allies or partners of complicity in a particular terrorist attack in the United States to be sufficient to open the door to litigation and wide-ranging discovery against a foreign country—for example, the country where an individual who later committed a terrorist act traveled from or became radicalized. A number of our allies and partners have already contacted us with serious concerns about the bill. By exposing these allies and partners to this sort of litigation in U.S. courts, JASTA threatens to limit their cooperation on key national security issues, including counterterrorism initiatives, at a crucial time when we are trying to build coalitions, not create divisions.

The 9/11 attacks were the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil, and they were met with an unprecedented U.S. Government response. The United States has taken robust and wide-ranging actions to provide justice for the victims of the 9/11 attacks and keep Americans safe, from providing financial compensation for victims and their families to conducting worldwide counterterrorism programs to bringing criminal charges against culpable individuals. I have continued and expanded upon these efforts, both to help victims of terrorism gain justice for the loss and suffering of their loved ones and to protect the United States from future attacks. The JASTA, however, does not contribute to these goals, does not enhance the safety of Americans from terrorist attacks, and undermines core U.S. interests.

For these reasons, I must veto the bill.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 23, 2016*.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal.

The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1345

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 S. 2040, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the Senate voted 97–1 to override the President's veto on the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. I rise to urge my colleagues to follow the Senate's action and vote to override this veto so that Americans may seek judicial redress against any foreign government that chooses to sponsor a terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

The question that this veto override vote poses is whether we should allow those who harm our citizens to hide behind legal barriers that are required by neither the Constitution nor international law, or whether we should permit U.S. victims to hold those who sponsor terrorism in our country fully accountable in our courts. I think that the answer to this question is clear, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in overwhelmingly overriding the President's veto of JASTA.

The changes JASTA makes to existing law are not dramatic, nor are they sweeping.

JASTA amends the Anti-Terrorism Act to make clear that any person who aids, abets, or conspires with a State Department designated foreign terrorist organization is subject to civil liability for injury to a U.S. person.

In addition, the legislation amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to add an exception to foreign sovereign immunity for acts of international terrorism sponsored by a foreign government that cause physical harm within the United States.

The President objects to this change to the law on the grounds that it upsets principles of foreign sovereign immunity and that, by so doing, our national interests will be threatened by reciprocal treatment from abroad. The President's objections, however, have no basis under U.S. or international law.

The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act already has nine exceptions to sovereign immunity, including the territorial tort exception. This exception provides that a foreign country is not immune from the jurisdiction of our courts for injuries that it causes that occur entirely within the United States.

Consistent with customary international law, JASTA, for terrorism cases, removes the current requirement that the entire tort occur within the United States and replaces it with a rule that only the physical injury or death must occur on U.S. soil. JASTA makes this change because, under current law, a foreign nation can provide financing and other substantial assistance for a terrorist attack in our country and escape liability so long as the support is provided overseas.

For example, under current law, if the intelligence agency of a foreign government handed a terrorist a bag of money in New York City to support an attack on U.S. soil, the country would be liable under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act's tort exception right now. However, if we change the fact pattern slightly so that rather than giving a terrorist money in New York City the money is provided in Paris, the foreign state will not be subject to liability in U.S. courts. This is a troubling loophole in our antiterrorism laws.

When Congress enacted the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act in 1976, it put in place a broad set of exceptions to sovereign immunity, including an exception for tort claims involving injuries occurring in the United States. However, the courts have not consistently interpreted those exceptions in such a manner that they cover the sponsoring of a terrorist attack on U.S. soil. JASTA addresses this inconsistency with a concrete rule that is consistent with the nine longstanding exceptions to foreign sovereign immunity already provided for under U.S. law.

JASTA ensures that those, including foreign governments, who sponsor terrorist attacks on U.S. soil are held fully accountable for their actions. We can no longer allow those who injure and kill Americans to hide behind legal loopholes denying justice to the victims of terrorism.

I urge my colleagues to vote to override the President's veto.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States constituted the deadliest foreign attack on American soil in our Nation's history. Their impact has been immeasurable, as evidenced by the fact that we are still grappling with their cultural and policy implications.

Fifteen years later, their powerful emotional effect on Americans remains as strong as ever. Those who lost loved ones or were injured as a result of this horrific attack deserve our deepest sympathy and our help.

It is in this vein that we consider whether to override the President's veto of S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, which, among other things, amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 to create a new exception to the act's general grant of foreign sovereign immunity.

The bill's supporters present compelling and sympathetic arguments in favor of ensuring that the 9/11 families have access to a well-deserved day in court.

In his veto message, however, the President raised a number of serious substantive concerns about the potential unintended consequences of this legislation.

First, the President stated that S. 2040 could undermine the effectiveness of our Nation's national security and counterterrorism efforts. For instance, other nations may become more reluctant to share sensitive intelligence in light of the greater risk that such information may be revealed in litigation.

Moreover, the President raised the concern that this legislation would effectively allow nonexpert private litigants and courts, rather than national security and foreign policy experts, to determine key foreign and national security policy questions like which states are sponsors of terrorism.

Second, the President's assertion that enactment of S. 2040 may lead to retaliation by other countries against the United States given the breadth of our interests and the expansive reach of our global activities.

So while it seems likely at this juncture that S. 2040 will be enacted over the President's veto, I remain hopeful that we can continue to work toward the enactment of subsequent legislation to address the President's concerns.

I understand the moral imperative of enacting legislation in this matter, but I am sensitive to the seriousness of the concerns that the President raised.

I had expressed the hope, during floor debate on this bill, that Congress and the President could work together to find a better balance that would still enable 9/11 victims to seek justice while tempering the President's concerns.

There is no doubt as to the passion that the bill's supporters bring to advocating for the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, a passion that I share.

As legislators, however, we must be driven not only by understandable emotions but by thoughtful consideration of the long-term interests of our country. And for this reason, the expected outcome of today's vote should not be the end of this matter.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for yielding. Let me, at the outset, thank him for the outstanding work that he has done in bringing this bill, this legislation, to this historic moment where I certainly hope and urge the House of Representatives to override—to join the Senate in overriding the President's veto of JASTA.

I take very seriously the objections the President has raised, but this bill wasn't drawn in a vacuum, and it hasn't reached this stage in a vacuum.

Primarily led by people like Chairman GOODLATTE, Congressman NADLER, who is the chief cosponsor of the bill, and also by the leading sponsors in the Senate, all of the President's objections, I believe, were addressed. Changes were made.

This bill is not going to put American soldiers at risk. It is not going to put American diplomats at risk. What it is going to do is finally allow the 9/11 families to have their day in court to seek the justice they have long been denied. And if the Government of Saudi Arabia has no involvement, if there is no liability, they have nothing to worry about.

But the fact is, those of us who live in New York, who live in New Jersey, and all Americans, no matter where you happen to live, those of us who were alive on that day know how much this affected all of us. But just think about how it affected those families, those who lost their husbands and wives and children and grandchildren and mothers and fathers.

So it is really essential that this House today stand on the side of those who seek justice, realizing that we are doing nothing in any way at all to put any American lives at risk. What we want to do is seek justice against those who did cause Americans to die.

Again, I thank the Senate for their override vote today. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for his outstanding work. I thank my good colleague, JERRY NADLER. DAN DONOVAN has done so much since he has come to the Congress.

I urge the House of Representatives to join with the Senate in overriding the veto of the President of the United States.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking PETER KING and BOB GOODLATTE for their role in bringing this bill to the floor as the sponsor and committee chairman.

I rise in strong support of overriding the President's veto of JASTA. JASTA is a carefully crafted, narrow bill that would hold accountable foreign governments that knowingly provide substantial assistance to a designated foreign terrorist organization that launches an attack in the United States.

Despite the overblown rhetoric of some critics of this bill, JASTA will not pose a threat to American military personnel or diplomats. They would be absolutely protected if another country passed legislation mirroring this bill because JASTA applies only to governments.

To the extent that a foreign government might pass broader legislation that would make American personnel subject to liability, that country would not be reciprocating. It would be engaging in a transparent and unjustifiable act of aggression.

The economic, diplomatic, and military strength of the United States makes such action unlikely, and any rogue state inclined to target U.S. interests can already do so. We must not hold justice for the 9/11 families hostage to imagined fears.

Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, on September 11, we suffered the most deadly terrorist attack on our soil in this Nation's history. My district in New York was the epicenter of this attack, but its effects were felt across the country, including, of course, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. We all have an interest in ensuring that the 9/11 victims and their families can bring to justice anyone who was responsible for this vicious attack.

JASTA simply reinstates what was understood to be the law for 30 years; that foreign states, not individuals, not soldiers, foreign states, may be brought to justice for aiding and abetting acts of international terrorism that occur on American soil, whether or not the conduct that facilitated the attack occurred in the United States.

Some courts have recently held that if a foreign government agent hands over a check to al Qaeda in a cafe in New York to fund a terrorist attack in the United States, that government can be sued in an American court. But if that same foreign agent funds the same attack by handing over the same check in a cafe in Geneva, the government is immune from suit.

That makes no sense, and it flies in the face of what had been settled law for many years. Longstanding U.S. law, under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, provides jurisdiction to sue foreign states that cause a tortious injury on American soil. That is current law.

□ 1400

This is the international norm, and it has never prompted retaliatory conduct by other nations. This bill simply clarifies that if a foreign state murders thousands of Americans on American soil or provides substantial assistance to a designated terrorist group that murders thousands of Americans on American soil, that government cannot hide from justice merely because its actions occurred abroad.

This bill does not target any particular country or prejudge the merits of any particular case. Any government brought before a U.S. court will have every defense available to it, as well as extensive protections and government privileges during discovery to protect against disclosure of its sensitive information. What it will not be able to do is hide behind erroneous court decisions and jurisdictional loopholes to avoid the legal process altogether.

We have heard a parade of horribles stemming from a hypothetical fear that other nations would use JASTA as an excuse to target American citizens. Again, if a foreign government passes legislation that mirrors JASTA, American citizens would still be absolutely protected because JASTA applies only

to governments. A foreign government is highly unlikely to pass legislation that goes beyond JASTA. If a rogue state does, in fact, authorize suits against American personnel abroad, we have a well-established process for defending such actions. According to the Office of Foreign Litigation at the Department of Justice, ''at any given time, foreign lawyers under the direct supervision, represent the United States in approximately 1,000 lawsuits pending in the courts of over 100 countries.'' This is not a new issue for the United States, and we are well equipped to deal with any consequences.

We are warned that Saudi Arabia will be very angry if we approve this bill, that the Saudis may retaliate against the United States, may perhaps withdraw some investments. History shows that the Saudis will do what is in their interests. They need American support and American arms in the volatile Middle East where they fear and fight Iran and its proxies. They are not going to prefer their emotions to their interests and act against the United States.

If the Saudi Government was not complicit in the attack on 9/11, the plaintiffs will fail to prove such complicity in an American court. Justice will have been served, and the Saudis will be vindicated after years of suspicion. But if it is proven in an American court that the Saudi Government was complicit in the attacks on 9/11, justice will have been served and we—not the Saudis—will have justification to be very angry.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was carefully negotiated over more than 6 years. It passed the House and Senate unanimously, and earlier today, the Senate voted 97–1 to override the President's veto. All that stands in the way of justice for the 9/11 victims and their families is a vote in this House. I urge my colleagues to stand with them and to override the veto.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding, and, secondly, commend him for his work to try to tailor this measure in as narrow a way as possible.

I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) for his strong, persistent advocacy for the families of the victims of 9/11. All of us share in their grief. The country has not gotten over that horrible incident, and all of us have contempt for those who carry out terrorist attacks and those who support them.

My concern for this legislation, however, is more related to the unintended consequences that it may have because one of the key protections that the military, diplomats, and intelligence community of the United States has around the world is this doctrine of sovereign immunity. Once that doctrine gets eroded, then there is less protection, and we, the United States, has more at stake in having our people protected than any other country because we have more people around the world than anyone else.

So, in this Congress, we can control the laws of the United States, and we can write them narrowly in a fine-tuned way to just achieve our objective. But then other countries respond. They may not have their laws narrowly defined in such a fine-tuned way. They may make them broader. Their practice may not have the protections that ours do. So the concern is that this starts a series of unintended consequences that will increase the risk to U.S. military personnel around the world, U.S. intelligence community personnel around the world, and diplomats around the world. That is the reason you have widespread concern that has been voiced in each of those communities for this legislation.

Let me just read briefly from a letter from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that has been available to all Members. It says: ''Any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. Servicemembers to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity.''

That is the concern, that we lower the protections that our people have around the world. Remember, when we send our military out, they have to follow orders. They are implementing U.S. policy. They have no choice. If they are called before a foreign court, if they are required to give testimony in a foreign court, even if they are not the defendant, then they are jeopardized, as is sensitive information from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, so my point is that I understand totally the sympathies for the victims as well as the desires many people have to override this veto, but we also should keep in mind the longer term consequences for our military who serve our Nation all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Secretary of Defense and a letter from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on this issue.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. ''MAC'' THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2016, regarding the President's veto of S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA). I support the President's position. We appreciate the opportunity to provide views on this important issue.

As I stated in my testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on September 22, 2016, I agree with the intent of the bill, which is to honor the families of 9/11 victims. While we are sympathetic to the intent of JASTA, its potential second- and third-order consequences could be devastating to the Department and its Service members and could undermine our important counterterrorism efforts abroad.

In general terms, JASTA would allow lawsuits in U.S. Federal Courts against foreign states for actions taken abroad that are alleged to have contributed to acts of terrorism in the United States, notwithstanding long-standing principles of sovereign immunity. Under existing law, similar lawsuits are available for actions taken abroad only by designated state sponsors of terrorism. JASTA extends the stripping of immunity to states that are not designated sponsors of terrorism, potentially subjecting many of the United States' allies and partner nations to litigation in U.S. courts.

JASTA has potentially harmful consequences for the Department of Defense and its personnel. Adoption of JASTA might result in reciprocal treatment of the United States and other countries could create exceptions to immunity that do not directly mirror those created by JASTA. This is likely to increase our country's vulnerability to lawsuits overseas and to encourage foreign governments or their courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials in situations in which we believe the United States is entitled of sovereign immunity. U.S. Service members stationed here and overseas, and especially those supporting our counterterrorism efforts, would be vulnerable to private individuals' accusations that their activities contributed to acts alleged to violate a foreign state's law. Such lawsuits could relate to actions taken by members of armed groups that received U.S. assistance or training, or misuse of U.S. military equipment by foreign forces.

First, whether the United States or our Service members have in fact provided support for terrorist acts or aided organizations that later commit such acts in violation of foreign laws is irrelevant to whether we would be forced to defend against lawsuits by private litigants in foreign courts. Instead, the mere allegation of their involvement could subject them to a foreign court's jurisdiction and the accompanying litigation and intrusive discovery process that goes along with defending against such lawsuits. This could result in significant consequences even if the United States or our personnel were ultimately found not to be responsible for the alleged acts.

Second, there would be a risk of sizeable monetary damage awards in such cases, which could lead to efforts to attach U.S. Government property to satisfy those awards. Given the broad range of U.S. activities and robust presence around the world, including our Department's foreign bases and facilities abroad, we would have numerous assets vulnerable to such attempts.

Third, it is likely that litigants will seek sensitive government information in order to establish their case against either a foreign state under JASTA in U.S. courts or against the United States in a foreign court. This could include classified intelligence data and analysis, as well as sensitive operational information. While in the United States classified information could potentially be withheld in certain narrow circumstances in civil lawsuits brought by private litigants against our allies and partners, no legislation specifically protects classified information in civil actions (unlike protections afforded in criminal prosecutions) or under JASTA. Furthermore, if the United States were to be sued in foreign courts, such information would likely be sought by foreign plaintiffs, and it would be up to the foreign court whether classified or sensitive U.S. Government information sought by the litigants would be protected from disclosure. Moreover, the classified information could well be vital for our defense against the accusations. Disclosure could put the United States in the

difficult position of choosing between disclosing classified or otherwise sensitive information or suffering adverse rulings and potentially large damage awards for our refusal to do so.

Relatedly, foreign lawsuits will divert resources from mission crucial tasks; they could subject our Service members and civilians, as well as contractor personnel, to depositions, subpoenas for trial testimony, and other compulsory processes both here and abroad. Indeed, such personnel might be held in civil or even criminal contempt if they refused to appear or to divulge classified or other sensitive information at the direction of a foreign court.

Finally, allowing our partners and allies—not just designated state sponsors of terrorism—to be subject to lawsuits inside the United States will inevitably undermine the trust and cooperation our forces need to accomplish their important missions. By damaging our close and effective cooperation with other countries, this could ultimately have a chilling effect on our own counterterrorism efforts.

Please let me know if there is any additional information the Department can provide.

Sincerely,

ASH CARTER.

CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WILLIAM M. ''MAC'' THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your 23 September 2016 letter regarding the President's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. I have read Secretary Carter's response, and share his concerns on the potential second- and third-order consequences of such legislation. As you deliberate, I would ask that you consider the following issues that affect the Joint Force.

Any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. Service members to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity. For example, U.S. Service members, especially those supporting counterterrorism operations, could be subjected to a foreign court's jurisdiction if it is alleged that they took actions that violated a foreign state's law. Whether the allegations are ultimately proven to be without merit is not an adequate guide, as the service members will have already been subjected to the foreign court's litigation process.

In those cases where a foreign government decides to exercise jurisdiction over a U.S. Service member, the Service member could be held in civil, or criminal, contempt should they refuse to appear or otherwise comply with the foreign court's orders. This concern would extend to cases where the United States would be at risk of substantial monetary damages, which could lead to attempts to seize U.S. military property overseas in order to satisfy any monetary awards.

If a U.S. Service member were to be sued in a foreign court, it would be up to the foreign court to decide whether classified or sensitive U.S. Government information would be required as part of the litigation process. This could put the United States in the position of choosing between the disclosure of classified or sensitive information, and subjecting a U.S. Service member to an adverse foreign court ruling.

Finally, regardless of the specific legislation being considered, any legislation that effects the long-standing principles of sovereignty should carefully consider any risks to the close security cooperation relationships between the United States and our allies and partners.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH F. DUNFORD, JR.
General, U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT). Mr. SCOTT is a former member of the Judiciary Committee. He is now the ranking member on the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks perpetrated against our Nation 15 years ago killed nearly 3,000 people. No one can fully fathom the grief still felt by families to lose their loved ones in such a horrific way. We understand the need to continue to seek justice against those who may have aided and abetted the individuals that orchestrated these attacks. However, this legislation is not the right way to go about achieving that justice.

JASTA abrogates a core principle in international law—foreign sovereign immunity. There are already several exceptions to this immunity recognized by our Nation and others, but JASTA goes much further than any present exception or recognized practice of any national law. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Texas just suggested, one fundamental indication of fairness of legislation is not how it would work to our benefit, but what we would think if it were used against us.

If the United States decides to allow our citizens to haul foreign nations into American courts, what would we think of other nations enacting legislation allowing their citizens to do the same thing to us?

Obviously, we would not want to put our diplomats, military, and private companies at that risk.

Consider our Nation's actions in Iraq. While there may be questions about Saudi Arabia's indirect involvement in 9/11, there is no question about who the state-sponsored actor was in 2003 when we bombed Baghdad and killed and injured hundreds of thousands of people with little or no evidence that Iraq was any immediate threat to the United States or our allies.

What would we think if Iraq enacted legislation similar to JASTA, allowing their citizens to sue the United States for acts perpetrated during the Iraqi war?

American soldiers and contractors living and working in Iraq today could be hauled in to Iraqi court, tried by an Iraqi judge, held responsible by an Iraqi jury that would assess the amount of money owed to each and every Iraqi citizen killed or maimed.

Furthermore, if they adopted similar legislation to this, other nations could sue the United States and our citizens for sponsoring organizations they deem as terrorist organizations. Unfortunately, these discussions are already taking place in capitals around the world because of this legislation.

JASTA does not make clear how the evidence would be gathered to help build a credible case against a foreign nation.

Would the plaintiffs be able to subpoena foreign officials? Or would the U.S. Department of State officials have to testify? Would we be required to expose sensitive materials in order to help American citizens prove their case? Again, how would we feel about foreign judges and juries deciding whether or not the United States sponsored terrorism?

There are also questions about how the judgment under JASTA would be enforced. The legislation does not address how a court would enforce the judgment.

Could foreign assets be attached? How would this process work if other countries enacted similar legislation? Would U.S. assets all over the world be subject to attachment to satisfy the foreign jury verdicts?

Mr. Speaker, there are many other more responsible mechanisms that this body could enact to hold foreign actors accountable for their involvement in international terrorism without exposing the United States or our citizens to lawsuits all over the world.

We should do the responsible thing, Mr. Speaker, and sustain the President's veto of this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to respond to the gentleman from Texas and the gentleman from Virginia.

First of all, with regard to some of the examples given by the gentleman from Texas, I want to make clear that this is the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act that is being amended—foreign sovereign, not individuals. So if another country were to flip this and take action under their laws to do something in their courts, it would only apply to governments, not to individuals.

So with regard to the assertions made by the gentleman from Virginia, many countries have already done what we are proposing to do here today. The whole tort rule that is utilized in the United States which says, just as an example, if you provided a bag of money to a terrorist in the United States, you can sue that foreign government in our country right now, in our courts right now. It would change so that if they provided the bag of money in Paris, you could do it there.

Right now it is a loophole. Guess what? Any foreign government that wants to sponsor terrorism in the United States, what is the first thing they are going to do right now under current law?

They are going to make sure that the money is transferred outside the United States so they are not subject to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts.

Customary international law does not seem to require the entire tort limitation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Properties would apply the territorial tort exception if the act or omission occurred in whole or in part in the territory of the state exercising jurisdiction.

Most nations that have codified the exception appear to require some act or omission in their territories, but it is not clear that these nations have done so from a sense of international legal obligation rather than from comity. Even if customary international law were properly read to preclude a nation from applying the territorial tort exception solely on the basis of death and damage within its territory, the application of JASTA to the 9/11 cases, as an example, would still not violate international law since the 9/11 attacks clearly involved tortious acts in the United States.

JASTA requires that the physical harm occur in the United States. But to have an exception that says that if people aid and abet from outside the United States, their government—the government—aids and abets from outside the United States, that government can evade the courts of the United States. That is wrong.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds to point out one additional thing. Under JASTA, the President or his representative, the Secretary of State, can appear in the court where a lawsuit is brought and delay the proceedings for a period of time, but not forever.

Then, if that time expires and whatever effort the United States has made to resolve this with a foreign government does not change the circumstances, they can still go back to the court and they can ask the court to delay further. But then it is up to the court to make that decision.

Again, I urge my colleagues to override the President's veto.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

□ 1415

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of overriding the President's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

This is our constitutional prerogative. We in Congress can override the veto of a President, and in this case a strong bipartisan majority disagrees with the President. Earlier today, the Senate of the United States voted 97–1 in favor of an override.

It is right and just that the victims of the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, be able to pursue full justice in our courts of law. I am a lawyer, and I have worked with constitutional and statutory issues. I also represent a congressional district in New Jersey that lost 81 people on 9/11.

Opposing views fear repercussions against the United States if this legislation becomes law, but the United States does not support, finance, or condone international terrorism. We are the Nation that historically has helped rid the world of evil, and we have nothing to fear from truth and justice. Nations around the world should recognize the fundamental justice in legal remedies against a terrorist network that killed nearly 3,000 Americans.

It is our duty to provide the victims of 9/11 this legislative remedy by which they can seek the facts, and the Federal Government should be as transparent as possible with the evidence and the intelligence. The still grieving families of 9/11 deserve their day in court—they have waited long enough—and this narrowly tailored legislation will give them recourse for full justice and compensation.

Mr. Speaker, any override of a Presidential veto is a serious and sober matter. I do not advocate an override lightly. I deeply respect the Office of the President of the United States. This President has never been overridden by the Congress. I believe, however, that an override is the better public policy in this momentous situation.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), who serves both on the Homeland Security Committee and Judiciary Committee with great skill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member.

I think it is important to state on the floor of the House that President Obama has been an outstanding Commander in Chief.

I have served on the Judiciary Committee proudly for the tenure I have had in the United States Congress and on the Homeland Security Committee since the tragedy of 9/11. I am committed to engaging in efforts to develop policies that anticipate and respond to new and emerging challenges to the security of our Nation and to the peace and safety of the world.

However, I will never forget September 11. 2,977 men, women, and children were murdered by 19 hijackers who took commercial aircraft and used them as missiles. I stood on the front steps of the Capitol and sang with Members of this Congress ''God Bless America.'' I visited the World Trade Center in the months and weeks after this heinous tragedy and grieved continuously each year as we commemorate, sadly, 9/11.

9/11 will always be remembered, and the loss of these families will always be painful and piercing. Just recently, the Judiciary Committee had a hearing on the bill the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. The supporters of the bill offered powerful and compelling testimony in favor of ensuring that 9/11 families have access to their day in court against the parties directly and vicariously liable for the injuries that they suffer.

Now, I also take into consideration the concerns of the administration, which deal with undermining sovereign immunity and opening up U.S. diplomats and military servicemembers to legal action overseas if foreign countries pass reciprocal laws. In addition, the President has said that JASTA would upset longstanding international principles regarding sovereign immunity, putting in place rules that, if applied globally, could have serious implications.

However, 9/11 families may sue a country designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, such as Iran today. The only thing that this bill would allow is that U.S. citizens be able to sue countries without that designation.

Let me suggest to our friends that, under the facts that we know, 19 of these attackers on 9/11 were Saudi citizens. They did not represent the government. This is not giving permission to sue the government under its government actions as much as it is to recognize that these were citizens who operated outside of that realm and to allow these citizens of the United States to have relief. You cannot deny the citizenship of these individuals. I would also suggest that these individuals are common criminals, and why should individuals who have been harmed be prevented from addressing the common criminality because they are from a different country?

I would make the argument that we are not finished with this at this point. I hope there will be further discussions. I do believe that if countries decided to take up and sue legitimate actions of the United States in defense of their nation, they would have the full power and force of law of the United States to be defended. I don't believe that will happen.

I do believe that we should continue further discussion on this very important topic. But as well, having been a senior member, again, on the Homeland Security Committee during the many meetings that we had with the 9/11 families and ultimately passing the 9/11 legislation as I chaired the Transportation Security Subcommittee, I believe that listening over and over again to the devastation and the need to ensure there are laws to protect this Nation, that this measure provides the extra opportunity to address the common criminality of individuals whose citizenship lies in one place or another.

We should stand, however, in protecting U.S. diplomats, military service, and intelligence community members, and I believe this country has the power to do so. I believe, at this point, the matter of the 9/11 families should be addressed, and we should address it today.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN).

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for yielding.

Foreign threats should never dictate American policy, but that is, unfortunately, what happened with President Obama's veto of this legislation.

That a foreign government can hide behind sovereign immunity after slaughtering Americans in our own homeland is an outrage, so it is no wonder that this bill was passed by Congress unanimously. Terror victims can already sue individuals for complicity in an attack. A foreign government shouldn't be immune from justice simply because it is a government.

For those of my colleagues who may be reluctant about voting for an override of this veto, I think Chairman GOODLATTE's explanation of the bill should give them peace. There are already nine exemptions to the sovereign immunity law, and JASTA will not create a tenth. It modifies one of those nine.

JASTA is about 9/11 victims who have waited more than 15 years to have their day in court. It is about the families of over 300 people killed that day who lived in my congressional district. It is about my friend, Lori Mascali, whose husband, firefighter Joseph Mascali, died that day saving other people's lives.

I urge my colleagues to put American victims of terror first by voting to override the President's veto.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CONYERS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for overriding the President's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

I understand and give weight to the President's concerns, but I believe that this bill is focused on and applies to only those attacks that are committed on U.S. soil that harm U.S. nationals. The attacks of 9/11 were singular acts of appalling cruelty. They were targeted knowingly and specifically at civilian noncombatants. They were barbaric crimes that violated all norms of civilized conduct and all of the international conventions of armed conflict.

Though the hijackers of those planes died that day, it is virtually indisputable that there are people who conspired with them in the planning, preparation, execution, and financing of those horrific acts who walk the streets freely in foreign capitals today. They walk comfortably, securely, smugly, believing that because of a peculiar interpretation of international law, they are safe from the long arm of justice, immune to any consequences.

JASTA, as it is called, is needed to correct some shortcomings in previous legislation and lower court decisions. The bill is needed to make it possible for the survivors and for the families of the victims of savage acts of international terrorism to seek a measure of justice through the civil courts.

This bill is needed because both Congress and the executive branch have affirmed that civil litigation against terror sponsors, including foreign governments, can have an important deterrent effect.

The attacks of 9/11 were roundly condemned by people and governments around the world. So this bill is needed not just by the families of those who died in New York and at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania; it is needed to send a message to people all around the world, a message that the long arm of American justice will not be deterred, will never tire, and will never falter.

As we have done in the past, we will pursue the perpetrators of such savage acts of inhumanity, as we saw on 9/11, to their very graves. There is no loophole and there will be no escape.

Yes, it may be true that there are risks in passing a bill like this that may have some unintended consequences, but compare that to the risks of doing nothing and the risks that are very real that are all too present.

I urge my colleagues to not forget and to overturn the President's veto. It is in America's interest, and it is a deterrent to future crimes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, Mr. GOODLATTE, for yielding; and I want to thank Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. KING for their extraordinary leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the President of the United States, the central argument in this veto message accompanying the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, reciprocity is weak, unsupported, and egregiously flawed.

The White House drafters of the veto message either didn't read the carefully crafted bipartisan bill or are seeking to conflate the plain legislative text since JASTA only permits access to U.S. courts by waiving immunity from foreign governments, not foreign government officials or employees, and corrects conflicting case law, except in the cases where someone knowingly aids, abets, or conspires with a State Department-designated foreign terrorist organization.

Thus, the President is wrong to assert that, under the hallowed principle of reciprocity, U.S. officials and military personnel could be subjected to lawsuits. It is worth noting that nothing precludes that now or ever, but as an argument for veto, it simply doesn't pass muster.

While sovereign immunity has its place in the conduct of responsible diplomacy, it is not absolute, as even the 1976 Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act contains nine exceptions.

In 2008, Mr. Speaker, as you know, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit dismissed legal action against Saudi Arabia and other defendants, holding U.S. courts lacked jurisdiction. Other actions by the courts have thwarted the full accountability Americans expect and deserve.

JASTA corrects that.

The victims of 9/11 and their grieving families deserve what JASTA empowers: a judicial process to discover the unfettered and ugly truth that, to this day, remains cloaked, concealed, and covered up. JASTA provides a way to hold perpetrators and enablers of terrorism to account.

Anyone who has read the recently declassified 28 pages of findings from the House-Senate Intelligence Committee's joint inquiry in 2002, despite the heavy redactions, knows the provocative evidence of Saudi complicity in 9/11, and that remains unexamined. The 28 pages are filled with names and suspected associations with the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked with and befriended many of the 9/11 surviving family members—many who died on 9/11 were from my district—and I can state unequivocally that there would have been no 9/11 Commission and other historic policy initiatives without the 9/11 family members. They have been extraordinary, tenacious, committed, and courageous.

On September 20, many family members gathered outside the White House to appeal to the President to sign JASTA. Two of the remarkable widows from New Jersey, Lorie and Mindy, carried this sign to my left, your right, with a picture of President Obama and Saudi King Salman from the front page of the New York Daily News.

□ 1430

The headline read: ''Don't choose them over us''—the U.S., the United States.

The President chose the king, and he vetoed the bill. We can correct that today. Vote to override.

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

There is no doubt that there is so much passion involved in this with the bill's supporters; but, as legislators, I would like to urge that one carefully and thoughtfully consider the long-term interests of our country.

For the foregoing reasons, I am pleased to indicate that the scholars and others who will be voting to sustain the President's veto are Michael Mukasey, the former Attorney General under George W. Bush; Stephen Hadley, the former National Security Adviser for that President; Richard Clarke, the former White House counterterrorism adviser for Bill Clinton and George W. Bush; and Thomas Pickering, the former United States Ambassador to the United Nations. They all agree that we must be considerate of the long-term interests of our own country.

For the foregoing reasons and those stated by the national security experts, the international law scholars, and the President of the United States, I find that I must vote to sustain the President's veto.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to override the President's veto. It is the right thing to do. Justice is the right thing—to let American citizens have access to their courts for torts for terrorist attacks that occur on American soil. This bill is a modest amendment to already existing exemptions to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. It is the right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to join me in overriding the President's veto.

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns with S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. The President, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA Director, and the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee have all issued statements against this legislation, and after having spoken with local veterans in Pinellas County who have retired from the armed services, I have come to the decision to support the President's veto.

'Terrorism' at the hands of a foreign government is simply another term for an act of war, and we should respond to these acts with every ounce of resolve our nation can muster. We have done so for generations, relying on military, diplomatic and political leadership to respond appropriately and deploy our men and women in uniform to defeat our enemies. Countless men and women have sacrificed their last full measure for the cause of our freedom and security.

But we don't litigate acts of war in civil courtrooms. We litigate them on battlefields, with valor and with overwhelming force.

By authorizing courtroom litigation of acts of war, we empower other nations to do the same. And we imperil the security of our military and diplomatic personnel, as well as our assets in regions around the globe.

Consider the number of times our nation intervenes for the cause of freedom and security around the globe. Now consider if our personnel and assets on the ground were subject to civil liability in those nations. It compromises our mission, and it compromises the security of our men and women in uniform and those in our diplomatic corps.

Mr. Speaker, when the President vetoed this legislation, he stated that the United States already has means to act against nations who would wish to commit acts of terrorism against the United States by designating them as State Sponsors of Terrorism. When this designation is made, all sovereign immunity protections for individuals are removed, subjecting the violating country to a multitude of sanctions.

Likewise, on Monday Defense Secretary Ash Carter sent a letter to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee stating that, while he "agrees with the intent of the bill, which is to honor 9/11 victims," the potential second- and third-order consequences of the legislation "could be devastating to the Department and its service members." Secretary Carter shared concerns that other nations might enact reciprocal policies, threatening the sovereign immunity of our service members based on justifications that are far less stringent.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also stated that "any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. service members to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity," and that any court proceedings could "put the United States in the position of choosing between the disclosure of classified or sensitive information, and subjecting a U.S. service member to an adverse foreign court ruling." Today, CIA Director Brennan added his concerns, that he believes this action "will have grave implications for the national security of the United States. The most damaging consequence would be for those U.S. Government officials who dutifully work overseas on behalf of our country."

These concerns are affirmed by many national security experts who penned an open letter asking for the veto to be upheld. The letter was signed by many prominent former members of the executive branch, including Stephen Hadley, Richard Clarke, and Thomas Pickering.

Nothing can heal the wounds of the surviving families of September 11, 2001. Nothing can heal the wounds of a nation whose heart breaks for those innocent lives lost at the hands of our enemies. We can honor their legacies by making the world more secure—by exerting our national security leadership, our military force, around the globe to contain the threat of terror. I believe JASTA would ultimately undermine our ability to secure freedom and to secure our homeland.

We will never forget the tragedy and loss of that day. We will never forget the heartbreak. And let us never weaken our resolve to defeat the forces of terror, so that we may ensure that we as a nation, and our brothers and sisters who suffered such loss, never face such a tragedy again.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to uphold President Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (S. 2040).

All Americans were deeply affected by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, none more so than the families who lost loved ones on that terrible day. President Obama has been unyielding in his pursuit of those who perpetrated the attacks. Since day one of his Administration, President Obama has made the destruction of Al-Qaeda a top national security priority. He has delivered on this promise, systematically devastating Al-Qaeda's leadership and killing Osama bin Laden.

I am profoundly sympathetic to the families of victims who were lost on September 11, 2001 and while I understand the intent behind S. 2040, I remain concerned that this legislation would be damaging to our national security. Not only would it not prevent future terrorist attacks against the United States, it would expose U.S. personnel serving overseas to lawsuits in the civil and criminal courts of foreign countries. For these reasons, I vote to uphold President Obama's veto of S. 2040.

The United States government has an array of legal tools that it uses to deal with nations that sponsor terrorism. This includes listing the offending nation as a state sponsor of terrorism, imposing sanctions, and the forfeiture of that nation's right to sovereign immunity in U.S. courts. However, these measures are intended as an extreme consequence for nations that act outside of international norms. S. 2040 would allow terrorism related lawsuits in U.S. courts against any nation, not only those designated as a sponsor of terrorism by our government, which is alleged to have contributed to an act of terrorism in the United States. This would begin an erosion of the principle of sovereign immunity for every nation, including U.S. allies, and expose their government and personnel to lawsuits in U.S. courts.

The reciprocal effect that this erosion of sovereign immunity could have on U.S. personnel overseas, including our men and women in uniform, is deeply concerning. Were S. 2040 to become law, it would set an international precedent for other nations to follow. U.S. personnel serving in foreign countries could be subjected to civil and criminal lawsuits in foreign courts, putting them at risk and potentially exposing sensitive national security information in the process. These are the people we depend upon in our fight against terrorist organizations like ISIL, and we must ensure that proper legal safeguards are in place to protect them.

As a Member of Congress, it is my duty to ensure that our service members and diplomatic personnel overseas are afforded the proper legal protections that allow them to do their jobs and protect this nation. S. 2040 unfortunately fails to ensure these protections and subsequently I will vote to sustain President Obama's veto.

I am attaching an editorial from the New York Times on this issue.

[Sept. 28, 2016]

THE RISKS OF SUING THE SAUDIS FOR 9/11

The Senate and the House are expected to vote this week on whether to override President Obama's veto of a bill that would allow families of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks to sue Saudi Arabia for any role it had in the terrorist operations. The lawmakers should let the veto stand.

The legislation, called the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, would expand an exception to sovereign immunity, the legal principle that protects foreign countries and their diplomats from lawsuits in the American legal system. While the aim—to give the families their day in court—is compassionate, the bill complicates the United States' relationship with Saudi Arabia and could expose the American government, citizens and corporations to lawsuits abroad. Moreover, legal experts like Stephen Vladeck of the University of Texas School of Law and Jack Goldsmith of Harvard Law School doubt that the legislation would actually achieve its goal.

Co-sponsored by Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York, and Senator John Cornyn, Republican of Texas, the measure is intended to overcome a series of court rulings that have blocked all lawsuits filed by the 9/11 families against the Saudi government. The Senate passed the bill unanimously in May, and the House gave its approval this month.

The legislation would, among other things, amend a 1976 law that grants other countries broad immunity from American lawsuits—unless the country is on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism (Iran, Sudan and Syria) or is alleged to have committed a terrorist attack that killed Americans on United States soil. The new bill would clarify that foreign governments can be held liable for aiding terrorist groups, even if that conduct occurred overseas.

Advocates say the measure is narrowly drawn, but administration officials argue that it would apply much more broadly and result in retaliatory actions by other nations. The European Union has warned that if the bill becomes law, other countries could adopt similar legislation defining their own

exemptions to sovereign immunity. Because no country is more engaged in the world than the United States—with military bases, drone operations, intelligence missions and training programs—the Obama administration fears that Americans could be subject to legal actions abroad.

The legislation is motivated by a belief among the 9/11 families that Saudi Arabia played a role in the attacks, because 15 of the 19 hijackers, who were members of Al Qaeda, were Saudis. But the independent American commission that investigated the attacks found no evidence that the Saudi government or senior Saudi officials financed the terrorists.

Proponents of the legislation cite two assassination cases in which legal claims were allowed against Chile and Taiwan. Administration officials, however, say that those cases alleged the direct involvement of foreign government agents operating in the United States.

The current debate is complicated by the fact that Saudi Arabia is a difficult ally, at odds with the United States over the Iran nuclear deal, a Saudi-led war in Yemen and the war in Syria. It is home of the fundamentalist strand of Islam known as Wahhabism, which has inspired many of the extremists the United States is trying to defeat. But it is also a partner in combating terrorism. The legislation could damage this fraught relationship. Riyadh has already threatened to withdraw billions of dollars in American-based assets to protect them from court action.

The desire to assist the Sept. 11 families is understandable, and the bill is expected to become law. The question is, at what cost?

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my opposition to the veto override vote that occurred earlier today in the U.S. Senate on S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and that will take place shortly in the U.S. House. While 9/11 will continue to haunt Americans and loved ones will always mourn those lost during the terrorist attacks on that day, this legislation is not the solution. I am deeply concerned for the future implications of this measure.

JASTA would allow U.S. nationals to sue foreign governments in federal court even if that country is not on the Department of State's list of state sponsors of terrorism. Lawsuits must involve death, injury, or property damage and must be caused by an act of international terrorism in the U.S. The bill also allows civil claims to be brought against foreign states or officials that are state sponsors of terrorism if their conduct contributes to an attack that kills an American outside of the United States.

This legislation would not protect Americans from future attacks nor would it improve national security. This bill would remove reciprocal agreements that now protect not only other allies, but also the U.S., from such lawsuits in other countries. The long-term impact on our country's national security is at stake. This bill would place not only our close security cooperation relationships at risk, but also U.S. service members abroad.

Families are looking for accountability in the ability to sue foreign governments, specifically Saudi Arabia. I have deep sympathy for these families who have suffered so much. However, I do not believe that this is the most viable path to justice. This bill could unfortunately backfire and cause more concern to the counterterrorism community. While we still have the chance, I urge my House colleagues to listen to our experts who have given us many warnings about the implications of this legislation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I fully sympathize with the families of 9/11 victims and understand their desire to hold people accountable for that horrific, senseless, cruel attack.

This sympathy, understandably, prompted many of my colleagues to approve S. 2040 when it was first before Congress. Yet, I am convinced that the Presidential veto of this legislation should be upheld. Everyone should read his veto message on S. 2040 to understand the complications and the risks.

We already have a mechanism to deal with state-sponsored terrorism—a mechanism to pursue it. When it is designated, we have very strong sanctions that we can employ.

The purpose of such a mechanism is to ensure those sanctions and other steps are brought to bear only after there has been a careful review that establishes state-sponsored terrorism. In the case of this legislation, the authority is transferred, not just to the attorneys of the 9/11 families, but to any individual who wants to file a lawsuit. This opens the United States up to a wide range of repercussions that could have negative consequences for Americans.

Not only would it potentially compromise our security efforts and our diplomatic relationships, but it also invites retaliation by other countries. Millions of Americans travel overseas every year and hundreds of thousands of Americans work overseas including soldiers and diplomats, all of whom could now be subjected to harsher activities by other governments without the due process afforded by the United States government. It's not just that we could have foreign action against American assets, but foreign action against Americans.

I think the President's veto decision is wise, and I support it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the House now has before it the President's Veto Message accompanying S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," which would authorize private litigation against foreign governments in the federal courts of the United States based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries sustained on U.S. soil.

I have stated on numerous times that I believe that President Barack Obama is one of the best and most consequential presidents in American history; his stewardship of American foreign and national security has kept our nation safe and restored its reputation as the most respected nation in the world.

President Obama has been an outstanding Commander-in-Chief exhibiting exceptional judgment, judgment marked by vision and purposeful, conduct that has been steady and restrained.

Mr. Speaker, I take seriously the decision whether to override a presidential veto, particularly one relating to national security and foreign policy but, as it is a duty imposed on the Congress by the Constitution, I do not shrink from the responsibility.

I have not voted to override a veto during his tenure.

Mr. Speaker, seventeen days ago, we observed the 15th anniversary of the day our nation faced the greatest loss of life on U.S. soil from a terrorist attack.

The years that have passed since that day have not dimmed my memory or diminished my resolve to see an end to terrorism not only in the United States, but around the world.

As a Member of Congress and a senior Member of the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary, both of which deal with national security issues, I have long been committed and engaged in efforts to develop policies that anticipate and respond to new and emerging challenges to the security of our nation and the peace and safety of the world.

I will never forget September 11, 2001 when 2,977 men, women and children were murdered by 19 hijackers who took commercial aircraft and used them as missiles.

I stood on the East Front steps of the Capitol on September 11, 2001, along with 150 members of the House of Representatives and sang "God Bless America."

I visited the site of the World Trade Center Towers in the aftermath of the attacks and grieved over the deaths of so many of our men, women, and children.

I want to thank and commend the work of our first responder community on that day and every day since September 11 for their efforts to protect their communities and our nation from acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001 will always be remembered as a day of tragedy and heroism, heartbreak and courage, and shared loss.

But the loss remains especially painful to those whose loved ones died or were injured by the criminal acts of terrorists on that fateful day.

On numerous occasions in the months and years after September 11, I met with family members of 9/11 victims and witnessed their devotion to our nation and empathized with their pain, loss, hurt, and desire to obtain justice for their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, after many years of tireless struggle, Congress passed H.R. 1, the landmark "Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007," the first bill passed by the Democratic-led 110th Congress after regaining the majority. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I worked very hard in getting this bill passed.

H.R. 1 was signed into law on August 3, 2007 and implemented the 33 recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, a body comprised of ten of the most distinguished citizens in this country. Many of the families fought hard for this bill.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security, and Chair of its Transportation Security Subcommittee, I worked closely with my colleagues across the aisle and in the Senate to strengthen the provisions in H.R. 1 designed to improve transportation security planning, information sharing, and to prevent terrorist from travelling to our country.

After passage of H.R. 1, several 9/11 families brought suit if U.S. courts seeking relief for injuries alleged to have been caused by perpetrators of the September 11 attacks and allegedly sponsored by certain nation-states.

Each of their law suits were dismissed by the courts for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction since under current law such actions were barred by the doctrine of sovereign immunity except those brought against nation-states listed by the U.S. Department of State as "state sponsors of terrorism."

This is what led to the introduction of the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act,"

which would allow private litigation against foreign governments in U.S. courts based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil.

Thus, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 to create a limited new exception to the Act's general grant of foreign sovereign immunity.

Mr. Speaker, this past July the Judiciary Committee, upon which I sit, held a hearing on S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," at which the bill's supporters offered powerful and compelling testimony in favor of insuring that 9/11 families have access to their day in U.S. courts against the parties directly and vicariously liable for the injuries they suffered.

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigation, I am committed to doing all that I can to ensure that they receive their day in court.

I am sensitive, however, to the concerns raised by the Administration regarding unintended consequences that may result if the bill is passed in its current form.

In particular, the Administration, allied nations, and others point out that enactment of S. 2040 in its current form may lead to retaliation by other countries against the United States.

Additionally, the Administration raises the legitimate concern that if enacted in its current form, S. 2040 may hamper cooperation from other nations because they may becqme more reluctant to share sensitive intelligence out of fear that such information may be disclosed in litigation.

I am hopeful, however, that after this vote, these legitimate concerns can be addressed and resolved no matter the outcome and I look forward to continuing to work with the Administration, the bill's sponsors and supporters, and representatives of the 9/11 families to ensure that the 9/11 victims receive justice without substantial harm to our national security interests.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I will vote to override the President's veto of S. 2040.

I thank the House and Senate sponsors of this important legislation, my colleagues Congressmen PETER KING and JERROLD NADLER of New York, and Senators JOHN CORNYN of Texas and CHARLES SCHUMER of New York, for their tireless efforts on behalf of fairness and justice for the 9/11 families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

Under the Constitution, the vote must be by the yeas and nays.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passing S. 2040, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, will be followed by 5-minute votes on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 897; adopting House Resolution 897, if ordered; and suspending the rules and passing S. 3283.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 348, nays 77, answered "present" 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 564]

YEAS—348

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Connolly
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—77

Bass
Benishek
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Buck
Capps
Carson (IN)
Chaffetz
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Edwards
Ellison
Farr
Frankel (FL)
Garamendi
Grayson
Grijalva
Grothman
Hartzler
Heck (WA)
Hinojosa
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kind
King (IA)
Kline
Larsen (WA)
Lee
Lewis
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Moore
Moulton
Nunes
O'Rourke
Perlmutter
Quigley
Ribble
Richmond
Ruppersberger
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Sessions
Sherman
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Turner
Vargas
Veasey
Visclosky
Waters, Maxine
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Castor (FL)

NOT VOTING—5

Black
Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1501

Messrs. RICHMOND, DESJARLAIS, CARSON of Indiana, GROTHMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. COURTNEY, MCNERNEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Messrs. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, HIGGINS, and KELLY of Mississippi changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So, two-thirds having voted in favor thereof, the bill was passed, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the action of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation

of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 897) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 29, 2016, through November 11, 2016, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 183, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 565]

YEAS—242

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
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
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—183

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Black
Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1508

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 234, noes 191, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 566]

AYES—234

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar

Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—191

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gosar
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Labrador
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Black
Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1520

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3283) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the ''PFC James Dunn VA Clinic'', 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 Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) 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 423, nays 0, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 567]

YEAS—423

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)
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 (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
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
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
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 (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
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
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
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

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Rice (SC)

NOT VOTING—7

Black
Carter (GA)
Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1527

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.

Stated for:

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidable detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 567.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 892 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5303.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) kindly take the chair.

□ 1528

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, amendment No. 25 printed in House Report 114–790 offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 233, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 568]

AYES—190

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davidson
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
King (IA)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Wagner
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)

NOES—233

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibson
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Hultgren
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kuster
LaHood
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Black
Cleaver
Kirkpatrick
McCaul
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1533

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 568, my vote was recorded as an "aye"; it should have been recorded as a "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chair, on rollcall Nos. 565–568, I was unable to cast my vote in person due to a previously scheduled engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 897 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5303.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1535

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 114–790 offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) had been disposed of.

Pursuant to House Resolution 897, no further amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute referred to in House Resolution 892 shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114–794.

Each such further amendment shall be considered 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. GULF COAST OYSTER BED RECOVERY ASSESSMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GULF STATES.—The term ''Gulf States'' means each of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(b) GULF COAST OYSTER BED RECOVERY ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Gulf States, shall conduct an assessment relating to the recovery of oyster beds on the coast of Gulf States that were damaged by events including—

(1) Hurricane Katrina in 2005;

(2) the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010; and

(3) floods in 2011 and 2016.

(c) INCLUSION.—The assessment conducted under subsection (b) shall address the beneficial use of dredged material in providing substrate for oyster bed development.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the assessment conducted under subsection (b).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, my straightforward amendment calls for the Army Corps of Engineers to perform a gulf coast oyster bed recovery assessment.

Over the last 20 years, the oyster industry on the Gulf Coast has faced some serious challenges. Hurricane Katrina destroyed so many of our oyster reefs. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill blanketed many oyster growing areas and resulted in substantial harvest reductions.

More recently, flooding in 2011 and earlier this year produced increased freshwater discharges into many parts of the Gulf and threw off the mix of fresh- and saltwater that oysters need to thrive.

In 2001, oyster landings in the Gulf totaled 25.5 million pounds; in 2014, which is the most recent data available, oyster landings in the Gulf were down to 19.9 million. This is a dangerous decline that really impacts our oystermen and the overall coastal economies.

This industry is especially important to the Gulf Coast. The oyster industry generated nearly $100 million in oyster landings by fishermen in the Gulf States in 2014.

And we aren't just talking about the oystermen themselves. Having a successful oyster industry also benefits processors, restaurants, transportation, tourism, wholesalers, and retailers.

Mr. Chairman, I have visited with our local oystermen, and they are really struggling. It is heartbreaking to hear their stories. This is their livelihood, but also a way of life for these Americans. We can and we must do more to support their industry.

My amendment would pave the way for a partnership between the Army Corps of Engineers and the Gulf States to explore ways to improve future prospects for oysters. The assessment will address the beneficial use of dredged material and provide substrate for oyster bed development. Similar work has been done with the oyster industry in the Chesapeake Bay, and it has been a great success.

I also want to point out that improving the oyster beds on the Gulf will also benefit the ecosystem and environment as a whole. As filter feeders, oysters provide significant water quality benefits and, as an important prey species, they support finfish, such as redfish and other species, further up the food chain.

States have already been working to improve conditions for the oyster industry through the use of BP settlement money, but further partnerships with the Army Corps of Engineers will go a long way.

I appreciate Chairman SHUSTER and his staff for working with me on this amendment and for all his work on the underlying bill.

Ultimately, I urge my colleagues to stand up for our Gulf Coast oystermen and support my amendment.

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

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I think the gentleman's amendment has great merit, and I urge Members to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I would ask everyone to support this very important amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION.

(a) PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.—Section 5026(6) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3905(6)) is amended by striking ''or a water recycling project'' and inserting ''a water recycling project, or a project of the Corps of Engineers to provide alternative water supplies to reduce aquifer depletion''.

(b) CREDIT.—Section 5029(b) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) CREDIT.—With respect to a project of the Corps of Engineers to provide alternative water supplies to reduce aquifer depletion, any eligible project costs incurred and the value of any integral in-kind contributions made before receipt of assistance under this subtitle shall be credited toward the 51 percent of project costs to be provided by sources of funding other than a secured loan under this subtitle (as described in paragraph (2)(A)).''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, first, let me applaud the chairman's efforts and dedication to moving this reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act. Continued investment in water infrastructure projects is critical to my constituents and communities all over the country who rely on water infrastructure to protect our communities and to strengthen the competitiveness of private enterprise.

The amendment I am offering today builds upon past successes of the chairman and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It seeks to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act, or WIFIA, so that it will better address the problem of groundwater depletion, an issue that is becoming more and more widespread throughout communities all over the United States.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, groundwater is the source of drinking water for about half of the total U.S. population and nearly all of the rural population. USGS also estimates that groundwater provides over 50 billion gallons per day for agricultural needs. In order to ensure adequate water availability for our communities and our farmers, it is vital to advance infrastructure projects that produce pressure on aquifers that supply groundwater.

In many parts of the country, water availability is at risk due to rates of groundwater pumping that outpace the ability of regional aquifers to recharge. The problem has only grown worse with the recent onslaught of widespread drought.

WIFIA was passed in the 2014 WRDA bill, and is an important tool that will accelerate water infrastructure investment in many important water projects. However, the program does not provide support for alternative water delivery projects aimed at reducing aquifer depletion. My amendment to WRDA clarifies the law to ensure that these types of groundwater conservation projects qualify for WIFIA financing.

Secondly, it makes a technical modification to ensure that WIFIA financing arrangements consider the total cost of the project, which will help advance projects already under construction.

Aquifer depletion threatens our communities and industries that rely on a constant supply of groundwater, so it is critical to support investment in projects that aim to address this serious problem. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition to the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I think the gentleman has identified a real and continuing issue, and I suggest that Members support his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the ranking member and express my appreciation to the chairman for his support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CULBERSON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1___. FLOOD MITIGATION AND RIERINE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall expedite carrying out the project for flood risk management, Brays Bayou, Texas, authorized by item 6 in section 211(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, this simple amendment that I am offering today with my colleague and good friend, Congressman AL GREEN of Houston, would direct the Secretary to expedite a project that we both share in Houston, the Brays Bayou flood mitigation project.

□ 1545

It was authorized back in 1996. We have experienced massive flooding in southeast Texas, and tremendous damage to homes and businesses throughout the area that Congressman GREEN and I represent.

It is vital that this project be completed as soon as possible. Expediting this project will remove 29,000 homes and businesses from a 100-year flood plain. The project is essential to reduce the devastation and suffering the people of Houston and Harris County have experienced in recent years.

I am proud to offer the amendment today with my colleague, Mr. AL GREEN of Houston. I want to thank the Rules Committee for making the amendment in order. I especially want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and his very capable committee staff for their assistance with this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairperson of the committee, as well as the ranking member. I am so honored to be associated with this amendment.

In Houston, Texas, we have floods that total $1 billion in damages, and it is not unusual for this to occur within a 1-year period of time. We had the tax day flood and the Memorial Day flood.

I also would call to your attention that we have lost a total of 17 lives in the last two floods. So this amendment is going to go a long way toward preventing flooding. It won't end it all, but it will help us greatly, and it may save some lives.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is very straightforward. We are simply expediting the funding that has already been appropriated, already been authorized, and already set aside for this project to ensure that the Corps gives the Brays Bayou project the same priority and the same urgency that it has, for example, with other projects in the area like Buffalo.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to work with my colleague, Congressman AL GREEN. I move passage of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I congratulate the two gentlemen on a very sensitive and positive bipartisan amendment which expedites a critical authorized and appropriated project.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I neglected to thank Mr. CULBERSON.

It really has been a pleasure working with Congressman CULBERSON on this project. This has been something, as the gentleman knows, that our constituents have demanded that we pay some attention to. I hope that this will help to satisfy some of the concerns that have been raised that the gentleman and I have tried to address. So I thank the gentleman.

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

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. INITIATING WORK ON SEPARABLE ELEMENTS.

With respect to a water resources development project that has received construction funds in the previous 6-year period, for purposes of initiating work on a separable element of the project—

(1) no new start or new investment decision shall be required; and

(2) the work shall be treated as ongoing work.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, the Office of Management and Budget has imposed the need for a new start or a new investment determination for projects that have been previously fully authorized and have actually begun work despite a lack of written policy or standards.

Many of these critical projects, like one in the district I represent, the Port of Corpus Christi Channel Improvement Project, which was fully authorized in WRDA 2007 and reauthorized in WRRDA 2014, have been halted even though parts of the project have been completed.

The purpose of my amendment simply states that separate elements of a previously authorized project do not constitute a new start but are, in fact, a continuation and ongoing work. The new start determination and advancing separable elements of the entire project slows things down as we have to get a new start finding on every element. Slowing it down deprives the communities of much-needed improvements and actually raises the entire cost of the project. This amendment considers separable elements to be continuations of the fully authorized project.

The approach taken by the OMB, with respect to considering separable elements as a new start, is counterproductive to the work we have been doing on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in streamlining the review process, improving project delivery efforts, facilitating accelerated funding of projects, and reestablishing the Nation's trade and economic prowess with major port infrastructure projects like the Port of Corpus Christi.

Mr. Chairman, I urge members to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. SAM JOHNSON OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 153. LOWER BOIS D'ARC CREEK RESERVOIR PROJECT, FANNIN COUNTY, TEXAS.

(a) FINALIZATION REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30, 2017, the Secretary shall finalize all permit decisions and publish all decision documents related to the construction of, impoundment of water in, and operation of, the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir Project, including any associated water transmission facilities, by the North Texas Municipal Water District in Fannin County, Texas.

(b) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2017, the Secretary shall report to Congress on the status of the permit decisions and related documents described in subsection (a) and whether or not the Secretary anticipates being able to meet the deadline established in such subsection, including, if applicable, a justification of why the Secretary may fail to meet such deadline.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today, along with my fellow Texans, PETE SESSIONS, JOHN RATCLIFFE, and EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, with an amendment that is absolutely vital for north Texas.

Mr. Chairman, north Texas is no stranger to drought. And with our area booming, the need for water is as great as ever. That is why for years the North Texas Municipal Water District has been working hard to get State and Federal approval to construct the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir in Fannin County. In fact, they have been working at it for 10 years.

The good news is that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has already issued the State permit for this locally funded project. But here is the bad news: Federal bureaucrats have been holding up the permit for the project, specifically the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers.

There is no end in sight to the delay which will lead to a manmade water crisis. The bottom line is there won't be enough water to meet demand in north Texas without this new reservoir in as few as 4 years.

This isn't simply water for our lawns. It is about having the water to support our fast growing regional economy. Earlier this summer, The Dallas Morning News ran an editorial with the title: ''EPA's delay of Fannin County reservoir could threaten North Texas economy,'' which I include in the RECORD.

[The Dallas Morning News, June 10, 2016]

EPA'S DELAY OF FANNIN COUNTY RESERVOIR COULD THREATEN NORTH TEXAS ECONOMY

For nearly a decade, the North Texas Municipal Water District has tried to build the Lower Bois d'Arc Reservoir in Fannin County to support the rapid growth in cities like Frisco, Plano and other municipalities north and east of Dallas.

The project was moving forward until last year, when the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency abruptly shifted course at the last minute to require a more detailed analysis of the environmental impact to forested wetlands near the proposed reservoir. Completion of the $1 billion, 16,526-acre project has been delayed from 2020 to possibly 2022.

Federal environmental reviews are complicated matters, but what makes this particularly disturbing is that the EPA appears to be changing the rules in the middle of the process without much regard to real-world consequences for North Texas. The project received its state water rights approval last summer and had expected to secure the necessary federal permits by the end of last year. Those permits would have kept the project on schedule, allowing the reservoir to open in 2020 with enough capacity to provide the region with water through at least 2040.

EPA and Army Corp officials say they are only following the law, but they're also making a high-stakes gamble with the region's economic well-being. Even with normal North Texas temperatures and rainfall, Collin County is on pace to face water supply issues by 2020 unless this reservoir is constructed. A major drought would be even more problematic.

Rest assured, this issue is more serious than brown lawns and restrictive watering schedules. Water rates would soar. Construction would slow, and there could be tense moments for sanitation and fire fighting, too. Emergency water supplies would be difficult to obtain. Dallas and other neighboring water districts would have their own challenges, and water from outside Texas couldn't be tapped without more regulatory battles and technical complications that would make supplies prohibitively expensive.

Dozens of mayors and members of Congress have pressed for faster action only to be told the review will be completed on the regulators' schedule. Frustrated, U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson recently introduced a bill to exempt the project from the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and speed up construction. We don't back this bill, but, like the congressman and various other elected officials, we agree that it is time for this project to move forward at a faster pace.

North Texas' population is expected to mushroom in the next quarter-century. The Army Corps and EPA need to find a way to allow this vital water project to be completed without further delay.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. That is why I am offering this amendment which would require the EPA and Army Corps to issue a final permit for the construction of the reservoir no later than September 30, 2017.

North Texans want, need, and deserve this reservoir, a reservoir already approved by the State. I am absolutely committed to getting this done, and I ask all the Members to support this amendment.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my strong support for this bipartisan amendment which would help the north Texas region meet its future water needs.

The North Texas Municipal Water District has long endeavored to develop a reservoir project in Fannin County, Texas. This project would help address the growing population within the water district which is expected to double to 3.7 million residents within the next 50 years. The project would also support millions of dollars in regional economic growth while helping us to meet the projected north Texas water supply needs through 2040 and beyond.

To date, the North Texas Municipal Water District has faced tremendous obstacles during the permitting process, which has hindered progress on this crucial project. This amendment would simply compel the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a final permit for the construction of the reservoir no later than September 30 of next year.

The Texas delegation has a long history of coming together and reaching across the aisle to accomplish great things for our State. The process behind this amendment was no different, and I am proud to work with my colleagues to offer this amendment.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Texas, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. She and I have been friends forever.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), my good friend.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, I want to stand before this body and thank the gentleman, SAM JOHNSON, and the gentlewoman, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for their support in this important effort.

Mr. Chairman, what we are doing here today is most important. We are trying to prepare for future generations of people who will be living in Texas who want and need to make sure that we have water reservoirs that are available and prepared for that growth that will occur. This is not a partisan issue, and it is not a political issue. It is a regional issue. It is something that we have worked on very diligently.

Congressman SAM JOHNSON and Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON have gathered together, and we have worked to make sure that as we talk about this project we have worked with the EPA, we have worked with the Corps of Engineers, we have worked with the North Texas Municipal Water District, and we have made sure that during this process that we have all stuck to our word.

This opportunity that we have today is to make sure that we stick to our word, that all of the organizations who have worked with us know that we have set a date by which this must be done. There are lots of ways for people to slip out, find problems, and ignore the things which are team oriented.

I think that what SAM JOHNSON is doing here today makes real sense, and that is why last night at the Rules Committee I made sure that we not only made this in order today, but that we can do this together.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Dallas, Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), and the gentleman from Plano, Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), for the work that they have done. I thank the gentleman for the time that he has yielded me.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have no further comments. I just wish to request support for this amendment.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank both of you all and all our Dallas delegation, the Texas delegation really, for this interest.

My commonsense amendment is intended to prevent a real water crisis—which we are getting close to—by getting the Federal Government to finally issue the needed permit for this vital local reservoir project. I ask all my colleagues to support this amendment. Please pass this amendment. Let's get the water north Texas needs.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. RIBBLE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1____. CONSIDERATION OF USE OF NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURE.

In carrying out the design, construction, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of development projects, including flood risk reduction, coastal resiliency, and ecosystem restoration projects, the Secretary shall ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the use of natural and nature-based features.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

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

My amendment is very simple. It is a 40-word technical correction from my perspective. This amendment simply states that the Secretary of the U.S. Corps of Engineers needs to consider—it doesn't mandate anything—it just says they should consider the use of natural and nature-based products when they are looking at various scopes of work.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Chairman. I serve the Eighth Congressional District of Wisconsin and Green Bay is in my district. The waters of Green Bay have been affected by overflows of phosphorus and various nutrients. In this case, as part of the mitigation of trying to retain that phosphorus on the ground rather than in the bay, the Corps of Engineers could use natural berms. They could use weeds and grasses and different landscaping methods that are both aesthetically and technically better in this case.

So my amendment simply says that in this case the Secretary should allow consideration of these products. Not recommend them, not push them, not advocate for them, but simply have them in their consideration as they carry out the design, construction, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of water resources in this country.

This amendment is supported by the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and about ten others or so.

Mr. Chairman, that is the scope of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, though I am not in opposition.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to congratulate the gentleman on his persistence. This is a very commonsense amendment and it could have tremendous benefits nationwide. It is great policy. I congratulate him for his persistence because this amendment was rejected in committee, but things seem different on the floor, and that is great.

I urge our colleagues to support this fully.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Chairman, I also thank the ranking member for his words. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER as well for recognizing that this amendment has merit.

I recommend that my colleagues support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) assumed the chair.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5325. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. RECREATIONAL ACCESS.

Section 1035 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1234) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) RECREATIONAL ACCESS.—The Secretary shall allow the use of a floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in the Cumberland River basin if—

''(1) the floating cabin—

''(A) is in compliance with, and maintained by the owner to satisfy the requirements of, regulations for recreational vessels, including health and safety standards, issued under chapter 43 of title 46, United States Code, and section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322); and

''(B) is located at a marina leased by the Corps of Engineers; and

''(2) the Secretary has authorized the use of recreational vessels on such waters.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the Secretary to impose requirements on a floating cabin or on any facility that serves a floating cabin, including marinas or docks located on waters under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in the Cumberland River basin, that are different or more stringent than the requirements imposed on all recreational vessels authorized to use such waters.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

''(A) VESSEL.—The term 'vessel' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of title 1, United States Code.

''(B) REQUIREMENT.—The term 'requirement' includes a requirement imposed through the utilization of guidance.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, this small legislative clarification will go a long way to promote tourism and economic opportunity on Corps lakes.

Beautiful Lake Cumberland, in my Congressional District, is the largest man-made lake east of the Mississippi. Located within a day's drive of 87 million Americans and with over 1,200 miles of pristine coastline, it is the ideal location for families to enjoy a week or a weekend on a houseboat.

Indeed, Lake Cumberland was once the houseboat capital of America, but that all abruptly changed when a major Corps rehabilitation project on the dam coincided with a downturn of the U.S. economy in 2007. The Corps had to lower the lake by some 43 feet to repair damage to Wolf Creek Dam, and the houseboat business was all but decimated.

It took 7 years to complete this project and restore lake levels, but I am proud to say, Mr. Chairman, that Lake Cumberland is now open for business. Unfortunately, the Corps has not been as eager as others to bring back the vibrant houseboat industry that once flourished in this region, or to support the emerging floating cabin industry that promises to make lake life accessible to more and more vacationers and families.

With Chairman SHUSTER's support, we added bipartisan language to the last WRDA bill to ensure that floating cabins, once garnering safety approval by the U.S. Coast Guard, would be permitted on Corps lakes. However, the Corps has since found new and creative ways to continue banning floating cabins from their lakes, particularly through the promulgation of overly burdensome guidance with requirements far more stringent than those health and safety standards expected by the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard has successfully safeguarded our maritime system since its creation in 1790, and it is, therefore, the Coast Guard that should be the lead Federal agency in regulating the vessels that navigate our Federal waterways. Today's amendment simply reinforces congressional intent to ensure that there is one standard for these floating cabins, and that standard would be set by the U.S. Coast Guard. Safety should always remain our highest priority, and I am confident these cabins will create exciting new opportunities at Lake Cumberland and other Corps lakes.

I urge support of this amendment.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. ROUZER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. NO WAKE ZONES FOR VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with State and local officials to establish a no wake zone for vessels in a covered navigation channel if—

(1) State or local law enforcement officers have documented that there exist safety hazards that are a direct result of excessive wakes in the channel;

(2) a State law has been enacted to establish a no wake zone for the channel or waters adjacent to the channel; and

(3) the no wake zone complies with any recommendation made by the Commandant of the Coast Guard to ensure the safety of vessels operating in the zone and the safety of the passengers and crew aboard such vessels.

(b) EXCEPTION.—A no wake zone established pursuant to this section shall not apply to the operation of a towing vessel, as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(c) COVERED NAVIGATION CHANNEL.—In this section, the term ''covered navigation channel'' means a navigation channel that—

(1) is federally marked or maintained;

(2) is part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; and

(3) is adjacent to a marina.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I have come here to the floor this afternoon because there is a specific and, I would argue, unique public safety concern that I have in my district right along the Intracoastal Waterway. Specifically, it is right there at Southport Marina.

Let me give you a visual description of what is taking place there. When you are traveling up the Intracoastal Waterway, particularly from the south, you can't see the Southport Marina at all. There is not a no-wake zone there. Because you can't see the Southport Marina, these boats, particularly the recreational users, fly right on through there.

This is a high traffic area, particularly during the spring and summer months when you have a lot of recreational boaters on the water. This is a growing area. In fact, this has been a public safety concern for some time; so much of a public safety concern, that the State of North Carolina passed a law requiring that this area adjacent to the Southport Marina be a no-wake zone. The problem is the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard won't recognize it.

So let me give you this mental picture again. You have got the Intracoastal Waterway, you have a marina that most boaters, particularly those speeding up from the south, can't see on the left-hand side. They are flying through there. You have all kinds of boats coming in and out, recreational boats coming in and out of the marina. This is a major accident waiting to happen.

The local sheriff's office is quite concerned about this. The local government and county commissioners, town, and all of the local citizens are quite concerned about this. Again, I want to

stress that there has been so much concern about this that the State of North Carolina passed a law requiring this area to be a no-wake zone.

So this is not an amendment in any way, shape, or form to require or attempt to persuade the Corps of Engineers or Coast Guard to get in the business of no-wake zones. However, it is designed to encourage the Corps and the Coast Guard to work with the locals and the State to address this significant public safety issue.

The amendment is narrowly crafted so as to avoid creating any other speed bump, for example, up and down the Intracoastal Waterway. And there is an exception made for tugboat operators, because I certainly recognize that they have to maintain a certain speed in order to get the cargo through the waterway.

I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I would ask the author—I am a bit puzzled, and we have been unable to get an answer expeditiously from the Coast Guard—you are saying the Coast Guard will not recognize the no-wake zone, but the enforcement would fall to the local harbor patrol or the local authorities. So there is a no-wake zone that the local officials can fine or penalize people who violate it, can they not?

Mr. ROUZER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. ROUZER. Here is the situation. There is not a no-wake zone there because the Army Corps and the Coast Guard do not recognize it. The State passed a law requiring that there be a no-wake zone, but there is not one because Federal law, obviously, supersedes State law.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I think we have got an issue here that doesn't require legislation. I am not going to object to this going forward, but I think we can get the attention of the Coast Guard and figure out what is going on here because I am not aware—and I live on a boat in D.C. and I have spent a lot of time on the water and I have been on the Intracoastal Waterway. I am not aware that the Coast Guard has any authority over locally declared no-wake zones to preempt them, and I am puzzled as to why they would do that in this particular case.

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I think the problem specifically is that it is Federal water. I would add, again to paint a mental picture here, you have State and local officials that want to have a no-wake zone; and the only reason why there is not a no-wake zone there is because the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard do not recognize it. Again, I would suspect that is specifically because it is Federal water.

This amendment is narrowly tailored to address this specific public safety issue. Again, I would encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUZER. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I am puzzled because, again, I have been on segments of the Intracoastal Waterway, which I guess he is saying are all declared to be Federal waters where there are no-wake zones. So I don't know what the issue is. I would be happy to work with the gentleman on this, and I am not going to object to the amendment at this point.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the comments of the ranking member. And to be quite candid, I don't understand why they won't follow it either, which is why I am here.

I greatly appreciate the ranking member and his support, and I look forward to working to get this resolved.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1615

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 114–794.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. _____. ICE JAM PREVENTION AND MITIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out projects under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s), including planning, design, construction, and monitoring of structural and nonstructural technologies and measures for preventing and mitigating flood damages associated with ice jams.

(b) INCLUSION.—The projects described in subsection (a) may include the development and demonstration of cost-effective technologies and designs developed in consultation with—

(1) the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory of the Corps of Engineers;

(2) universities;

(3) Federal, State, and local agencies; and

(4) private organizations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, first, I thank my partner in offering this amendment, Representative ELISE STEFANIK. Our bipartisan amendment is simple. It is identical to language in the Senate-passed WRDA that allows the Army Corps of Engineers to pursue projects and technologies that prevent and mitigate flood damage that is associated with ice jams.

Every year, flooding that results from the piling up of frozen ice in rivers across the United States costs our economy millions of dollars. When free-floating ice catches on obstructions, such as bridge pilings, rocks, or logs, flooding can result upstream from the blockage and, again, downstream when the ice finally releases.

During my time in the New York State Assembly, I can remember hearing horrible stories from my colleagues in upstate New York and wondering what more could be done to prepare for these events. I know that my friend Representative STEFANIK's district has been directly impacted by such floods in the recent past, and I am glad that we could come together today to offer this amendment.

Currently, research is ongoing regarding the best practices in planning, design, and construction of Army Corps projects that would help alleviate future ice jam flooding. I support those efforts and look forward to new technologies and designs that are being developed by local universities, State and local agencies, and even private industry. Together, I know that we can do more to combat the hardships that are created in American communities every year by ice jam flooding, and I appreciate the time today to highlight this terrible problem.

I urge the Army Corps to continue its efforts at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

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

There was no objection.

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

I congratulate the gentlewoman on being sensitive to the needs of her district, which has a very real problem, and this is fully within the authority of the Corps. I wish they had more money with which to do more projects around the country. I tried that yesterday, and it didn't work, but I will certainly be happy to support this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 114–794.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. _____. TRIBAL CONSULTATION.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin a review of the policies, regulations, and guidance related to conducting meaningful consultation with Indian tribes regarding Corps of Engineers flood control, environmental restoration, and other projects or requiring the Corps of Engineers to approve a permit that may have an impact on tribal cultural or natural resources.

(b) CONTENTS.—The review required under subsection (a) shall examine and assess the following:

(1) How tribal consultation rules apply to the permitting process, especially for projects not on tribal lands but which may still be continguous to such lands or affect tribal cultural and natural resources.

(2) How the Corps of Engineers defines meaningful consultation.

(3) Whether the current process adequately considers tribal interests including environmental, social, health and well-being of tribal members.

(4) How the Corps of Engineers informs tribes that it will not consider concerns or alternatives raised during the consultation process.

(5) How the Corps of Engineers determines a project's impact on tribal communities including the Corps ability to protect cultural and natural resources such as water.

(6) The specific situations by which tribes have access to high level Corps of Engineers officials such as the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Chief of Engineers to dispute or otherwise direct concerns about pending Corps of Engineers projects or permits, including examples of instances in which the Corps of Engineers provided such access as part of its consultation with a tribe regarding a particular project.

(7) The role of headquarters in overseeing tribal consultation being done at the District and Division levels.

(8) The effectiveness of the dispute resolution process that has been developed to elevate tribal concerns to higher levels of Corps of Engineers oversight and review.

(9) Whether the Corps should undertake a rulemaking process related to its tribal consultation policies and procedures.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In completing the review required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide for public and private meetings with Indian tribes and other stakeholders.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after beginning the review under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register, a report on—

(1) the results of the review;

(2) any proposed changes to the tribal consultation policies determined necessary as a result of the review; and

(3) if the Secretary determines that no changes to the tribal consultation policies are necessary, the justification for such determination.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief.

We are all aware of the latest controversy surrounding the failure of the Federal Government to consult with Native American tribes. Wisely, the Obama administration has postponed work on the Dakota Access pipeline while it meets to hear tribes' concerns about the inadequacy of the consulting process in that case and, more broadly, across the Federal Government. In the bill before us, Mr. Chairman, we are authorizing billions of dollars in Army Corps of Engineers projects and providing direction for work it is doing in almost every community throughout our great country.

There is no question that the Corps' responsibility to undertake this work and the indigenous people's desire and ability to protect their cultural and natural resources will continue to clash, and we know that tribes continue to be frustrated by how Federal agencies, including the Army Corps, do their so-called consulting with them. I share this frustration.

I would love to go much further with this amendment, but my amendment, Mr. Chairman, simply requires the Army Corps to work with tribes to review its current consultation policies. Let me just read a little bit, Mr. Chairman, because it sounds good on paper.

''All federally recognized Tribes are sovereign governments and will be treated with respect. . . . The trust responsibility will be honored and fulfilled. . . . The Federal Government has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribal governments that recognizes self-government and self-determination,'' et cetera.

I include in the RECORD this policy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2012.

Memorandum for Commanders, Directors and Chiefs of Separate Offices, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Subject: Tribal Consultation Policy

1. This memorandum affirms and formalizes current tribal consultation procedures for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

2. The interaction between the federal government and federally recognized Indian Tribes (including Alaska Natives) has its origins in the U.S. Constitution and has been upheld and defined through Treaties, U.S. Supreme Court cases, various statutes and regulations, presidential documents and policies, including the Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, and the USACE Tribal Policy Principles, recently reissued on 10 May 2010.

3. The Policy provides an outline of our responsibilities to federally recognized Tribes as well as a framework for consulting with them. It is purposefully general in nature because each of the 565 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes are distinct and separate governments, requiring a consultation process that may be completely unique to them.

4. USACE recognizes the sovereign status of Tribal governments and our obligation for pre-decisional government-to-government consultation. USACE also recognizes the unique role Tribes play as partners in water resources projects and seeks to develop relationships with all Tribes who may need our assistance in their capacity building and self-determination.

5. USACE has an excellent tribal program coordinated by a tribal liaison at Headquarters and a point of contact or liaison in each District and Division office. These experts are ready to support you and answer any questions you have regarding tribal policies.

6. An accountable process to interact with Tribes is mandated in Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, 06 Nov 2000, and Presidential Memorandum, Tribal Consultation, 05 Nov 2009. Please ensure that your staff is aware of and abides by our Consultation Policy to ensure effective and mutually beneficial relationships with tribal partners.

THOMAS P. BOSTICK,
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Commanding.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY

1. References.

a. U.S. Constitution, Articles I, Section 8; Article VI.

b. National Historic Preservation Act.

c. American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

d. Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

e. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

f. Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

g. Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, 24 May 1996.

h. Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, 20 Oct 1998.

i. Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, 06 Nov 2000.

j. Engineer Regulation 1105–2–100, Planners Guidance Notebook, 22 Apr 2000.

k. Department of Defense Instruction Number 4710.02: DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes, 14 Sep 2006.

l. Army Regulation 200–1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, 13 Dec 2007.

m. Engineer Regulation 1130–2–540, Project Operations—Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Guidelines and Procedures, 11 Aug 2008.

n. Presidential Memorandum, Tribal Consultation, 5 Nov 2009.

o. USACE Tribal Policy Principles, 18 Feb 1998 and 10 May 2010.

p. Announcement of Presidential support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Public Papers of the President, December 16, 2010.

2. Purpose. On November 5, 2009, President Barack Obama issued a Memorandum to the heads of all federal agencies entitled Tribal Consultation (74 Fed Reg 57881) reaffirming Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (65 Fed Reg 67249) signed by President William J. Clinton on November 6, 2000. E.O. 13175 requires all federal agencies to formulate ''an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications.'' This document affirms the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) commitment to engage in consultation with federally recognized Tribes.

3. Background. There are responsibilities to Tribes resulting from the Federal Trust Doctrine, as well as from Treaties, statutes, regulations, Executive Orders and agreements between the United States government and tribal governments. Department of

Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, Department of Defense Instruction number 4710.02: DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes, and US Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Policy Principles (Attachment 1) provide guidance.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions are applied:

a. Tribe: Indian Tribes as defined in E.O. 13175, ''an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 USC 479a.''

b. Consultation: Open, timely, meaningful, collaborative and effective deliberative communication process that emphasizes trust, respect and shared responsibility. To the extent practicable and permitted by law, consultation works toward mutual consensus and begins at the earliest planning stages, before decisions are made and actions are taken; an active and respectful dialogue concerning actions taken by the USACE that may significantly affect tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) or Indian lands.

4. Applicability. This regulation applies to all HQUSACE elements, Major Subordinate Commands, District Commands, the Institute for Water Resources, the Humphreys Engineering Center Support Activity, and the Engineer Research and Development Center.

5. General Policy. The Tribal Policy Principles.

a. All federally recognized Tribes are sovereign governments and will be treated with respect.

(1) Sovereignty is the foundation of tribal governments.

(2) Tribes are responsible for their own governance and management.

b. The Trust responsibility will be honored and fulfilled.

(1) The federal government has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribal governments that recognizes self-government and self-determination.

(2) USACE is committed to supporting projects and programs beneficial to Tribes through partnership with them.

(3) USACE will ensure that it addresses Tribal concerns regarding protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands.

(4) USACE will protect and allow access to protected tribal resources under USACE jurisdiction to the extent practicable, and will work to develop and implement access policies as needed.

(5) USACE will share information that is not otherwise controlled or classified information.

c. USACE will maintain a government-to-government relationship with Tribes.

(1) Tribes have a unique and distinctive political and legal relationship with the United States.

(2) A Tribe may have access to the Chief of Engineers, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and other high level individuals if the need arises.

(3) While most interaction will be staff to staff, decision making will be leader to leader (the head of the Tribe and the district commander), with the assistance of the local subject matter expert (typically, the Tribal Liaison).

d. Consultation will be an integral, invaluable process of USACE planning and implementation.

(1) When appropriate, potentially affected Tribes, as determined by the Corps, including Tribes whose aboriginal territories extend to the lands where an activity would occur, will be contacted by letter, telephone or e-mail sufficiently early to allow a timely review of the proposed action. If contacted Tribes notify USACE that other Tribes are potentially affected, USACE has the responsibility to notify those Tribes as well.

(2) Any activity that has the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands-individual projects, programs, permit applications, real estate actions, promulgation of regulations and policies—regardless of land status, will be reviewed at the district level by an individual who effectively interacts with Tribes, usually the Tribal Liaison.

(3) Consultation will be conducted at the district or division level under the guidance of an individual who effectively interacts with Tribes, usually the Tribal Liaison, unless there is a request for HQUSACE (and/or OASA (CW) in the case of Civil Works) input, or if HQUSACE determines input is necessary.

(4) Commands will ensure that all Tribes with an interest in a particular activity that has the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands are contacted and their comments taken into consideration.

(5) Consultation procedures for individual projects or programs may be developed at the local level to meet the needs of particular Tribe(s).

(6) In recognition of the varied organizations and customs of different Tribes, written protocols for consultation procedures may be considered and implemented at the local level with a specific Tribe.

(7) A dispute resolution process will be developed during the consultation process, including a provision to elevate the consultation to higher USACE and/or Tribal levels.

(8) Requests for consultation by a Tribe to USACE will be honored.

e. USACE will support Tribal self-determination, self reliance and capacity building by:

(1) Partnering with Tribes on studies, projects, programs and permitting procedures will be supported and promoted to the extent permitted by law and policy.

(2) To the extent permitted by law and policy, provide information on opportunities to compete for requests for proposals or other potential contracts with USACE.

(3) Sharing appropriate information on USACE programs, policies and procedures, and public documents.

(4) Utilizing Tribal knowledge for planning purposes and to inform operational activities.

(5) Supporting Tribal efforts to lease and operate water resource projects and lands, where appropriate.

(6) Identifying and implementing, within existing authority, other capacity-building opportunities as they occur.

f. Protection of natural and cultural resources.

(1) USACE recognizes the importance of strict compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other statutes concerning cultural and natural resources.

(2) USACE acknowledges that compliance with the above statutes may not comprise the full range of consultation, nor of cultural property and resource protection.

(3) To the extent allowed by law, USACE will protect the location of historic properties, properties of religious and cultural significance, and archaeological resources, in consultation with and when requested by the affected Tribe(s).

6. Responsibilities of Commanders and other USACE officials interacting with federally recognized Tribes.

a. Build relationships with Tribes soon after each change of command by face-to-face interaction at the local headquarters or at tribal offices when at all possible.

b. Identify and remove procedural impediments to working with Tribes whenever possible.

c. Share appropriate Corps procedures, regulations and organizational information with Tribes.

d. Maintain open lines of communication through consultation with Tribes during the decision making process for those matters that have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands.

e. Provide Tribes with points of contact on project-related issues, and issues in general.

f. Encourage partnerships on projects with Tribes wherever possible.

g. Encourage collaborative partnerships by other federal and state agencies with Tribes to further their goals and projects.

7. Education. To develop a proactive well-informed workforce, in-house training, workshops, and an annual meeting of USACE tribal liaisons have been developed and should be attended by Corps employees who interact with Tribes-liaisons, project managers, program managers, real estate professionals, regulators, leaders, contracting specialists, etc.

8. Accountability. To assess the effectiveness of USACE Tribal consultation, professionals who interact with Tribes will keep records of consultation meetings and other tribal interactions. These records will be accessible and can be made available for purposes of reporting to OMB through DoD as per the reporting requirement in the Presidential Proclamation of 5 Nov 2009. The report will be synthesized at HQUSACE and transmitted to DoD (OSD) on a yearly basis. A copy of this report will be distributed to federally recognized Tribes upon request.

9. Implementation. USACE will incorporate the six Tribal policy principles, including pre-decisional consultation, into its planning, management, budgetary, operational, and legislative initiatives, management accountability system and ongoing policy and regulation development processes.

10. General Provision: This policy does not establish new requirements, but reaffirms procedures and policies already in place, clarifies responsibilities and establishes clear measures of implementation success.

Ms. MOORE. Let me be clear. We may need a formal rulemaking process, but this amendment today doesn't block any pending project or permit process. I do think it is appropriate, when questions are raised about inadequate consultation, that we do something here. It is my hope that this report will guide Congress within a year, when we consider the next WRDA bill, so that the chairman, the ranking member, and the underlying bill, itself, will make clear that their support for taking up WRDA bills on a regular 2-year cycle will include tribal consultation. Again, these consultations look good on paper, but my amendment wants to formalize the consultation process and get a report.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

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

There was no objection.

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

I congratulate my good friend, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin, for bringing forward this important amendment.

I think the key thing is what she said at the end, which is that the process may look good on paper but that that is not good enough when we are dealing with sovereign nations.

I have restored a tribe in my district and have worked a lot on tribal issues in my 28 years on the Natural Resources Committee. I have put an amendment into the FAST Act to allow tribal governance to take control of their Federal transportation funds so that the State isn't nicking money off the top and so that they actually can exert their sovereignty, and we have done that in some other areas for the tribes. This is, really, a critical amendment.

There is a real issue here. The tribes say, in the case of this pipeline, that they were not adequately consulted with. The Corps says, well, the box is checked. Thanks to the President, we are going to have a review of what really happened here. Obviously, this is not the only instance, and we need a broader review. We need to be sure that the Corps is fully cognizant of and recognizes the sovereignty of tribal nations so that they have in place a real and full consultation process for anything that may affect any tribe or reservation in the United States.

I think this is a great amendment and very timely, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member, and I thank the committee for being sensitive to the needs of native peoples to be included and involved in things that concern their sovereignty and self-governance.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. _____. STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall design and develop a structural health monitoring program to assess and improve the condition of infrastructure constructed and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, including research, design, and development of systems and frameworks for—

(1) response to flood and earthquake events;

(2) pre-disaster mitigation measures;

(3) lengthening the useful life of the infrastructure; and

(4) identifying risks due to sea level rise.

(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION.—In developing the program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with academic and other experts; and

(2) consider models for maintenance and repair information, the development of degradation models for real-time measurements and environmental inputs, and research on qualitative inspection data as surrogate sensors.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would enable the Army Corps of Engineers to use the best technology available to ensure our infrastructure is structurally sound and avoid the loss of property, money, and lives. Specifically, it directs the Secretary of the Army to use structural health monitoring to evaluate its construction projects and current infrastructure to mitigate damage from floods, earthquakes, sea level rise, and other disasters both before and after a major event.

The increased frequency and magnitude of the extreme weather events have high recovery costs for the Federal Government. In 2012, Superstorm Sandy caused an estimated $50 billion in damages and forced more than 775,000 people to flee their homes. The Federal Government provided $136 billion in assistance, amounting to $1,160 per taxpayer. These costs can be prevented. Research has shown that every $1 spent on preparedness saves $4 in disaster recovery costs. How we prepare before disaster strikes determines how much we spend and, more importantly, how many lives we save.

Successful planning and preparation require consultation with experts and access to the best available data with structural health monitoring sensors that can detect in near realtime the existence, location, and severity of the damage to infrastructure. Data from these sensors can provide essential information on the condition of infrastructure, ranging from bridges to skyscrapers, following a natural disaster like an earthquake; but effective management of these structures is not one size fits all. Access to realtime-specific data through structural health monitoring technology will enable the Army Corps to prioritize buildings and structures that need immediate maintenance. By working proactively rather than reactively, we can avoid further damage and higher costs.

Data show we will only be more likely to see more extreme weather, sea level rise, and floods that can significantly damage our buildings and bridges in the future. Those disasters are not only costly but dangerous. We need to provide the groups responsible for maintaining our Nation's infrastructure the tools they need to do so.

I thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the committee for considering this amendment. I ask my colleagues to support this smart, commonsense amendment.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

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

There was no objection.

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

I congratulate the gentleman from California on a very thoughtful amendment. Actually, I am having a personal experience with this right now. Since we have discovered we have a major fault off of southern Oregon, the Corps has decided that they need to come back in and bore and reevaluate the dams on my Willamette River system. This should be, I would think, a pretty routine thing for the Corps.

I asked: Why do you have to do that?

They said: Back when we built those dams, we didn't know about it, and we aren't really quite sure of their seismic stability.

I think there are probably many, many, many other Corps projects in California, Oregon, and elsewhere that need that kind of scrutiny; so what the gentleman is doing is shining a light on a problem. As I mentioned earlier, the Corps has a $2.5 billion backlog on O&M. This will come out of the O&M budget. I am happy to send this mandate to the Corps.

In revisiting my objections to the bill yesterday, which is going to cause me to vote against the bill, underspending the tax which is levied on all imported goods—paid for by all Americans who buy imported goods—and diverting that money to other programs when the Corps has critical needs like this is stupid. I really regret, again, that my harbor maintenance trust fund amendment was pulled out of the bill, but this just underlines the need for the Corps to have more resources.

I urge a positive vote on this amendment.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____. EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF AUTHORIZED PROJECT FOR FLOOD CONTROL.

The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the project for flood control,

Chicagoland Underflow Plan, Illinois, phase 2, as authorized by section 3(a)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (Public Law 100–676; 102 Stat. 4013) and modified by section 319 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–303; 110 Stat. 3715) and section 501 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–53; 113 Stat. 334).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, residents and businesses in the Chicagoland area are vulnerable to significant urban flooding that has the potential to cost millions of dollars and to endanger the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people.

To address this problem, Congress authorized the Chicagoland Underflow Plan as a flood risk management project in the Water Resources Development Act of 1988. A key component of the plan is the construction of the McCook Reservoir, which is a major flood damage reduction reservoir. This benefits the city of Chicago and 36 suburbs by aiding flood mitigation. It also helps to protect thousands of structures and millions of people.

According to the Army Corps' 2015 fact sheet to Congress, the reservoir is already 65 percent complete and would offer significant benefits to Chicago residents and businessowners. It is also among the Army Corps' most economical projects, boasting a 3 to 1 benefit-to-cost ratio. The second phase of the construction in McCook has a 9 to 1 benefit-to-cost ratio.

Since its authorization in the late 1980s, the congressional intent of this project has been clear: it is for flood risk management, and it is constructed to help alleviate flooding problems in the metropolitan area of Chicago.

□ 1630

However, the Army Corps omitted funding for the critical second stage of this project in their FY17 budget due to the mistaken belief that stage two is related to water pollution control which is not handled by the Corps. It is, in fact, for flood control and is fully authorized and documented in the Corps' system as such. That is why my amendment would ensure that the Army Corps continues to do McCook as flood damage reduction system, consistent with legislative intent, and expedites the completion of this vital public work.

After many years of strong support for one of the Corps' most competitive flood protection projects, now is not the time to abandon funding for McCook. The livelihood of too many families and businesses are at stake.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to congratulation the gentleman for shining a spotlight on this. This is something that is critical to his district and region, and it was authorized in WRDA in 1988. It is past time that this received positive consideration and moved forward, and I think his amendment will help in that effort with that. I urge Members to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for his support. I want to thank the ranking member for his comments. And I want to thank all who have worked on this project for so long. We are getting close.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. VELA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS.

(a) RELEASE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument effectuating the release of the interests of the United States in certain tracts of land located in Cameron County, Texas, as described in subsection (e).

(b) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require that any release under this section be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The Brownsville Navigation District shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with the releases.

(d) DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall release all or portions of the interests in the following tracts as determined by a survey to be paid for by the Brownsville Navigation District, that is satisfactory to the Secretary:

(1) Tract No. 1: Being approximately 1,277.80 acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States by instrument dated September 22, 1932, and recorded at volume 238, pages 578 through 580, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except the approximately 347.40 acres.

(2) Tract No. 2: Being approximately 842.28 acres as condemned by the United States by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 6, 1938, and recorded at volume 281, pages 486 through 488, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 158.14 acres comprised of an approximately 500 ft. wide strip centered on the centerline of the Brownsville Ship Channel.

(3) Tract No. 3: Being approximately 362.00 acres as conveyed by the Manufacturing and Distributing University to the United States by instrument dated March 3, 1936, and recorded at volume ''R'', page 123, in the Miscellaneous Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety.

(4) Tract No. 5: Being approximately 10.91 acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, by instrument dated March 6, 1939, and recorded at volume 293, pages 113 through 115, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas (said 10.91 acres are identified in said instrument as the ''Third Tract''), to be partially released as to the land portion of the tract.

(5) Tract No. 9: Being approximately 552.82 acres as condemned by the United States by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 6, 1938, and recorded at volume 281, pages 483 through 486, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 88.04 acres comprised of an approximately 450 ft. wide strip along the new centerline of the Brownsville Ship Channel.

(6) Tract No. 10: Being approximately 325.02 acres as condemned by the United States by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 7, 1935, and recorded at volume 281, pages 476 through 483, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 61.58 acres comprised of an approximately 500 ft. wide strip centered on the new centerline of the Brownsville Ship Channel.

(7) Tract No. 11: Being approximately 8.85 acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States by instrument dated January 23, 1939, and recorded at volume 293, pages 115 through 118, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas (said 8.85 acres are identified in said instrument as the ''First Tract''), to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except a narrow area along the channel.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment, which is cosponsored by Representative FARENTHOLD and provides for the release of Army Corps easements on certain tracts of land that are located at the Port of Brownsville in Cameron County, Texas. This amendment was written in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they have signed off on this language. The purpose of this release of land is to allow for economic growth at the Port of Brownsville. These tracts of land are the property of the port and have been under easement to the Army Corps for decades.

These easements were originally granted to the Army Corps in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, but have never been used. Returning control of the property to the Port of Brownsville will not

hinder Army Corps projects at the port.

Under my amendment, parts of seven tracts would be released subject to the conditions that the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

The Port of Brownsville is responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, making the amendment budget-neutral.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, again, I want to congratulate the gentleman on his amendment. I can confirm that the Corps of Engineers has said they have no objection to this. I guess just somehow, they couldn't get through the bureaucracy to release the land until the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) brought this amendment to the floor. So the gentleman is doing a public service for his constituents and I believe the Nation, holding onto property unnecessarily. I recommend our colleagues support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman, ranking member, Representative FARENTHOLD, the Army Corps, and the committee staff for their work on this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. GREAT LAKES NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

Section 210(d)(1)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(d)(1)(B)) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking ''For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024'' and inserting ''For each fiscal year''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I am offering this amendment because Great Lakes ports and harbors are facing a crisis. I want to thank the chairman of the committee for his willingness to work on this situation, not just in this bill but in previous bills as well.

The Great Lakes navigation system is a critical international waterway that extends from the western end of Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence Seaway on the Atlantic Ocean, a distance of over 2,400 miles. The U.S. portion of the system includes 140 harbors and over 600 miles of maintained navigation channels. This system can handle 200 million tons of cargo that generate and sustain around 130,000 good-paying jobs and an $18 billion support to our economy in the eight Great Lakes States and around the country.

However, 16 million cubic yards of sediment clogged these ports and waterways in the Great Lakes. It is estimated that it would cost nearly $200 million to make them fully functional.

In addition, the critical Soo Locks, joining Lake Superior and Lake Huron, require $115 million to complete maintenance rehabilitation while Great Lakes breakwaters and jetties need $250 million for repairs. We must act before the crisis in the Great Lakes grows even worse.

Just 2 years ago, the House overwhelmingly passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act 412–4, and it was later signed into law. WRRDA 2014 included a provision that temporarily set aside 10 percent of Army Corps priority funding for the Great Lakes navigation system.

Consistent with the spirit of WRRDA 2014, my amendment provides the 140 federally maintained commercial and recreational Great Lakes ports and harbors with access to dependable funding by ensuring that the set-aside does not expire. These Federal harbor channels, like Pentwater, White Lake, Ludington, Muskegon, Holland, and Grand Haven in my district, are the lifeblood of these communities.

The Federal Government must meet its obligation to communities across the Great Lakes region. These ports and harbors are engines of economic growth that create jobs for American workers, farmers, and manufacturers.

As the chairman knows, it would be my preference to ensure that ports and harbors across our Nation are properly maintained by using the harbor maintenance trust fund for its intended purpose: harbor maintenance.

By working together since 2011, we have made significant progress. In fiscal year 2011, only 47 percent of the harbor maintenance tax that was paid into the HMTF was used to dredge and maintain our harbors because this trust fund was raided, frankly, to pay for unrelated projects.

Because of the progress we have made, the harbor maintenance trust fund will retain 76 percent of the revenues that are intended for water infrastructure improvements and harbor dredging under this year's Appropriations Committee-passed funding bill. This is a huge win for coastal communities in all of these different States and, frankly, for our entire Nation.

I look forward to building on the success in the future and would like to thank the chairman for working with us.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am definitively not in opposition.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I want to congratulate the gentleman on this, creating a permanent set-aside for this critical harbor maintenance in the Great Lakes.

I have a similar amendment targeted toward small ports in the base bill. But, as the gentleman mentioned, what this points to is the fact that the Corps is stretched too thin. They have a $2.5 million backlog on operations and maintenance, yet there is $9.8 billion in the nonexistent harbor maintenance trust fund. That is, there is $9.8 billion in taxes that has been paid by shippers and passed on to consumers that hasn't been spent on harbor maintenance.

Were we to create a harbor maintenance trust fund next year and, say, it was to be fully obligated, we would have an additional $500 million in current revenues to invest in operations and maintenance, let alone the $9.8 billion that harbor maintenance and construction is owed from past collections.

So I think this is an excellent amendment. I recommend it to my colleagues. The Great Lakes need this sort of attention, but we have got to get to the underlying problem which is insufficient funds.

I thank the gentleman for his support also on that issue.

I urge a positive vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, may I inquire of the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan has 2-minutes remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Michigan, and I rise to support his amendment which establishes a permanent use of priority funds for the Great Lakes navigation system.

Mr. Chairman, the 2014 WRRDA bill included a temporary provision to set aside these funds for the Great Lakes to address the maintenance backlog. The Huizenga amendment continues this effort and ensures the 140 federally maintained ports and harbors on the Great Lakes, including the Port of Monroe in my district, have dependable funding as they continue to move over 200 million tons of cargo each year, and, I would add, Mr. Chairman, without producing any potholes, needing no guardrails or bridges.

They sustain good jobs and drive economic growth in Michigan and across

the country. I urge support of this amendment and the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the work that both the chairman and the ranking member put into this particular issue that is so important to those of us that border the Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to pass this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. _____. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

Section 118(c)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

''(B) FOCUS AREAS.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall prioritize programs and projects, to be carried out in coordination with non-Federal partners, that address the priority areas described in the Initiative Action Plan, including—

''(i) the remediation of toxic substances and areas of concern;

''(ii) the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species;

''(iii) the protection and restoration of nearshore health and the prevention and mitigation of nonpoint source pollution;

''(iv) habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, including wetlands restoration and preservation; and

''(v) accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and partnership activities.

''(C) PROJECTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal partners, including the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force established by Executive Order No. 13340 (69 Fed. Reg. 29043), to select the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration using appropriate principles and criteria, including whether a program or project provides—

''(I) the ability to achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes that implement the Initiative Action Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

''(II) the feasibility of—

''(aa) prompt implementation;

''(bb) timely achievement of results; and

''(cc) resource leveraging; and

''(III) the opportunity to improve interagency, intergovernmental, and inter-organizational coordination and collaboration to reduce duplication and streamline efforts.

''(ii) OUTREACH.—In selecting the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

''(iii) HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM COORDINATOR.—The Administrator shall designate a point person from an appropriate Federal partner to coordinate, with Federal partners and Great Lakes States, Indian tribes, and other non-Federal stakeholders, projects and activities under the Initiative involving harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.'';

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (J)(ii), funds made available to carry out the Initiative shall be used to strategically implement—

''(I) Federal projects;

''(II) projects carried out in coordination with States, Indian tribes, municipalities, institutions of higher education, and other organizations; and

''(III) operations and activities of the Program Office, including remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern.'';

(B) in clause (ii)(I), by striking ''(G)(i)'' and inserting ''(J)(i)''; and

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) AGREEMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, or the head of any other Federal department or agency receiving funds under clause (ii)(I), may make a grant to, or otherwise enter into an agreement with, a qualified non-Federal entity, as determined by the Administrator or the applicable head of the other Federal department or agency receiving funds, for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, or implementation of a project selected under subparagraph (C), to support the Initiative Action Plan or the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

''(II) QUALIFIED NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—For purposes of this clause, a qualified non-Federal entity may include a governmental entity, nonprofit organization, institution, or individual.''; and

(3) by striking subparagraphs (E) through (G) and inserting the following:

''(E) SCOPE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Projects may be carried out under the Initiative on multiple levels, including—

''(I) locally;

''(II) Great Lakes-wide; or

''(III) Great Lakes basin-wide.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—No funds made available to carry out the Initiative may be used for any water infrastructure activity (other than a green infrastructure project that improves habitat and other ecosystem functions in the Great Lakes) for which financial assistance is received—

''(I) from a State water pollution control revolving fund established under title VI;

''(II) from a State drinking water revolving loan fund established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12); or

''(III) pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.).

''(F) ACTIVITIES BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each relevant Federal department or agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(i) maintain the base level of funding for the Great Lakes activities of that department or agency without regard to funding under the Initiative; and

''(ii) identify new activities and projects to support the environmental goals of the Initiative.

''(G) REVISION OF INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not less often than once every 5 years, the Administrator, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Initiative Action Plan to guide the activities of the Initiative in addressing the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes system.

''(ii) OUTREACH.—In reviewing and revising the Initiative Action Plan under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

''(H) MONITORING AND REPORTING.—The Administrator shall—

''(i) establish and maintain a process for monitoring and periodically reporting to the public on the progress made in implementing the Initiative Action Plan;

''(ii) make information about each project carried out under the Initiative Action Plan available on a public website; and

''(iii) provide to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works a yearly detailed description of the progress of the Initiative and amounts transferred to participating Federal departments and agencies under subparagraph (D)(ii).

''(I) INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'Initiative Action Plan' means the comprehensive, multi-year action plan for the restoration of the Great Lakes, first developed pursuant to the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Conference Report accompanying the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–88).

''(J) FUNDING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this paragraph creates, expands, or amends the authority of the Administrator to implement programs or projects under—

''(I) this section;

''(II) the Initiative Action Plan; or

''(III) the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment. I would like to start today by thanking Chairman SHUSTER, subcommittee Chairman GIBBS, and the rest of the members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for the committee's thorough review of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; here and after, GLRI. The GLRI ensures we work together as a country to protect and preserve one of our most important national treasures and economic assets, the Great Lakes.

According to recent estimates, if the Great Lakes region were a country its GDP would be the third largest in the world. The Great Lakes currently generate 1.5 million jobs and $60 billion in wages annually and provides the foundation for a $30 billion tourism economy. Whether it is manufacturing, mining, engineering, agriculture, or fishing, the Great Lakes support a wide variety of jobs and industries, but the Lakes' importance doesn't stop there.

The Great Lakes does not just provide jobs; it provides a resource. You see, the Great Lakes holds 6 quadrillion gallons of fresh water. They contain 95 percent of the surface freshwater in the United States and more

than 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater. It provides drinking water to 46 million people.

The text of this amendment is the same as the text of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016, which just passed this House unanimously on April 26, 2016.

I offer my amendment today in hopes that it will finally pass in the Senate, which overwhelmingly passed a similar provision in their WRDA bill. The difference between the House and Senate versions are small but they are important. This amendment includes important changes to current law that reflect feedback from the Government Accountability Office and key stakeholders.

My amendment enhances the non-Federal stakeholder outreach the EPA is required to conduct to ensure regular consultation with States and tribes and better communication with NGOs.

This amendment also includes a coordinator to address harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie which reduces duplication and increases transparency. It requires more robust, adaptive management by the EPA and the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to update the GLRI action plan every 5 years.

None of these changes were included in the Senate bill. Adding them to the House WRDA bill will make sure these thoughtful provisions, which enhance transparency, accountability, and local planning, are maintained as we fight to get this bill passed.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I do not oppose the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, this is a good amendment that I support. It authorizes, as my colleague explained, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Mr. JOYCE has championed this bill and worked very hard, as has Ms. KAPTUR, on this important issue.

In fact, the GLRI bill passed through the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and passed the House by a voice vote, so I firmly stand behind Mr. JOYCE's amendment. I support it and would urge all my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who has also been very active in this campaign.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman JOYCE for yielding, and I urge strong support of his amendment. I thank him for his vigilant and necessary championing of our Great Lakes, the largest body of freshwater on the face of the Earth. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and Subcommittee Chairman GIBBS for helping us to elevate to national importance and to large numbers of our citizenry the sheer magnitude of what these freshwater seas actually represent for our country and the world.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been very effective in beginning to address the severe and unique concerns confronting our Great Lakes. During the first 5 years of GLRI, Federal agencies and their partners removed 42 beneficial-use-impairment listings in 17 areas of concern, quadrupling the number of beneficial use impairments removed in the preceding 22 years. For example, this year the Environmental Protection Agency made an important designation at the Black River area of concern near Lorain, Ohio. It is the largest EPA GLRI investment, and it will bring that area of concern to completion, an area so critically damaged by decades of industrial waste that drains directly into Lake Erie, our life source.

Programs like the GLRI, which have proven effective, deserve our praise and support. As such, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of Mr. JOYCE's amendment to protect one of our greatest national and global treasures, the Great Lakes, which represent and contain 20 percent of the world's freshwater. Just to put it on the record, God isn't making any more freshwater. This equals 20% of all that exists. We have to take care of it and shepherd it into the future.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Mr. JOYCE for his leadership on this amendment and his bipartisan efforts to ensure resources to protect and restore the Great Lakes ecosystem. In April, the House joined together to unanimously pass Mr. JOYCE's amendment to formally authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program, the same goal as his amendment today.

The Great Lakes are a vast, strategic resource, and a source of pride for the State of Michigan and all surrounding States, and our country, as well, as a whole, with this massive, very special resource. I encourage my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment and help protect and preserve the Great Lakes for the benefit of our environment and the economy for generations to come.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I will say my piece if I could. It is with a heavy heart that I come to the House floor today. My mother passed away early this morning, Pat Shuster—Patricia Shuster. I want to thank all my colleagues for their condolences and kind words.

Some may wonder why am I here today. Well, it is what my mother would have wanted. In fact, she would have insisted that I do my job and finish my work. So I know my mother is smiling down on me today.

Mom, my work is almost done. I love you and will miss you forever.

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

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the Great Lakes, I know I can sound like a broken record. In fact, some have recently called me here the Great Lakes guy. I am proud of that, and I am proud to support this amendment, proud to stand up for one of our country's greatest natural resources and economic powerhouses. I hope you all join me in support to protect and preserve our national treasure, the Great Lakes.

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. BRIDENSTINE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 72, strike lines 19 through 21.

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2___. TULSA AND WEST TULSA, ARKANSAS RIVER, OKLAHOMA.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of modifying the projects for flood risk management, Tulsa and West Tulsa, Oklahoma, authorized by section 3 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 645; chapter 377).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall address project deficiencies, uncertainties, and significant data gaps, including material, construction, and subsurface, which render the project at risk of overtopping, breaching, or system failure.

(B) ADDRESSING DEFICIENCIES.—In addressing deficiencies under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall incorporate current design standards and efficiency improvements, including the replacement of mechanical and electrical components at pumping stations, if the incorporation does not significantly change the scope, function, or purpose of the project.

(3) PRIORITIZATION TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT RISKS.—In any case in which a levee or levee

system (as defined in section 9002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3301)) is classified as a Class I or II under the levee safety action classification tool developed by the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall expedite the project for budget consideration.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

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

While the current version of the bill includes language for a feasibility study on the Tulsa-West Tulsa levees, this amendment simply strengthens the language by aligning the House version of the bill with the already Senate-passed bill. It requires the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize funding for construction if the study finds the levees are at a high risk for failure. In order to get priority, the Corps feasibility study must conclude that the Tulsa levees are category 1 or 2, the highest safety risk.

The current infrastructure that encompasses the 20 miles of levees in the Tulsa system was constructed over 70 years ago, rendering the levees woefully outdated. In fact, the Corps has assessed that the levees are among the most high-risk levees in the country. These levees protect billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure, including homes and businesses and even energy production facilities. The potential loss of life and destruction of property in the event of a breach would be absolutely devastating to my district.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply aligns the House bill with the Senate bill and helps protect life and property. I urge a ''yes'' vote on this amendment.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. COURTNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. _____. STONINGTON HARBOR, CONNECTICUT.

The portion of the project for navigation, Stonington Harbor, Connecticut, authorized by the Act of May 23, 1828 (4 Stat. 288; chapter 73) that consists of the inner stone breakwater that begins at coordinates N. 682,146.42, E. 1231,378.69, running north 83.587 degrees west 166.79' to a point N. 682,165.05, E. 1,231,212.94, running north 69.209 degrees west 380.89' to a point N. 682,300.25, E. 1,230,856.86, is no longer authorized as a Federal project beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

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

This is a simple amendment that adds to the list of projects deauthorized through WRDA a stone breakwater in Stonington Harbor in Stonington, Connecticut.

If the amendment passes, it will return the breakwater to the town of Stonington. I can report confidently that all the stakeholders in that region, the town of Stonington, and the State of Connecticut strongly support this amendment.

It is a breakwater that was built in 1827, operated for a number of years; but in the mid-20th century, the Army Corps abandoned the wharf, and it has really deteriorated since as a result of storms, Hurricanes Donna and Gloria and Superstorm Sandy. The town created an Old Stonington Harbor Wharf/Breakwater Task Force, which, again, has put together a reconstruction plan. It has received funding from the State of Connecticut. All of this is on standby, subject to deauthorization, which the Army Corps tells us is necessary for legal title to switch.

Again, it is a simple amendment. I want to, again, salute the hard work of the task force, which was headed by Peter Tacy; the First Selectman of Stonington, Rob Simmons, who was my predecessor in the Second Congressional District seat; and also to State senator Andy Maynard, who worked hard on this project and is retiring from the Connecticut General Assembly.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, but I do not oppose the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I support Mr. COURTNEY's amendment and urge adoption of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of engaging Chairman SHUSTER in a colloquy with respect to the Kildee-Moolenaar amendment that the House will consider shortly. First, I thank him for his efforts, and for the efforts of Ranking Member DEFAZIO, as well as Speaker RYAN, Leader PELOSI, and Mr. HOYER, who late in the evening yesterday worked to reach an agreement on this amendment.

The amendment authorizes $170 million for the Corps of Engineers to replace public and private infrastructure in communities such as my hometown of Flint that have received an emergency declaration due to lead contamination in their drinking water. My constituents have been waiting for the help they need for more than a year since they were told their drinking water was poisoned. This is a very important step toward getting them the help they deserve and putting this aid on the President's desk.

As the chairman knows, the Senate has passed $220 million to assist communities like Flint with lead issues in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 95–3. That package includes funding for water infrastructure replacement and for programs to help address the impacts of lead exposure on children and pregnant women nationwide. It also creates a Federal advisory committee to study the effects of lead exposure on communities, and it suggests ways to reduce it.

To my friend, Mr. SHUSTER, do I have your commitment to bridge the gap between my amendment and the Senate package so that the final bill we send to the President provides the much-needed relief to my constituents and the families of Flint?

Mr. SHUSTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman and recognize that this is an important issue to him and his constituents back home in Michigan. In 2016, no one, no one should be afraid to drink the water that comes out of their tap. That is something I think we all can agree on. It is in that spirit that I have committed to working together as we bridge the differences between the two Chambers that these bills will ensure a mutually agreeable solution. I am committed to getting this vital infrastructure bill to the President's desk. I look forward to working with the gentleman and those on the other side of the aisle to move this forward.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman. I look forward to working with the chairman on this and working to successfully get this bill out of the House today so that we can work on it with the Senate.

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, again, I want to thank the ranking member's support for my amendment and also the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for his support. I want to express my deepest condolences for his loss.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. NEWHOUSE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. KENNEWICK MAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLAIMANT TRIBES.—The term ''claimant tribes'' means the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, and the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

(3) HUMAN REMAINS.—The term ''human remains'' means the human remains that—

(A) are known as Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, which includes the projectile point lodged in the right ilium bone, as well as any residue from previous sampling and studies; and

(B) are part of archaeological collection number 45BN495.

(b) TRANSFER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), or law of the State of Washington, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall transfer the human remains to the Department, on the condition that the Department, acting through the State Historic Preservation Officer, disposes of the remains and repatriates the remains to claimant tribes.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The transfer shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) The release of the human remains to the claimant tribes is contingent upon the claimant tribes entering into agreement with the Department.

(2) The claimant tribes are in agreement as to the final burial place of the human remains.

(3) The claimant tribes are in agreement that the human remains will be buried in the State of Washington.

(4) The claimant tribes are in agreement that the Department will take custody of the human remains upon the transfer by the Secretary.

(d) COST.—The Corps of Engineers shall be responsible for any costs associated with the transfer.

(e) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The transfer shall be limited solely to the human remains portion of the archaeological collection.

(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall have no further responsibility for the human remains transferred pursuant to subsection (b) after the date of the transfer.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to offer this bipartisan amendment that is based on the text of H.R. 4131, the Bring the Ancient One Home Act of 2015, which was bipartisan legislation introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), my friend and colleague. I was very proud to cosponsor this bill, and I am honored to lead this amendment with my Pacific Northwest colleagues: Representatives HECK, KILMER, and WALDEN. I appreciate their commitment to this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, 20 years ago the skeletal remains of a human being determined to be roughly 9,000 years old were found on Federal land near the Columbia River in my central Washington district. These remains are often referred to as the Kennewick Man, but the tribes prefer the more respectful name of The Ancient One, which is how I will refer to him.

Because The Ancient One was found on lands managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, the nearly fully intact skeleton was turned over to the Corps.

□ 1700

The tribes involved—the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids—have, for two decades, worked to repatriate the Ancient One and return him for proper burial that would follow practices used by these Columbia Basin tribes for thousands of years; or, as they say, for time immemorial. The tribes believe that the spirit of the Ancient One cannot rest until he is reburied, and I think it is important that we respect that belief.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, was enacted into law in 1990 to address the treatment of Native American cultural items, including human remains, with the goal of returning these items to tribes. In other words, NAGPRA was enacted to facilitate the return of skeletal remains such as the Ancient One.

In January of 2000, both the Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department determined the Ancient One was indeed of Indian descent and should be returned for proper burial. In June of 2015, University of Copenhagen geneticists released findings that clearly tied the DNA of the Ancient One to modern Native Americans, and a subsequent study by the University of Chicago reached similar conclusions.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would simply return the Ancient One back to the Columbia Basin tribes, who are in total agreement that he should be reburied. I urge my colleagues to support the enactment of this commonsense amendment.

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, initially, I would like to invoke an expression from Indian Country in the Northwest. I raise my hands in respect first to the chair of the standing committee, Mr. SHUSTER, who has my deepest condolences, and to my friends, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WALDEN, and my roommate, Mr. KILMER.

The story of the Ancient One, or Kennewick Man, as he is known, is very familiar to those of us who live in the Northwest. As the gentleman from Washington indicated, two college students stumbled upon a skull of the Ancient One on the waters of the Columbia River 20 years ago. That accident unearthed one of the most important archeological discoveries in North American history. Think about it: a skeleton virtually fully intact that is 9,000 years old. Since that time, as has been indicated, the five tribes of the region have struggled for two decades for their right to properly honor, as is their cultural way, and rebury their ancestor.

But there is another story here that I think is important to tell. For generations, American archeologists and collectors raced across the West to collect native artifacts that they shipped back to museums or, more sadly, sold for a profit. Those museums were filled for years with Indian remains from graves, burial platforms, and battlefields that were desecrated, desecrated simply because the nonnative people did not understand the heritage and culture of native people. This era of looting and desecration is, in fact, a stain on our Nation's history.

Thankfully, that wasn't the case with the remains of the Ancient One. This is, in part, because in 1990, in its wisdom, this institution passed a law to protect Indian remains and cultural items from desecration.

In the last 26 years since its enactment, that law has allowed the Federal Government to return thousands of remains and artifacts to native tribes, and that is exactly what this amendment will do. It would enforce our existing laws and return the Ancient One to the five tribes in the Columbia River Basin, which they have fought for for two decades. They fought against a group of scientists that seek to study these remains in order to learn more about how humans first populated North America.

I don't mean to impugn the motives of these scientists. We all want to support greater scientific discovery; but, frankly, these efforts to prevent the reburial of the Ancient One ignore these tribes' sovereign rights, traditions, and, in fact, their most sacred beliefs.

Throughout American history, the Federal Government and the American people have not always—if we are honest with one another—upheld our vital responsibility to respect the treaty rights of the peoples who have been here since time immemorial. It is something we continue to struggle with—I get that—but we can't let it happen here again.

As my friend from Washington said, the science is settled. The Ancient One is in fact an ancestor of the native peoples of the Columbia River Basin, and he belongs with them. We need to do everything in our power to ensure he is returned as quickly as possibly. That is why I was honored to introduce the Bring the Ancient One Home Act, along with my colleagues here. That is why I am so proud to work closely with Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. KILMER on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, it has been 20 years, and that is 20 years too long. It is vital that we act now to properly honor the Ancient One. For that reason, I urge adoption of this amendment.

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friends, Representative NEWHOUSE and Representative HECK, for taking the lead on this effort.

I rise today in support of this amendment because the Ancient One has been separated from his family for far too long. It is time he return home.

For 20 years, as you heard my colleague point out, the Ancient One has been stuck in limbo while the scientists and lawyers have debated what the Native American community knew to be true: that he is their ancestor. Now that three independent DNA analyses have confirmed his ancestry to the native people of the Columbia Plateau, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must expedite his repatriation so that his descendants may honor his life.

This legislation will help speed up the process and ensure that the Ancient One's descendants have the opportunity to lay his remains to rest in their ancestral burial grounds. Only then will the Ancient One's story finally be complete and will his spirit be able to rest. That is why I support the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I would urge all of my colleagues to accept this amendment. It is very important to the native people of central Washington.

I, again, want to extend my thanks to Representative HECK, Representative WALDEN, and Representative KILMER. I would like to extend a word of condolence to Chairman SHUSTER. We are all part of an extended family, and I want to make sure that he understands that we share with him his loss.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in House Report 114–794.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1___. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–580; 106 Stat. 4835) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding any limitation on project purposes identified in subsections (c) or (f), or limitation on authorization, the Secretary may provide additional assistance under subsection (a), and assistance for construction, to any community identified in subsection (c) or (f), in any State for which the President has declared an emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), as a result of the presence of chemical, physical, or biological constituents, including lead or other contaminants in the eligible system, for the repair or replacement of public and private infrastructure.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purposes under paragraph (g), there is authorized to be appropriated $170,000,000 to remain available until expended.''

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is something, obviously, I have been working on for some time. It would bring urgently needed aid to my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

For over a year, the Flint water crisis has been public, and we have not yet been able to act here in Congress. It has been even longer since the residents of Flint have been drinking or using water that is basically poisoned with lead—2 full years.

To be clear, what happened in Flint was a failure of government at every level of government. Through this amendment, Congress can take its rightful place in fulfilling its obligation and its responsibility to help my hometown recover.

The amendment would authorize $170 million to restore the safety of water infrastructure in communities like my hometown of Flint that have lead in their water. More importantly, it would create a concrete commitment from both bodies of Congress to get aid for my hometown to the President's desk.

The Senate passed similar legislation by a vote of 95–3. This amendment would ensure that the House also supports communities like Flint that are suffering with this terrible problem.

We have just waited an awful long time for this. We have worked very hard to get this amendment in a bipartisan fashion to the floor. I want to thank all my friends, but particularly Mr. MOOLENAAR, who cosponsors this amendment with me.

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to it.

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

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

First, I also want to congratulate and express my appreciation to my colleague, friend, and neighbor from Flint, Mr. KILDEE, for his work on this and for his advocacy of his hometown.

I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, the crisis in Flint was caused by failures of government at all levels. The Federal Government played a significant role in causing this crisis, and Congress has held multiple hearings to investigate. Members on both sides of the aisle have found fault with the Federal Government's actions in Flint.

Today, the House has the opportunity to acknowledge those failures and do right by the people of Flint. While the Federal Government failed, the pipes in Flint were damaged beyond repair and residents were poisoned with lead. That is why fixing the water infrastructure in Flint is a proper role for the Federal Government and a step forward for the city and its residents.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) has 3½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, listen, we all know what happened in Flint was a tragic failure at every level, and folks there are rightly tired of the finger pointing. They want answers.

Is it asking too much for the EPA to tell folks when lead levels are too high? I say no. This is why this very body passed the Kildee-Upton bill earlier this year, 416–2, that would force the EPA to alert families when lead levels are too high.

Is it asking too much for us to tackle this problem in a fiscally responsible manner? I say no. That is why we have a responsible solution right in front of us. This provision will be fully paid for when conferenced with the Senate.

Is it asking too much for our kids to have access to safe drinking water? I say no. I was just in Flint with my friend, Mr. KILDEE. We ought to be focused on working together to get the job done.

Folks in Flint have been asking these questions for more than 2 years now. And you know what? They deserve answers, action, and results. It is time to stand up and deliver.

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I am so thankful that Congress is stepping up finally to do the right thing by providing assistance to the people of Flint.

Flint has suffered a manmade disaster because of the failure of government at every level of government: the local level, the county level, the State level, and, certainly, the Federal level. Certainly, the State of Michigan has acknowledged their responsibility and has been taking some corrective action, but this disaster is beyond the ability of the city, county, and State to deal with. It requires the Federal Government to accept culpability as well and to buck up, and it is entirely appropriate and necessary that we do so.

Helping the people of Flint, Mr. Chairman, especially the children—these are American children, these are American babies, not from some other foreign country where we give plenty of foreign aid—speaks to who we are as a people.

□ 1715

And we are Americans, compassionate, never turning our back on our own when they need help; and certainly our fellow American citizens of Flint need our country's—this country's—help right now.

So I will be very proud to vote ''yes,'' and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), my friend and member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, this is going to be from the heart. My family is originally from Flint, on my mom's side. I have had very many fond memories growing up as a child going and visiting aunts and uncles and cousins. I have recently visited those who have been affected, and it is tragic.

Mr. Chairman, the simple fact is that if these were folks that had been affected by the breach of a dam or by a nuclear plant meltdown, we would not be turning our backs on them; we would be taking care of them. We should be doing the exact same thing with the folks in Flint.

These folks have experienced failure of government at all levels for decades: local, State, and the Federal Government. That has been well acknowledged. But what we have not talked about is how we are going to then care for those citizens.

Let's fix the management issues, but, more importantly, let's care for our fellow citizens and make sure that those children, especially, are going to have the same opportunity as every other child in Michigan and the United States.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, just in closing, I want to compliment everyone who has been involved in this bipartisan solution. It is an example of Congress working together to solve a problem.

This is something that those of us—and many of us have traveled to Flint—have listened to the stories of the families of children who have been poisoned. It is a tragedy on the national level. Presidential candidates have been there.

This is something concrete that Congress can do to move the ball forward and help Flint with its healing and making a huge difference in the lives of residents in Michigan.

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

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

I just want to say how much I appreciate the efforts on behalf of my home community by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. As you have heard, Congressman MOOLENAAR, my neighbor, has been there right along.

Congresswoman MILLER stepped up immediately after this crisis became known and articulated a need for Federal intervention very early in the process. Mr. HUIZENGA obviously has been there, with roots in Flint, and has come to my community.

There is not much more I can say about what Mr. UPTON has been willing to do, working with me initially on legislation to reform the EPA's obligations regarding notification and now, of course, working with us to get this amendment before the House of Representatives.

It broke my heart when this whole episode began, to see my own hometown, the place that has given me virtually everything that I have, go through the worst crisis that it could ever even imagine, a crisis that was a threat to its very existence. So I am grateful for the help of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding, and I am happy to support this amendment.

The people of Flint have gone over 2 years without clean drinking water in their homes. They are still being exposed, still being harmed. I think it is a disgrace that we are still fighting about providing them with essential Federal aid.

I want to commend my colleague Mr. KILDEE and Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate who kept attention on the plight of this community and worked tirelessly for the opportunity to offer this amendment.

I hope to see this amendment pass shortly, but our work will not be done. We will have to work to go to conference with the House and the Senate WRDA bills and ensure that the people of Flint receive the funds that they need.

Safe drinking water is essential to every person in this country, and provisions to ensure safe drinking water should not be a partisan issue. So I urge my colleagues to join me in voting ''yes'' on this amendment.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, again, I thank my colleagues. I hope and pray that I have strong bipartisan support for this effort. It has surely been demonstrated by my friends who have spoken.

This is one of those issues that should and ought to transcend some of the divisions that often occupy this House. It is a matter simply of doing what is right for the people of my hometown and the people of this country, and it means a lot to me that so many have stood with me in this time. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Across the country, my colleagues and I hear from communities and businesses about the need to invest in infrastructure. The federal investment in infrastructure has fallen to a paltry level, and our communities are feeling the consequences of this every day. Not only does investing in infrastructure put people to work, it also allows for the efficient movement of people and goods, an essential aspect of commerce, economic growth, and public safety. The lack of robust investment threatens our global competitiveness and the safety and quality of life of our constituents.

The original Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill included language that would set a schedule to direct all of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues to be used for the maintenance of U.S. harbors instead of the current process of transferring a portion to the Treasury to cover unrelated debts. Our nation's harbors, ports, and waterways have a backlog of important projects that are key to our country's competitiveness. By moving HMTF funding off-budget, it would have provided much-needed funding for these projects. As the Senate and House negotiate the final legislation, I support directing all Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues to be used for harbor maintenance.

I applaud Ranking Member DEFAZIO for securing a set-aside of at least 10 percent of the revenues from the HMTF to be used for small ports. This provision will benefit many communities in Oregon that rely on small ports to get goods to market, which will help local economies thrive. These small ports can't compete for Harbor Maintenance funding alongside the large, deep-draft ports, so a set-aside is vital to their survival.

Additionally the Willamette Falls at the end of the Oregon Trail and the Willamette Locks were an important element of American settlement of the West. Repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks is an essential part of the future economic and cultural heritage of the area. A final disposition study of the Locks

is underway by the Army Corps of Engineers. It is important that this study fully consider all economic, recreational, historic, and cultural significance of the locks at the national, state, or local level.

The Columbia River is a powerful economic force in Oregon. It helps carry goods to market and provides food to tribal populations and others. We must reduce pollution and contamination of this critical resource. I joined my colleagues Reps. BLUMENAUER and DEFAZIO in introducing H.R. 2469, the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act of 2015, which includes grants for projects that help preserve and protect the waterway. As the Senate and House negotiate the final legislation, I support the inclusion of the Columbia River Restoration Act in the final bill.

I share the frustration of so many families in Oregon and across the nation whose children have been exposed to lead in their school drinking water and their neighborhoods. Families shouldn't have to worry about whether the drinking water in their homes or schools poses serious risks to their children's health. The Flint, Michigan crisis continues, and children and families desperately need aid to restore quality drinking water. I supported Rep. KILDEE's amendment to bring aid needed to communities suffering from water contamination emergencies.

Invasive mussels have destroyed infrastructure in Western States and are costly to eradicate once they've multiplied. Accordingly, prevention is important. Watercraft inspection stations help protect the Columbia River basin from being permeated by zebra and quagga mussels. I am pleased that Rep. HERRERA BEUTLER's amendment was adopted to allow funds to be used for watercraft inspection stations in Northwestern states.

I am supporting this bill today and will continue working with my colleagues to dedicate HMTF revenue for its intended purpose.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Kildee Amendment to H.R. 5303, the ''Water Resources Development Act,'' which authorizes variety of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects, feasibility studies, and relationships with nonfederal project sponsors.

Specifically, I would like to congratulate my colleague Representative DAN KILDEE who represents Michigan's 5th District on his amendment, which bring much needed relief to the people of Flint Michigan who have gone without safe potable water for over 2 years.

The Kildee Amendment provides $170,000,000 in funding to repair and replace the damaged water pipes that are the source of the toxic lead and chemical laced water flowing to Flint, Michigan homes.

For the past two years, Flint, Michigan has lived in a state of fear of the water flowing from the faucets in their homes.

It is beyond shocking and unacceptable that tens of thousands of citizens have been exposed to toxic levels of lead in their drinking water.

The trust and ability to protect our citizens' basic right to clean water has been shaken nationally by the severity and length of time this disaster has been allowed to fester without Congressional action.

Each of us in this body has a duty to ensure justice and protection of our citizens.

This was not a disaster in hiding, it was in plain sight for 2 years, but Congress refused to act until forced to do so by a deadline that they could not control.

We must not let the plight of Flint and the provision of relief let us forget that we must:

address the harms caused;

get an accounting of what happened;

understand how the water was poisoned;

make the lives of people damaged by this tragedy whole;

find justice for those lives that may have been lost; and

determine and provide for the long-term health needs of those impacted.

Flint, Michigan like so many communities across the nation really felt the brunt of the financial crisis created by the abuse of new home lending practices and deceptive investment schemes that hid the weaknesses in the economy until the great recession spread across the nation beginning in late 2008.

The financial damage done to communities like Flint in the form of steep declines in property values, which caused significant declines in property tax income.

This was not just Flint's problem, but a national reality—for financially strapped cities, towns, school boards, and municipal governments.

This shared economic crisis resulted in new leadership being sent to Congress and to governors' mansions across the nation.

Michigan was one state that turned to new leadership to solve problems and restore fiscal health to the state and local economies.

Governor Rick Snyder of Michigan was sworn into office in 2011 to solve problems and restore fiscal health to his state.

On December 1, 2010, Michael Brown took office as Flint's state-appointed emergency manager.

One of the first acts of the newly elected leaders in the state of Michigan was to drastically change the powers that could be exercised under the state's emergency manager law to include special provisions regarding the declaration of a local government financial emergency.

Over the 22 years the original emergency management law had been in place only 7 jurisdictions had been under emergency management, but following the 2011 changes to that law 10 jurisdictions were placed under emergency management.

On Election Day in 2011 the state declared that an emergency financial manager should assume control over the city of Flint.

The conditions in Flint are a cautionary tale on what happens when money has more value than people in the minds of those charged under public oath to serve, defend and protect Constitutional Rights.

On April 25, 2014, the city of Flint switches water supply from Lake Huron, which cost the city about $1 million each month to the Flint River to save money.

The Flint River had long been known by residents to be contaminated by industrial pollution.

The water out of the Flint River was not safe, but it could have been treated to prevent the erosion of lead pipes that contaminated the water, the introduction bacteria and other toxins into the homes, schools, workplaces, and churches of the community, but that would have cost money.

Shortly after the switch citizens began to complain about the color, taste, order, and reported rashes.

In August and September 2014, city officials issued boil water directives to citizens after a coliform bacterium was found in the water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-comprised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections if exposed to water born bacteria.

Several deaths are under investigation because they may be linked to the polluted water sent to Flint residents' homes.

In October 2014 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality blames cold weather, aging pipes, and a population decline for the poor water quality.

In January 2015, the Detroit water systems offers to reconnect Flint, and would waive the $4 million connection fee, but 3 weeks later the state appointed emergency manager declined the offer.

In February 2015, a memo from Governor Snyder's office plays down the problem and states that the water is not an imminent ''threat to public health.''

In February 2015—the same month the governor's office declared that the water was safe tests revealed that it contained 104 parts per billion of lead in drinking water drawn from taps in the home of Lee Anne Walters one of today's witnesses.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires action when levels reach 15 parts per billion of lead contamination, but scientist state there is no safe level of lead contamination.

On February 27, Miguel Del Toral an EPA expert reported that the state was testing water in a manner that would profoundly underestimate lead levels.

On March 12, 2015, Veolia a consultant group hired by Flint reports that the city's water meets state and federal standards, but fails to report on lead levels.

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population.

While the state declared the water safe to drink and the EPA received assurances that testing was being performed and the results showed no worries, behind the scenes something very different was happening in state offices located in Flint Michigan.

On January 9, 2015, e-mails among Flint government employees at the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance.

The emails revealed that employees at government departments in the city of Flint were concerned about Flint's water quality and in response the state paid for water coolers to be placed in government offices located in the city of flint on each occupied floor, and positioned near the water fountain, so state workers could choose which water to drink.

The core concern of the emails was the levels of a group of chemical compounds called ''TTHM'' or ''total tri-halomethanes, that were identified in the Flint drinking water.

TTHM are produced when organic matter in natural water reacts chemically with chlorine disinfectants.

Chlorine disinfectants are added to drinking water to destroy the microbial pathogens that could make consumers sick or even kill them.

Disinfection byproducts TTHM can be minimized in drinking water by reducing organic matter in water before chlorination—in other words through treating the water.

While the people of Flint Michigan continue to complain about the taste and smell of the water—which ranged from a dull grey grime to rust color in appearance government officials provided themselves with access to bottled water at the taxpayers' expense.

The amount of chlorination added to the water in excess of what should have been created another problem—people were now consuming and bathing in water contaminated with TTHM.

The amount of chlorination added to the water in excess of what should have been created another problem—people were now.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver announced that her goal would be to replace 13,000 lead pipes at a cost of $2–3,000 for each pipe for a total of about $42 million.

No one knows the reality of undertaking a massive effort such as what will be needed, so the cost could easily be much higher than estimates.

Flint cannot be another Katrina where the poor, people of color and marginalized are shutout of jobs as well as the political and decision making processes regarding their homes, neighborhoods or city.

Replacing the lead pipes of Flint must include the cost of repairing homes that will be damaged to access the pipes; repaving driveways, or re-sodding lawns that are dug up to get to pipes, and restoring sidewalks that are damaged to access pipe.

The repair and restitution of potable water to residents of Flint will not be the end of the story.

We must recognize and acknowledge that there will be long term health consequences for every person exposed to the toxic water for 2 years.

There are health impacts for children, their parents, and grandparents that cannot and should not be ignored.

Our next step must be a public fund to compensate those who have long term health impacts or diminished ability to be productive over the full course of their work careers.

We will continue to work to help the people of Flint, Michigan in order to restore them to health and eliminate their fear.

In closing, let me again express my appreciation and thanks to Congressman KILDEE for his steadfastness in advocating his amendment and to Energy and Commerce Chair UPTON, Congressman CONYERS, and Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE for their tireless efforts to ameliorate the suffering of the people of Flint Michigan.

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

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 114–794 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 15 by Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

Amendment No. 19 by Mr. KILDEE of Michigan.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 407, noes 18, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 569]

AYES—407

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
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)
Bridenstine
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
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—18

Amash
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Collins (GA)
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Franks (AZ)
Gosar
Hice, Jody B.
Jones
Lummis
Massie
McClintock
Mulvaney
Palmer
Sanford
Weber (TX)
Woodall

NOT VOTING—6

Denham
Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Ribble
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1744

Messrs. BROOKS of Alabama and Mr. WEBER of Texas changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 284, noes 141, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 570]

AYES—284

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Amodei
Ashford
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comstock
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibson
Graham
Granger
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Guinta
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hurd (TX)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zinke

NOES—141

Allen
Babin
Barr
Barton
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Davidson
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt (VA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCaul
McClintock
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rothfus
Rouzer
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Walker
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Zeldin

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—5

Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Ribble
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1755

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

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

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota). The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) having assumed the chair, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 897, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

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

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I am opposed to the bill.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DeFazio moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5303 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

SEC. ____. NO CORPS FUNDING FOR SOCCER FIELDS, BASEBALL FIELDS, BASKETBALL COURTS, OR SPLASH PARKS.

Notwithstanding item 1 of the table in section 401(a)(8), the Secretary may not carry out the project for the Upper Trinity River, Modified Central City, Fort Worth, Texas—

(1) if the Secretary determines that any portion of the project is for the construction of a soccer field, baseball field, basketball

court, or splash park using Federal funds provided through the Corps of Engineers; or

(2) notwithstanding section 116 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–447; 118 Stat. 2944), until the Secretary has determined that the project is economically justified.

Mr. SHUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

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

□ 1800

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard over 2 days, the Corps' budget is tight—a $2.4 billion backlog in operations and maintenance and, after today, a $74 billion backlog in authorized projects. Now, deep in this bill is a line item that provides an authorization for an $810 million lavish waterfront development project in Fort Worth, Texas. My amendment simply guarantees fiscal discipline and regular order in two parts.

First, it guarantees that no Corps of Engineers funds will be used to build soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, or splash parks as part of the project. Second, it requires the Secretary of the Army to determine that the project is economically justified. That is it. That is all this does.

The proponents of this will say there are no funds that are going to be used for soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, or splash parks. However, this has been extracted from the Web site of the developer of the project. This is the official Web site. These are all included.

They say: We are going to use local funds.

There is a little gimmick here. Corps projects that have been authorized and have been found to be economically beneficial have to have local cost sharing. In this case, big parts of the local cost share are these things which are not qualified for a Corps project.

They say: Those aren't going to be Federal funds.

This is going to reduce the burden on the local people to match, and it is going to increase the burden on the taxpayers. In fact, if this does not authorize these things, all the Secretary has to do is to say they are not going to be constructed with Federal funds. If Members don't want to take my word for it, listen to the Taxpayers for Common Sense and National Taxpayers Union.

''The legislation authorizes funding for a project in Fort Worth, Texas, costing more than $800 million. The Upper Trinity River project is portrayed as a flood damage reduction effort, but is really a massive economic development initiative that would divert precious Corps resources to construct soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, and even a splash park. Money spent on a splash park in Fort Worth is money that cannot be spent to further the Corps' core mission areas. At the least, we urge you to remove or limit the funds. . . . '' If I am wrong and the National Taxpayers Union is wrong, the Secretary only has to confirm that.

Secondly, we are going to require the Secretary to determine the project as economically justified. Why would Congress insist on economically justifying a $510 million Federal project? A better question might be: Why wouldn't you insist on this?

Every other chief's report in this bill had to go through an economic analysis by the Corps of Engineers and be found to be a net benefit to the taxpayers of the United States. This project did not. Yes, there was a private analysis done that said this is a great project, but there was no study done by the chief's office, and it has not been economically justified.

This project started out as an earmark in 2004 at a cost of $220 million. In this bill, it is a renewed earmark at $810 million, and the Federal share has gone from $110 million to $527 million. Anybody out there who has a need for a port or a harbor or anything else, think about that as you are in a very long line, and $527 million is going to get ahead of you with an earmarked project which includes these sorts of features.

I urge Members to observe regular order, not to do an earmark by any other name, and require this project to be economically justified and not to construct sports facilities.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: While less expensive and problematic than the Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act (S. 2848), we urge you to oppose H.R. 5303, the ''Water Resources Development Act of 2016.'' Instead of much needed reform, this legislation piles billions of dollars in additional water projects on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plate. The legislation also makes policy changes that will be costly to taxpayers.

The largest challenge facing the Corps of Engineers water resources program is the lack of a prioritization system for allocating the limited available tax dollars. The legislation directs the executive branch to better explain its budgeting decisions, but this should not serve as an abdication of congressional authority. Congress should develop the criteria and metrics to prioritize Corps projects in the three primary mission areas (navigation, flood/storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration). The executive branch should be required to allocate funds in the budget request in a transparent manner through merit, competitive, or formula systems developed by Congress. Lawmakers could then conduct oversight, hold the administration accountable, and adjust the systems, criteria, and metrics as needed.

H.R. 5303 fails to include such a prioritization system. It does many other things, however. Between committee consideration and the floor, the bill grew by over $6 billion. A provision from the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 dedicating maintenance dredging funds to emerging ports is made permanent. It doesn't make sense to invest in a port that is continually ''emerging.'' It also extends set-asides for ''donor'' and ''energy'' ports without reforming the massive cross-subsidies in the existing maintenance dredging program. The legislation authorizes funding for a project in Fort Worth, Texas, costing more than $800 million. The Upper Trinity River project is portrayed as a flood damage reduction effort, but is really a massive economic development initiative that would divert precious Corps resources to construct soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, and even a splash park. Money spent on a splash park in Fort Worth is money that cannot be spent to further the Corps' core mission areas. At the least, we urge you to remove or limit the funds for this project.

Again, we urge you to oppose H.R. 5303 the ''Water Resources Development Act of 2016.''

Sincerely,

RYAN ALEXANDER,
Taxpayers for Common Sense.

PETE SEPP,
National Taxpayers Union.

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

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

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. We are going to stand up and say that the Corps of Engineers and the non-Federal sponsor have made it clear that it is not responsible for constructing baseball fields, basketball courts, and soccer fields. Not only has the Corps said to us that it is not included in this—they have confirmed, and they have reconfirmed—but, in fact, an independent board did a cost-benefit analysis on this. An independent board did one. This motion simply stops the forward motion of this bill.

When I became chairman, I committed to making sure that, in every Congress, we would pass a WRDA bill and get back to regular order like we used to do, but there was a 7-year gap; so here, today, we have a bill. It is not perfect by any means, but it is a good bill.

I look around this Chamber, and there are Members here who have projects in this that are important to their districts and that are important to their States. Most importantly, it is important to the Nation that we move this bill forward. If we delay on this bill, we are going to delay these jobs. This is a critical bill for us. It does some very, very good things. There are good benefits in here.

First, it reasserts congressional authority by restoring the 2-year cycle to WRDA. It restores congressional authority. That means we in this House and in the Senate—in Congress—get to tell the administration what they are going to do. We are not going to sit here and have them direct us and say this is what we will do. We don't know who those faceless, nameless bureaucrats are, and I am tired of that. I will not let that happen on my watch. There is a return to regular order. As I said, there are unelected bureaucrats making those decisions for us.

Secondly, it is fiscally responsible. We authorize over $9 billion in projects, but we de-authorize. We have taken it, and we have balanced it out so it is fiscally responsible.

Finally, it keeps American jobs in America by strengthening our competitiveness—not Republican and Democratic jobs, American jobs. In each Member's district and in each Member's State, this bill is going to help America be competitive so that our goods and products can go out of these ports efficiently to world markets and so they can come in and get on our store shelves efficiently and save Americans money.

This is an important economic development bill for this Nation. Let's get this bill done. Let's get into conversations with the Senate, and let's get this on the President's desk. Let's help strengthen America.

I urge a ''no'' vote on this.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 243, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 571]

AYES—181

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—243

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
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
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—7

Doyle, Michael F.
Kirkpatrick
Lowey
McDermott
Poe (TX)
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1812

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 399, noes 25, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 572]

AYES—399

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Allen
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
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
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
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
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
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy

Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pocan
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
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
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
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

NOES—25

Aderholt
Amash
Brooks (AL)
DeFazio
Ellmers (NC)
Franks (AZ)
Gohmert
Gosar
Green, Gene
Huelskamp
Jones
Jordan
Labrador
McKinley
Miller (FL)
Neugebauer
Palmer
Perry
Pitts
Polis
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Salmon
Sensenbrenner
Sewell (AL)

NOT VOTING—7

Boyle, Brendan F.
Kirkpatrick
McDermott
Pingree
Poe (TX)
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1820

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

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DAVID SNEDDON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 891, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 891

Whereas David Louis Sneddon is a United States citizen who disappeared while touring the Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China as a university student on August 14, 2004, at the age of 24;

Whereas David had last reported to family members prior to his disappearance that he intended to hike the Tiger Leaping Gorge in the Yunnan Province before returning to the United States and had placed a downpayment on student housing for the upcoming academic year, planned business meetings, and scheduled law school entrance examinations in the United States for the fall;

Whereas People's Republic of China officials have reported to the Department of State and the family of David that he most likely died by falling into the Jinsha River while hiking the Tiger Leaping Gorge, although no physical evidence or eyewitness testimony exists to support this conclusion;

Whereas there is evidence indicating that David did not fall into the river when he traveled through the gorge, including eyewitness testimonies from people who saw David alive and spoke to him in person after his hike, as recorded by members of David's family and by embassy officials from the Department of State in the months after his disappearance;

Whereas family members searching for David shortly after he went missing obtained eyewitness accounts that David stayed overnight in several guesthouses during and after his safe hike through the gorge, and these guesthouse locations suggest that David disappeared after passing through the gorge, but the guest registers recording the names and passport numbers of foreign overnight guests could not be accessed;

Whereas Chinese officials have reported that evidence does not exist that David was a victim of violent crime, or a resident in a local hospital, prison, or mental institution at the time of his disappearance, and no attempt has been made to use David's passport since the time of his disappearance, nor has any money been withdrawn from his bank account since that time;

Whereas David Sneddon is the only United States citizen to disappear without explanation in the People's Republic of China since the normalization of relations between the United States and China during the administration of President Richard Nixon;

Whereas investigative reporters and nongovernmental organizations with expertise in the Asia-Pacific region, and in some cases particular expertise in the Asian Underground Railroad and North Korea's program, documented historically, to kidnap citizens of foreign nations for espionage purposes, have repeatedly raised the possibility that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was involved in David's disappearance; and

Whereas investigative reporters and nongovernmental organizations who have reviewed David's case believe it is possible that the Government of North Korea was involved in David's disappearance because—

(1) the Yunnan Province is regarded by regional experts as an area frequently trafficked by North Korean refugees and their support networks, and the Government of the People's Republic of China allows North Korean agents to operate throughout the region to repatriate refugees, such as prominent North Korean defector Kang Byong-sop and members of his family who were captured near the China-Laos border just weeks prior to David's disappearance;

(2) in 2002, North Korean officials acknowledged that the Government of North Korea has carried out a policy since the 1970s of abducting foreign citizens and holding them captive in North Korea for the purpose of training its intelligence and military personnel in critical language and culture skills to infiltrate foreign nations;

(3) Charles Robert Jenkins, a United States soldier who deserted his unit in South Korea in 1965 and was held captive in North Korea for nearly 40 years, left North Korea in July 2004 (one month before David disappeared in China) and Jenkins reported that he was forced to teach English to North Korean intelligence and military personnel while in captivity;

(4) David Sneddon is fluent in the Korean language and was learning Mandarin, skills that could have been appealing to the Government of North Korea;

(5) tensions between the United States and North Korea were heightened during the summer of 2004 due to recent approval of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–333) that increased United States aid to refugees fleeing North Korea, prompting the Government of North Korea to issue a press release warning the United States to ''drop its hostile policy'';

(6) David Sneddon's disappearance fits a known historical pattern often seen in the abduction of foreigners by the Government of North Korea;

(7) a well-reputed Japanese nonprofit specializing in North Korean abductions shared with the United States its expert analysis in 2012 about information it stated was received ''from a reliable source'' that a United States university student largely matching David Sneddon's description was taken from China by North Korean agents in August 2004; and

(8) commentary published in the Wall Street Journal in 2013 cited experts looking at the Sneddon case who concluded that ''it is most probable that a U.S. national has been abducted to North Korea,'' and ''there

is a strong possibility that North Korea kidnapped the American'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its ongoing concern about the disappearance of David Louis Sneddon in Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, in August, 2004;

(2) encourages the Department of State and the intelligence community to jointly continue investigations and to consider all plausible explanations for David's disappearance, including the possibility of abduction by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(3) urges the Department of State and the intelligence community to coordinate investigations with the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea and solicit information from appropriate regional affairs and law enforcement experts on plausible explanations for David's disappearance;

(4) encourages the Department of State to work with foreign governments known to have diplomatic influence with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(5) encourages the intelligence community to assess the possibility of the involvement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in David Sneddon's disappearance and to possibly seek his recovery; and

(6) requests that the Department of State and the intelligence community continue to work with and inform Congress and the family of David Sneddon on efforts to possibly recover David and to resolve his disappearance.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the attached letters between myself and the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence regarding House Concurrent Resolution 891, expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2016.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: On September 26, 2016, H. Res. 891, ''Expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes,'' was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition, to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of the resolution, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will forego consideration of the measure. This courtesy is, however, conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Permanent Select Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the resolution or any similar measure.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include a copy of this letter in any committee report for the resolution and in the Congressional Record during its floor consideration. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2016.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H. Res. 891, a resolution expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that resolution.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 891 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements or extraneous materials for the RECORD on House Resolution 891.

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

There was no objection.

REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 897, I call up the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6094

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 ''Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act''.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULE.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Notwithstanding the effective date set forth in the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to exemptions regarding the rates of pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees (81 Fed. Reg. 32552 (May 23, 2016)), such rule shall not take effect until June 1, 2017.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to provide authority for the rule described in subsection (a), nor any part thereof, that is not otherwise provided by law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6094.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. I am proud to introduce this legislation to provide small businesses, colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations much needed relief from a fundamentally flawed rule that will do more harm than good. It is unfortunate this legislation is necessary in the first place.

For over 2 years, Republicans have urged the Department to update our Nation's overtime rules responsibly. These rules serve as important protections for American workers, but the existing regulatory structure is extremely outdated and complex. The Department should have used this opportunity to modernize overtime rules for the 21st century workforce.

They should have listened to the countless small-business owners, heads of nonprofit organizations, State and local leaders, and college and university administrators who warned that an extreme and partisan rule would lead to harmful consequences. But the Department failed to take a balanced approach and refused to listen. Instead, they stuck by a Washington-knows-best mentality and finalized a rule that was exactly what so many hardworking men and women had feared.

The rule doubles the salary threshold for overtime eligibility and requires further automatic increases every 3 years. And then, to make matters worse, the Department even kept in place the same old regulatory maze that has existed for decades.

As the administration pats itself on the back and rushes to implement a rule in just a few short months, those who will face the real world consequences are scrambling to meet the unrealistic December 1 deadline.

Ernie Macewen, a South Rockwood small-business owner in my district,

said he already opted to hire one less employee this year in anticipation of the rule. He said he has heard from other small-business owners who don't even know the rule exists.

Karen Richard, who owns Culver's restaurants in Ann Arbor and Jackson, is worried the rule will limit opportunities for the young people she employs.

Adrian College is trying to make tough decisions that could impact tuition and services for students, and the time crunch is making the process even more challenging.

Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids is concerned the rule will undermine support for children in need.

These stories aren't unique to Michigan. These are the types of stories that are unfolding across the country, yet the administration continues to quickly move toward the December 1 implementation date in total disregard for the challenges facing the small businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations serving our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the administration should abandon this rule before it limits opportunities for workers, hurts young people striving for an affordable education, burdens hardworking small-business owners, and jeopardizes vital services for vulnerable Americans.

It is time to go back to the drawing board and work toward the balanced, responsible approach we have been fighting for from the start.

Time is running out. The administration and Members of Congress should do the right thing and provide more time to those struggling to implement this rule before an arbitrary and unrealistic deadline. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation and to help deliver the relief small businesses, schools, and nonprofits in each and every one of our districts so desperately need.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to H.R. 6094, the inappropriately named Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

First of all, it is not limited to those. It is for all employers. It would delay the implementation of the overtime rule for 6 months. The rule is currently slated to go into effect on December 1, and working families can't wait another 6 months for a long-overdue adjustment in the overtime rule.

We ought to talk a little bit about what we are talking about. If today you are earning $10 an hour, if you work more than 40 hours a week, you get time-and-a-half for every hour worked over 40. And if they change that to the same amount, instead of $10 an hour, $20,000 a year, you still get time-and-a-half for overtime after 40 hours because your salary is under the approximately $23,000 threshold.

□ 1830

If you make $15 an hour, you get time-and-a-half for over 40 hours; but if they change that and call it $30,000 a year, the hours you work over 40 you not only don't get time-and-a-half, you don't get paid at all. You just worked extra hours because you are over the threshold.

Now, when the threshold was established many years ago, 60 percent of salaried workers were covered by the overtime rule. They were under the threshold and got overtime. But because it wasn't adjusted for inflation, it is now only about 7 percent of salaried workers who get overtime protection. The Department of Labor overtime rule will increase that threshold up to about $47,000, and this would cover about only 35 percent of salaried workers, but this would still enable millions of Americans to be compensated for work over 40 hours.

Mr. Speaker, the 40-hour workweek used to be the standard workweek, but with this new rule, more workers will benefit from the overtime rule and be able to get time-and-a-half for hours worked over 40 hours. We have heard this is too quick. When the last adjustment was made, under a Republican President, only 4 months were provided to adjust. This rule allowed 6 months. Furthermore, the administration has been working on this for 2 years, so employers have known it was coming.

Now, we will hear exaggerated reports about the impact on universities. Studies have shown that only a few people will be actually affected by the rule, and of those, only a few people will actually routinely work overtime. So the total of those affected and routinely work overtime is about 1 percent of the university employees. Their salary may go up a little bit or they may be only worked 40 hours, in which case there is no adjustment needed. Either way, you are only talking about a small portion of the salary of 1 percent. That is not going to bankrupt universities.

The nonprofits, the same thing, about 1 percent of the employees both routinely work overtime and are affected. Their salary may or may not go up, depending on how you respond because a lot of times you will just make sure that people don't work more than 40 hours a week. They can go home to their families rather than be worked hour after hour after hour.

We have also heard an exaggeration about how it will affect jobs, people will have to lay people off. Actually, one study showed that you will actually create jobs, about 100,000 jobs over the economy, because if an employer has 120 hours that need to be worked, and he is working two people 60 hours a week without paying for the extra hours, with this rule, he may be paying them time-and-a-half, and it may make more sense to hire a third person; so three people work 40 hours a week. That would create, as I said, about 100,000 jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would unnecessarily delay fair pay to millions of workers. The President, thankfully, has said that if this bill ever sees his desk, he will veto it. We can remove that uncertainty just by defeating the bill here and now.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, a man who we will all miss next year, the wisdom, the leadership, the success that he has brought to this committee, a man who understands that we work together, but sometimes we press forward to do the right thing.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his tremendous leadership on this issue and so many more.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6094.

In 2014, the Department of Labor began an effort to update Federal overtime rules. There would have been strong bipartisan support for that effort if the Department had pursued a responsible approach. In fact, we have spent years engaging in this issue because we believe Federal overtime rules need to be modernized, both to strengthen protections for workers and to provide more clarity and certainty for employers.

Unfortunately, the Department took a different approach and finalized an extreme rule that will hurt those it is supposed to help. As we have heard from witnesses at hearings and constituents back home, the rule will leave individuals with less flexibility at work and fewer opportunities to further their careers or pursue jobs they want or truly need. We have also learned that the rule will make college less affordable and make it more difficult for charitable organizations to serve people in need.

The purpose of the legislation we are considering today is to provide some relief—even if temporary—to those who will be harmed the most: men and women working hard to grow their own businesses and employees trying to provide a better life for their families, students pursuing the dream of a higher education, and countless Americans relying on nonprofits for help and support.

It took the Obama administration more than 2 years—27 months—to complete this rule, but they have given the American people just 6 months to make the difficult choices necessary to implement it. According to one report, almost half—49 percent—of small businesses aren't even aware the new rule exists. Imagine how many schools and nonprofits are in the same position.

This legislation will give these men and women more time to implement the rule and help mitigate its impact on students, workers, and vulnerable individuals. But the clock is ticking. Important decisions about payroll and

staffing have to be made and quickly. If we fail to act now, it may be too late.

I want to thank Mr. WALBERG for introducing this important legislation and for his continued leadership in championing efforts to responsibly—responsibly—update Federal overtime rules. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to acknowledge the retirement of the Chair. I have only been ranking member for this Congress, but we have been able to work together constructively for elementary and secondary education, juvenile justice, career and technical education, Older Americans Act, several higher education bills, all working constructively together. I want to thank the gentleman for his cooperative spirit. We agree on a lot and we are able to work forward. We disagree, as we are on this bill, but we are able to do that in a dignified way and still be able to accomplish a great deal during this Congress. I want to congratulate him on a great career.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I rise to voice my strong opposition to H.R. 6094, which would delay the overtime rule. It is not fair that the men and women teetering on the brink of poverty, people making $23,660 a year, are asked to work 50, 60, or 70 hours a week with no promise of extra pay. It is not fair that millions of mothers and fathers who are forced to work long hours each week find it almost impossible to give their children the time and attention they deserve, yet they are still deprived of the overtime pay that could lead to the economic security of their families.

The Department's overtime rule will extend long-awaited wage protections to nearly 4.2 million Americans, including 331,000 Floridians. I applaud the Department and the administration for their continued commitment to combating the wage stagnation that has left far too many Floridians working more hours for less pay. My hardworking constituents and Americans across this country deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

This overtime rule makes us one step closer to this goal. Small-business owners, nonprofits, and higher education institutions have options for complying with this rule, which would not impose any additional cost. Let's make that clear. H.R. 6094 will take $600 million out of the pockets of 4.2 million American workers who would have gained overtime protections on December 1. This is $600 million they will never see. That means, for example, that workers will have less money to spend on their families and their futures.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we are required to serve the will of the people, and millions of working class people want and need this rule now. Polls show that 76 percent of voters say they support the rule. We must do what is best for the American people by ensuring that all Americans are paid a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. I remain steadfast in my commitment to strengthening the wage and hour protections that Americans deserve. It is critical that the overtime rule goes into effect without any changes on December 1, 2016.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, and my good friend.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act, a much-needed piece of legislation that will delay the Department of Labor's misguided proposed overtime rule.

The annual wage in my home State of Tennessee is $41,300. In my district, the median household income is even lower, $39,000. The Department's proposed threshold for overtime is $47,000. That means that well over half the households in my district could be impacted by this ruling.

My question to the Department of Labor is: If over half the workers in an area will be affected by a regulation, where will the money come from?

The government might be able to print money, but if a local mom-and-pop business back home in my district started doing that, it is a felony, and the Secret Service won't be stopping by just to say hello.

The answer is fairly obvious to anyone who has run a business or had to meet a payroll. To comply with the regulation, fewer full-time employees will be hired, and workers will be strictly limited in their hours. While the regulation may give a few employees a pay raise, for many other employees it will result in fewer opportunities and unemployment.

We all want to see wages go up and the economy recover like it has in the past, but that happens by decreasing the number of oppressive regulations to stimulate job creation and business growth, not by adding yet another layer of regulation that could put small companies and nonprofits across my district out of business or cause them to cut back workers' hours and change salaried employees to hourly.

Additionally, if this rule is finalized, the colleges in my district will be affected to the tune of between $1 million and $9 million annually, which will only end up raising the price of education, which is already too high.

I want to say in closing that I am an Eagle Scout and very proud to be one. As you may know, the motto of the Scouts is: Be Prepared.

Unfortunately, for groups like the Boy Scouts of America that rely on donations, there is no way that they could be prepared to pay all their employees $47,476 or more and continue operating. This proposed rule will do nothing but hurt an already ailing economy and force groups like the Boy Scouts to cut back on their operation that helps kids, rich and poor, come together and learn skills they need to be a productive member of society when they grow up.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a hardworking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Virginia, the ranking member, Mr. SCOTT, for his leadership on this issue.

I am here to express my strong opposition to H.R. 6094. Prior to the Department of Labor taking action this year, the rules governing overtime were woefully out of date. In 1975, 60 percent of salaried workers had access to overtime protections. Four decades later, that number was just 8 percent. The result is that millions of American workers were denied a fair day's pay for a fair day's work for far too long.

On numerous occasions, my colleagues across the aisle have conceded that the threshold should be increased, but they say that this increase is too much too soon.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, an incremental change would have been appropriate three decades ago. Now we need bold action to restore overtime protections for middle class workers.

□ 1845

I find it ironic that this bill is called the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. After decades of long hours and low pay, it is working families that need relief. This bill takes money out of the pockets of middle class Americans right before the holiday season. In reality, this bill should be called the Grinch Act.

The overtime rule will ensure that 4.2 million Americans will have access to overtime protections. An additional 8.9 million workers will see their overtime protections strengthened. These middle class workers will either get an increase in pay or more time to spend with their families or both. This is plainly one of the most significant steps we can take to support the middle class.

I am not blind to the concerns of the business communities. I have heard from small businesses, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations in my own district who are worried about the impact this rule will have on their bottom lines; but the truth is, while this rule is a big deal for workers, it will not have a significant consequence for businesses. The Department of Labor estimates that the total cost of the rule will amount to less than one-tenth of 1 percent of total U.S. payroll costs. I repeat that: less than one-tenth of 1 percent of total U.S. payroll costs.

Among workers affected by the rule, only one in five regularly work overtime. At universities and colleges, employees whose primary duties are teaching, lecturing, or instructing are exempt from overtime coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Only 3.4 percent of all employees in colleges, universities, and junior colleges will be affected by this rule. Only 0.5 percent of those workers usually work overtime.

And who are these workers? They are the people peeling potatoes in the dining hall, they are the landscapers cutting grass in the quad, and they are the sporting equipment managers who work in multimillion-dollar athletic facilities, but can barely afford to support their families. They deserve to be paid for the hours they work.

Employers have inexpensive options for complying with this rule. For example, they can work with their teams to ensure that their employees are only working 40 hours a week, preventing overwork, as the Fair Labor Standards Act intended.

Yes, we have heard concerns about the overtime rule from the business community, but we have also heard their support. Ranking Member SCOTT and Chairman KLINE received a letter from the American Sustainable Business Council urging Congress to support a full implementation deadline of December 1, 2016. These businesses believe that any delay would be unduly burdensome, as businesses have been preparing for the rule to go into effect this year.

We have also received support from the nonprofits. I will include in the RECORD two letters to the Department of Labor offering support for the rule during the rulemaking process: one with nearly two dozen nonprofits, and another letter with roughly 140 organizations supporting the final rule.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015.

Re Comments in Support of DOL's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Defining and Delimiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales and Computer Employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act, RIN 1235–AA11.

MARY ZIEGLER,

Director, Division of Regulations, Legislation and Interpretation, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. ZIEGLER: The undersigned are all non-profit organizations that provide direct services to low-income, marginalized, underrepresented, or otherwise disadvantaged communities of people. We all labor under tight budgets as well as a demand for our services that far outstrips what we could ever hope to provide.

We are writing in full support of DOL's efforts to update the Executive, Administrative and Professional (EAP) exemptions to overtime coverage. These are rules which will greatly benefit the vulnerable communities we all strive to serve. Once they are in effect, our clients will see one of three results, all of which are overwhelmingly positive: (1) many will work fewer hours for no less pay, either affording them more time with their families and children, or freeing them up to find a second paying job, so that they can better make ends meet; (2) others will receive more compensation in their current jobs, in the form of overtime pay; and (3) the many unemployed and under-employed people we serve will have new opportunities for jobs or extra hours at their current jobs once the extra hours now worked for free, are spread out among other workers.

While we recognize that our organizations may well have to reclassify some of our own workforce, we welcome the challenge. Just as we do not want our clients to labor under abusive situations, so too must we consider how to best and most humanely use our own human resources. Our management teams welcome the opportunity this will provide to examine the work we are doing, how we are doing it, and look for efficiencies where we can, prioritize our work better, and ensure that our own staff have the same overtime protections that we want for our clients. The justice we seek for our clients in the world must also exist within our own organizations.

The proposed updates to the EAP exemptions are long over-due and we applaud the Department of Labor for taking the necessary steps to make the overtime laws of this country meaningful again.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

CASA
The Arc of Northern Virginia
Casa Latina
Center for Worker Justice
Community Service Society
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Employment Justice Center
First Shift Justice Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Maryland Legal Aid
Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center
Public Justice Center
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Root & Rebound: Reentry Advocates
Rubicon Programs
Safer Foundation
Urban Justice Center
Worker Justice Center of New York
YWCA USA.

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S NEW OVERTIME REGULATIONS

We, the undersigned nonprofit organizations, write in support of the Department of Labor's new overtime regulations. The updated overtime rule is a great victory for working people across the United States.

In its recently announced final regulation, the Department of Labor raised the salary threshold below which most workers are eligible for overtime pay from $23,660 to $47,476. This change will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, extend overtime protections to millions of workers, reduce excessive hours of unpaid work by underpaid employees, and increase salaries for employees earning near the new threshold. In particular, this rule represents an important step toward fairer pay for women and people of color, who are overrepresented in lower-paying jobs and are often required to work additional hours without compensation.

We recognize that many nonprofit organizations will have to think through and solve interesting problems and will face challenges as we make the changes needed to comply with the new regulations. These important changes will not necessarily be easy. Nonetheless, we embrace this opportunity to restore the overtime pay that lower-paid workers toiling more than 40 hours a week are entitled to.

For many nonprofits, including those of us that provide human services or advocate for workers' rights, poverty reduction, or economic and social justice, this is a critical opportunity to improve the working conditions and the economic lives of the people we serve. At the same time, our own workers and the families they support also deserve fair compensation and greater economic security.

As nonprofit organizations more broadly, we are dedicated to improving the public good. It is time to revisit the idea that working for the public good should somehow mean requiring the lowest-paid among us to support these efforts by working long hours, many of which are unpaid.

All of the undersigned nonprofit organizations are committed to complying with the new overtime regulations. We commend the Department of Labor for this significant reform, which will create better jobs and working conditions for millions of working people throughout the country. We support this historic social justice reform.

Signed,

21st Century School Fund; 9to5, National Association of Working Women; 9to5 California; 9to5 Colorado; 9to5 Georgia; 9to5 Wisconsin; A Better Balance; ActBlue; Advocates for Youth; African American Ministers In Action; Agenda Project Action Fund; Alaska People's Action; American Association of University Women; American Family Voices; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers; Americans for Democratic Action (ADA); Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey.

Ariva; Asian Counseling and Referral Service; Atlanta Women for Equality; Avodah; The Battle of Homestead Foundation; Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore; Bend the Arc Jewish Action; Black Children's Institute of Tennessee; Brevard NOW; Bus Federation; Campaign for America's Future; CASA; Catalyst Miami; Center for American Progress; Center for Community Change; Center for Economic and Policy Research; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Center for Popular Democracy; Center for Women Policy Studies; Center for WorkLife Law; Center on Policy Initiatives.

The Century Foundation; Children's Law Center (District of Columbia); Class Action; Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE); Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians); ClimateTruth.org; Coalition on Human Needs; Colorado Fiscal Institute; Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR); Community, Faith and Labor Coalition; Community Forum for Economic Justice; Connecticut

Citizen Action Group (CCAG); Courage Campaign; Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement; Democratic Socialists of America; Democratic Women's Club of Florida; Democracy for America; Demos.

Economic Opportunity Institute; Economic Policy Institute; Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless; Emerge Colorado; End Hunger CT!; Fair Budget Coalition; Fair World Project; Family Values @ Work; First Shift Justice Project; FRESC: Good Jobs, Strong Communities; Generation Progress; God's Will In Action; Gospel Justice Committee; Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition; Greater Orlando NOW; HEAL; Human Services Council of New York; Illinois Economic Policy Institute.

Indiana Community Action Association; Indiana Institute for Working Families; Innovation Ohio Education Fund; Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc; Interfaith Worker Justice; Interfaith Center for Worker Justice of San Diego County; Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Jobs With Justice; Keystone Research Center; Latino Commission on AIDS; Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Legal Aid Service of Broward County; Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia; Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE); Medical Mission Sisters; MomsRising; MoveOn.org.

NAACP; NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado; National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity; National Association of Social Workers; National Black Justice Coalition; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Center for Transgender Equality; National Council of La Raza (NCLR); National Employment Law Project (NELP); National Employment Lawyers Association; National Low Income Housing Coalition; National Partnership for Women & Families; National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; National Women's Law Center; NETWORK LOBBY; New Jersey Policy Perspective; New Jersey Work Environment Council; Noorvik Boys & Girls Club Alaska; North Carolina Justice Center; One Wisconsin Now; Organize Now; PathStone Corporation; PathWays PA.

People's Action; Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Princeton Community Housing; ProgressOhio; Progressive Change Campaign Committee; Public Health Advocates; Public Justice Center; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Sierra Club; Sisters of the Presentation; Social Security Works; South Carolina Community Loan Fund; Southeast Ministry DC; Teens, Training, & Taxes; Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition; The Union of Concerned Scientists; UltraViolet.

United Auto Workers (UAW); United States Student Association; United Steelworkers; URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity; Voices for Progress; Washington Community Action Network; Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry; West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy; Wisconsin Council on Children & Families; Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice Workers' Dignity Project; Women AdvaNCe; Women Employed; Women's Law Project; Working America; Working Partnerships USA; YWCA USA.

Mr. TAKANO. Finally, I want to raise objection to the way that this legislation is being considered. H.R. 6094 was brought to the floor as an emergency measure, bypassing regular order.

Mr. Speaker, an emergency is the epidemic of gun violence that kills 91 Americans every day. An emergency is averting a damaging shutdown and funding the Federal Government. Taking $600 million out of the pockets of hardworking Americans and preventing them from spending time with their families is not an emergency, and that is what H.R. 6094 would do.

This legislation and the way it is being considered is a message to middle class families that they are not a priority for this Congress. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

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

I would just respond to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California, that I appreciate the passion that he displays. None of us want to be grinches. My concern, however, is that at Christmastime it won't be the fact that they would get more money as a result of this. The fact is many will lose their jobs. There could be nothing worse at Christmastime than to lose jobs that they have had.

I would also suggest that the reports that were listed are similar reports and probably from similar researchers that told us if we liked our insurance, we could keep it; if we liked our doctor, we could keep him or her.

We are talking about an issue here that relates to people who are salaried. Most of the references that were made of employees by my colleague are people that aren't salaried. We are not talking about them. We are talking about people that are building a resume, an opportunity for flexibility, to meet the needs of their families, to have continued opportunity to grow in their work relationships and responsibilities. Some, as we heard in committee, come to us having started on the grill, went to assistant manager, and ended up owning corporations and leading them.

So I think we need to watch those studies, as well, and what they purport and where they come from.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), a good friend and a gentleman who understands it from another perspective.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the chairman for yielding time, and I stand in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, south Louisiana recently experienced historic flooding that damaged 12,000 businesses, leaving them struggling to survive. Recuperation is one thing, but survival is at stake right now for these businesses.

The Department of Labor's overtime rule would effectively force a choice for these flood-affected employers: either delay the much-needed recovery efforts or rapidly deplete limited funds they have available for recovering, paying for higher labor costs, as dictated by this new rule.

The consequences of this rule are real. They are having a real impact, a detrimental impact. That is why just last week, my home State of Louisiana joined 20 other States in filing a lawsuit challenging this rule.

This rule will force many businesses to unfairly and substantially increase their employment costs. This rule will lead to higher unemployment, in many instances. Small businesses will be really affected in a big way by this, at a time when labor participation is at an all-time low in the workforce—at least, something we haven't seen since the seventies.

We should be encouraging growth. I don't know why our colleagues don't understand the need for economic growth and progrowth policies. We should be encouraging growth of small business and development in the workplace. This rule, instead, would hinder opportunities for employees to move up the career ladder.

That is why I support this bill, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. This is really important legislation that will delay the implementation of this ill-conceived, disastrous rule.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6094.

There has been a lot of talk about what small businesses think about this law. We put it in the name of the bill. Well, let me give you a perspective of a small-business owner for 29 years.

I am, this week—maybe not right now; they might have left—paying overtime to one of my employees. They are working extra hours because we are extra busy at this time of year.

You know what that means when I pay them extra money? That means I am making more money because we have got more hours that we are billing out. All I am doing is sharing it with the employees who, otherwise, are spending less time with their families. That is why we pay overtime pay. It is a pretty basic concept.

The problem is, if you delay this rule for 6 months, you will deny Americans $600 million in pay during that time. There will be 4.2 million Americans newly eligible for overtime pay, under the proposed rule. Another 8.9 million working Americans will have their overtime protections strengthened under this rule.

Let's make sure people really understand what it is really about. The current level that is in place for overtime is $23,400. The Federal poverty line for a family of four, Mr. Speaker, is $24,300. We are asking people to work overtime—extra hours—for free who are living below the Federal poverty line at the current level. That makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. As an employer, I would feel terrible that I have an employee putting 60 hours a week in and living below the Federal poverty line.

So the problem is there are some employers and some business models that

simply aren't sufficient because they are taking advantage of the current overtime rule because it is so antiquated—it is from 2004—and that is simply why we have to have it increased.

Only 7 percent of the full-time salary workforce right now is under that rule. If you go back to 1975, that was at 60 percent. Even with this rule, we are only bringing that up to a third of full-time salaried workers. It is long overdue.

So what does this bill do? This would delay it for 6 months. Let's be honest. This isn't about delaying it for 6 months. This is about trying to kill the bill outright.

This is about trying not to have an increase in overtime pay. It was very clear from the hearings that a lot of these businesses make money off of their current model. We have seen that in the economy. Wages have generally been flat; although, recently, we have seen a little uptick. Corporate profits have soared. CEO profits have soared. The stock market has soared. The only thing left behind are wages.

This is one of those things to deal with it for someone who could be living on the Federal poverty line, giving free hours to an employer who, I would argue, needs a better business model.

What will happen if this rule goes into effect? One of three things:

First, you will see people working fewer hours for no less pay and able to spend more time with their family or time to get a second job if they need additional money to support their family;

Second, they will receive more compensation in their current jobs in the form of overtime pay;

Third, many unemployed or underemployed people will see new opportunities for jobs or extra hours at their current jobs once those extra hours are no longer worked for free and, instead, spread out among workers.

It is a scare tactic to say that people are going to be fired and lose work before the holidays. I am an employer. I am happy. I make money this week because I am paying someone overtime. I know I am making even more money for my business.

I learned this once when I talked to a very successful businessowner in Wisconsin about taxes. He said, I don't mind paying taxes. If I am making money, I pay taxes. If I am not making money, I am not paying.

That is the way it should be. That is how I look at this. I want to share it with my employees because, if they are making the sacrifice away from their families, that is why we have overtime pay in place. That is why we have this rule in place.

This delay is a bad idea.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Wisconsin an additional 10 seconds.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from organization that support the overtime rule.

AFSCME,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I want to express our strong support for the Department of Labor's (DOL) new overtime rule set for implementation on December 1, and urge you to oppose any efforts to overturn, weaken or delay it. In particular, we are strongly opposed to the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act (H.R. 6094), and we urge you to vote no when this bill comes to the House floor for a vote.

This new rule is an overdue and historic update that would raise the salary threshold below which most workers are eligible for overtime pay from $23,660 to $47,486. It's a recognition of our country's forward-moving economy and is supported by the overwhelming majority of Americans who believe that too many workers are working too many hours for too little pay—a major step in addressing stagnant incomes and wage inequality. It will benefit 12.5 million people—including 4.2 million parents who together have 7.3 million children under the age of 18.

H.R. 6094 would hurt many hardworking Americans that the updated rule is intended to help, and needlessly delay implementation of the overtime rule. The stated reason for the delay is to lessen the impact on small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges and universities. However, opposition to the overtime rule as it applies to nonprofits and universities is vastly overstated. Many employees of nonprofits who perform charitable operations are not engaged in ''commercial sales'' or ''business transactions'' that lead to ''enterprise'' coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). For universities, the majority of their workers are already exempt from FLSA overtime coverage, including professors, instructors, coaches, counselors, and most teaching assistants. Also, before the DOL's overtime rule was made final, many businesses, including small businesses, had forced low-level salaried employees to work long hours for no extra compensation. Employees who work in small businesses deserve the same protection as those who work for medium-sized and large businesses. The updated salary level is meant to do one thing—prevent employers from denying a 40-hour workweek and overtime pay to workers.

Americans who are employed in these sectors should not be exploited by employers and work excessive hours, or be denied time with their families. They are no less deserving of protections from working long hours with no pay than any other workers. Experts insist this rule is a critical opportunity to create better jobs and improve the economic lives of low-wage working people.

Updating the FLSA rules requiring overtime pay will provide one of the best economic boosts for working families in many years. H.R. 6094 is a direct attack on American families and workers, which would hinder job creation, weaken protections for millions of workers, and deny millions of workers a fair day's pay for a hard day's work.

AFSCME urges you to support the DOL's new overtime rule, and to oppose H.R. 6094 and other efforts to delay, weaken or repeal the rule.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FREY,
Director of Federal Government Affairs.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2016.

OPPOSE H.R. 6094: THE REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to oppose H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. This bill would delay the implementation of the Department of Labor's new overtime protections by six months, forcing millions of workers and their families to wait another half year before they become eligible for overtime pay.

The Leadership Conference strongly supports the new overtime rules, which are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2016. Following a lengthy comment period, the final rule, released in May, was preceded by months of careful consideration by the Department of Labor, which incorporated extensive economic analysis and the feedback from 270,000 letters of comment.

The rule raises the overtime salary threshold from $23,660 to $47,476, meaning that more employees putting in long hours will finally get the pay they deserve for their hard work. The Department of Labor estimates that 4.2 million workers currently considered exempt will gain the right to overtime pay, and the Economic Policy Institute projects that 12.5 million workers in total will benefit from the new overtime protections. Women and people of color will benefit significantly as more women, African American and Hispanic salaried managerial and professional workers fall at the lower end of the salary scale.

This month, data from the U.S. Census Bureau showed a substantial increase in income for American households, breaking a long-running pattern of stagnation. It is critical that we build on the progress made in the economic recovery by ensuring that middle-class and working families get a raise, as planned, on December 1 when the new overtime protections take effect.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 6094, which would unnecessarily delay by six months the new overtime rules and the increased income they would bring to working families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

WADE HENDERSON,
President & CEO.
NANCY ZIRKIN,
Executive Vice President.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: I am writing to urge you to support the U.S. Department of Labor's overtime regulation and oppose the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act (H.R. 6094), which would delay its implementation. The new overtime rule that is scheduled to take effect on December 1 would finally end the days when people who work long hours for poverty wages are not required to receive overtime pay. By updating wage and hour protections that have been allowed to erode for decades, the new rule will make a tremendous difference for millions of working women and their families.

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group dedicated to promoting fairness

in the workplace, reproductive health and rights, access to quality health care and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family. For four decades, we have fought for every major policy advance that has helped women and families.

Right now in our country, only hourly workers and salaried workers making less than $23,660 per year—which is below the poverty line for a family of four—qualify for overtime pay when they work more than 40 hours per week. It has been three decades since the regulations that govern overtime pay in our country have been updated in a meaningful way. In its final regulation, the Department of Labor raised the salary threshold below which most workers are eligible for overtime pay from $23,660 to $47,476.

The rule will extend overtime eligibility and protections to millions of women and help them support themselves and their families. The rule will provide or strengthen overtime protections under the Fair Labor Standards Act for as many as 12.5 million salaried workers, 6.4 million of whom are women, boosting economic security for working families across the country. Outdated overtime rules contribute to unfair pay, which has harmful consequences—including for the two-thirds of mothers who are breadwinners or co-breadwinners for their families. In particular, this rule represents an important step toward fairer pay for women and people of color, who are overrepresented in lower-paying jobs and are often required to work additional hours without compensation.

Expanding overtime protections will guarantee employees fairer wages and hours. Under the current low and outdated threshold, a promotion to ''shift supervisor'' for a salary of just $24,000 a year could cost a woman her overtime pay. The new rule will help to keep millions of workers from being denied the pay they rightfully deserve and their families desperately need. Employers who have been relying on their employees' free labor now will have to acknowledge the value of the 40-hour workweek by either limiting workers to 40-hour workweeks, thus giving them more time with their families, or compensating them for the hours they work.

This overtime rule is long overdue. It will help end blatant worker exploitation and help restore basic fairness to our nation's workplaces. It is a historic advance for fair pay. It must not be diminished or delayed. Please support the overtime regulation and vote no when the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act (H.R. 6094) comes to the floor. Working families cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,

DEBRA L. NESS,
President,
National Partnership for Women & Families.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the chairman of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on this issue. I am a cosponsor, and I strongly support passage of this legislation.

The Department of Labor's overtime rule is yet another one-size-fits-all mandate out of Washington that will have severe negative impacts on small businesses and their employees.

Countless small employers, including small businesses, nonprofits, and counties, simply do not have the profit margins or budget flexibility to increase the salaries of workers who are currently exempt to the new salary level.

Not only is the 100 percent salary level increase too high, but the compliance timeline is far too short. With the December 1 deadline looming, small businesses are scrambling to figure out how the rule will impact them and what they need to do to comply to stay out of trouble with this Federal Government.

According to a survey by Paychex, 49 percent of businessowners aren't even aware of the final overtime rule, which is rapidly breathing down their necks.

Over the past year, the Committee on Small Business has heard from countless small businesses that share their concerns about the overtime rule.

□ 1900

Many small businesses currently give their employees flexible schedules, pay increases when they can afford it, and offer career advancement opportunities because employees are the key to their successes. They want to treat their employees well. They don't need the Federal Government telling them to do that.

The new labor rule would limit the ability of small businesses to provide these benefits, which would have a devastating impact on employee morale. Our committee members, and other officials, including the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration, joined small businesses in urging the Department of Labor to change course.

In fact, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy sent the Department of Labor a letter that described numerous problems with the rule and recommended that small businesses be given at least a year or 18 months to comply. Instead, the Department of Labor finalized the rule without addressing small business concerns and made the compliance deadline December 1, providing barely 6 months to comply, when they said that they ought to have at least a year or 18 months.

H.R. 6094, this bill, is critical because it will provide small businesses with 6 more months to figure out how the rule affects them, how to deal with it, and what changes they need to make to stay out of trouble with the Labor Department.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for small businesses and support this bill.

I would, again, thank Congressman WALBERG for his leadership on this.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the ranking member of the Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations Subcommittee of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of the Department of Labor's overtime rule that will go into effect on December 1, 2016. This rule will protect 4.2 million workers who are newly eligible for overtime pay and strengthen protections for 8.9 million workers nationwide. Such a change not only puts more money in workers' pockets, it also strengthens our economy by driving consumer spending.

H.R. 6094 is an attempt to delay the implementation of the overtime rule, taking $600 million out of the pockets of 4.2 million American workers who would have gained overtime protection on December 1. In North Carolina, 425,000 workers will benefit from the new rule.

I acknowledge the concerns of my colleagues regarding the impact this rule may have on small businesses, universities, and nonprofits. Only 3.4 percent of employees at colleges and universities and junior colleges will be affected by this rule. Of those groups, only one-half percent of employees will be both affected by the rule and regularly work overtime.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. ADAMS. Preserving the right to overtime pay is crucial at the time when lower- and middle-income family wages are stagnant. I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 6094 and support working families.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), a distinguished member from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act introduced by my colleague, Mr. WALBERG. As an original cosponsor of this measure, I am fully supportive of its goal—to put the brakes on the Department of Labor's final overtime rule and continue to shield workers, small businesses, nonprofits, and educational institutions from its potentially devastating effects.

Under the final rule from the Department of Labor, companies and organizations will be required to pay overtime to employees who make less than $47,476, more than double the current salary threshold. While there is little doubt that the current overtime rules are in need of modernization, the Department's drastic approach will do more harm than good, marginalizing economic growth, diminishing access to valuable services provided by nonprofits, and discouraging upward mobility in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, in the midst of an economy that is still struggling, we simply cannot allow for the enactment of ill-advised policies that make it harder for hardworking Americans to make ends meet. For that reason, I am proud to support this measure, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. With the minimum wage failing to provide a living wage, Americans are working more hours than ever. Full-time employees are working an average of 47 hours a week. Nearly 40 percent report logging 50 hours or more.

Yet, only 7 percent of salaried workers qualified for overtime last year, down from 62 percent 40 years ago. Updating the rule to restore the purpose of the Fair Labor Standards Act was long overdue.

In New York State, an additional 23 percent of the salaried workforce, nearly 1 million employees, will directly benefit from the new regulations. At a time when lower- and middle-income wages remain stagnant, these changes will be particularly helpful to American families.

Our colleagues on the other side go on about the negative impact on small businesses. Yet, the data shows that this rule will increase payroll less than one-tenth of 1 percent. Furthermore, this money will go directly in the pockets of the middle and working class, who will spend it at their local small businesses. It is not going to diminish job creation in this country. It will increase employment opportunities in this country when those workers will go and spend their money in the local businesses.

They are not going to go and get a loan to find—to buy another home. They will not buy a second home. They will spend it in the local economy.

So, in turn, this provides an economic boost that will create over 120,000 new jobs. This is a win-win regulation.

Let's be clear, no one is asking to be unjustly enriched, only to be fairly compensated for a hard day's work. These ideals are advanced by the DOL's overtime rule.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Yet, despite this benefit for millions of Americans, this legislation will delay the rule until June 2017, when I am sure there will be attempts to eliminate this rule completely. I cannot and will not support this attack on workers.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this letter from the American Sustainable Business Council in support of the overtime regulations.

AMERICAN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS COUNCIL,
July 12, 2016.

Hon. JOHN KLINE,
Chairman, Education and the Workforce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT C. ''BOBBY'' SCOTT,
Ranking Member, Education and the Workforce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KLINE AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: On behalf of the businesses represented by the American Sustainable Business Council's, ASBC, network, I write in support of the Department of Labor's recently released overtime rule, and to oppose a Congressional Review Act, CRA, action to roll it back.

ASBC advocates for policy change and market solutions for building a vibrant, sustainable economy. Through its national member network, ASBC represents more than 200,000 business owners, executives and investors from a wide range of industries.

The rule creates certainty and predictability for business owners. Since the announcement of the draft rule in July 2015 and the release of the final rule this spring, businesses have been planning for its implementation on December 1, 2016. In fact, payroll operations companies have been marketing solutions to help employers handle the transition.

Invoking a CRA or other legislative action delaying the overtime rule will create unnecessary and disruptive uncertainty for business owners. Business owners, by nature, are creative at problem solving. When rules are established, they make the necessary decisions to comply. However, when the rules are in flux, business owners react to the uncertainty by holding back on investments in growth and expansion.

When employers set fairer, clearer wages, they earn dividends with happier, more productive employees. That's good news for a businesses' bottom line, and for growing the nation's middle class. High road businesses understand that compensating their employees for extra time spent on the job builds a better work culture.

The American economy is fundamentally a domestic, consumer-driven economy, unlike some countries where growth is fueled by exports and business-to-business spending. The biggest long term threat to our economy is the hollowing out of the middle class, which is losing its capacity for discretionary spending—responsible for about 70 percent of our gross domestic product.

The new overtime rule closes a loophole which has allowed for hourly workers to be deprived of pay by inappropriately classifying them as exempt. Employees are consumers; if they are not earning sufficient wages, demand will remain stagnant. Closing this loophole will help restore consumer spending and give the economy a needed boost.

The overtime rule has been under consideration for some time and businesses have weighed in through the public comment process. Most businesses are moving forward to meet the December deadline for compliance. Congress should not take action to stop the progress the business community is making.

Sincerely,

BRYAN MCGANNON,
Policy Director.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of this legislation to require a 6-month delay in the Department of Labor's new overtime rule. This is an ill-advised regulation that will result in hardworking Americans losing their jobs and less economic growth.

Don't take my word for it. Let's look at what some actual business leaders and organizations had to say about the change.

Richard, a businessman in Birmingham, says that he ''will cut back on employee hours as much as possible since raising their compensation is not my option.''

Ability Alliance of West Alabama, which provides assistance to more than 600 intellectually disabled individuals wrote that ''the untenable financial pressure resulting from the proposed changes would force us into disastrous service reductions and program closures.''

Greg from Vinemont, Alabama, is much more direct. He writes that he ''will have to lay people off to meet the overtime demands.''

First Heritage Credit, LLC wrote to the Department of Labor that ''increased costs cannot simply be passed on, and the proposed rule will mean fewer branch openings, fewer new hires, and fewer lending options to the communities we serve.''

Our Nation's education institutions will be hit especially hard by the change. A representative from the University of Alabama wrote that ''the proposed regulation puts more pressure on the educational system as a whole. Institutions will either reduce the level of services and programs or will be required to maintain services and programs with inadequate staffing. Regardless, the quality of education will suffer.''

All told, this change will cost the University of Alabama system $17 million in just the first year.

These are just a few stories about the reality of the overtime change. These are real people, real families who will suffer.

I think this change should be reworked altogether, but, if that is not an option, we should at least delay this rule in order to provide relief to these businesses and organizations.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the cochair of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the ranking member for the time and for his advocacy for working people.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two articles which talk about how the overtime rule is likely to add 100,000 jobs to the economy; one from Goldman Sachs, and the other from the National Retail Federation.

[From the National Retail Federation, Sept. 28, 2016]

HOW EXPANDING OVERTIME COULD AFFECT RETAILERS

The Department of Labor has proposed a major change in federal regulations governing overtime pay that could have a significant impact on the retail industry.

Under current rules, workers making up to $455 a week are automatically entitled to overtime if they work more than 40 hours a week. Managers and professionals who make more can be declared exempt, but only if they meet certain conditions such as having supervision of other workers as their primary duty. Under the proposed changes, the wage threshold would be increased to $970 a week, and the administration is asking whether additional restrictions should be placed on non-supervisory duties managers can perform and still be considered exempt.

To better understand the effects of the proposal, NRF commissioned the research firm Oxford Economics to conduct a study. While raising the threshold would mandate overtime pay for many workers, the analysis found that most employees would not actually see a change in net pay. Instead, many employees would see their hours reduced so that overtime would not be worked, while others would see their base wages, benefits or bonus pay decreased in order to offset the added payroll expense.

The study also found that updating payroll systems, establishing ways to track employee hours and other administrative expenses would cost the restaurant and retail industries alone an estimated $745 million even if workers saw no additional take-home pay.

(The original study was prepared before the Labor Department proposal was released, and was conducted with projected wage thresholds that might have been proposed. An update has been prepared based on the actual proposal.)

[From Business Insider.com, Sept. 27, 2016]

GOLDMAN SACHS: NEW OBAMA RULE ON OVERTIME LIKELY TO ADD 100,000 JOBS TO ECONOMY

(By Lucy Nicholson, REUTERS)

A new rule from the Obama administration—which will increase the fraction of workers entitled to time-and-a-half overtime pay—is likely to increase total employment in the US in 2017 by about 100,000 jobs, according to Goldman Sachs.

The idea is this: Companies whose workers are covered by the rule will try to avoid paying overtime, and they'll hire additional workers to do this. The point is to keep from asking their existing employees to work more than 40 hours a week.

The rule change affects salaried ''executive, administrative and professional'' workers, who can currently be exempt from overtime pay if they make as little as $23,660 a year.

Following implementation of the rule (expected in December) the overtime exemption will apply only to salaried workers making at least $47,476—making 4.2 million additional Americans eligible for time-and-a-half.

Of those, in any given week about 1 million actually work more than 40 hours.

There are four ways employers may respond to this rule change:

Simply making the overtime payments.

Reducing employees' base pay, in an effort to leave their total compensation unchanged after the new overtime payments—though this can be complicated, especially because the employers don't always know in advance how much overtime each employee will work.

Increasing employees' base pay to exceed the new threshold so they remain exempt from overtime payments. Goldman thinks this is most likely for employees who already earn a salary very close to $47,476.

Employing more workers and have them work fewer hours, so they do not run afoul of the 40-hour limit.

By examining employer behavior from the last time the overtime threshold was changed, in 2004, Goldman economist Alec Phillips developed a ''central'' estimate that 100,000 additional jobs will be created in 2017 as employers choose the third option—not a huge amount in an economy creating between 2 and 3 million jobs a year, but not trivial either.

It's important to note that employers who respond to the new overtime pay rule by reducing overtime hours will not be ''cheating'' or skirting the intent of the rule. The point of the rule is to ensure that lower-income salaried workers get compensated if they have to work extra hours, allowing those workers to collect their salaries without working uncompensated overtime is a meaningful gain for those workers.

The new time-and-a-half payments would also increase some workers' hourly pay, but not for enough workers to show up in the statistics of average hourly earnings, according to the Goldman analysis—so don't expect this rule to drive a boost in wages that can be felt at the economy-wide level.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, one wonders if there could possibly ever have been any small businesses only a few years ago. At its peak, 62 percent of workers were eligible for overtime pay. Today, only 7 percent are eligible. What did they do then? They hired people.

This idea that making it fair for working people who work overtime is somehow going to bring doom and gloom and destruction on small businesses is absolutely nonsense.

It is typical. We hear it all the time. Anything we are going to do for working people just can't possibly be done, or little people themselves will be hurt. This is a constant refrain.

If big, big, big agriculture wants something, they say, oh, we are here for the family farm.

If big, big banks want something, they say, oh, we are here for the community banks.

And if big, big, big businesses want something, and they don't want to pay their overtime, they say, oh, what about the small businesses.

In fact, this bill named for small businesses, folks out there listening should know that the title of this legislation is misleading. The legislation delays the rule for all employers, including small businesses.

But here's the fact. Walmart, are they—do they benefit from the fact that this overtime rule hasn't kept pace?

McDonald's, Burger King, all types of huge businesses which absolutely have the capacity to pay people fairly simply haven't done so.

It is interesting to me that our Republican friends have had the gavels in their hands since 2010 now. They haven't stepped up to improve and update this particular overtime rule.

The administration has done what they have failed to do. And now what do they have to say about it? Oh, it can't possibly happen, can't possibly work, and it is going to make everything worse.

How discouraging it must be to an American worker today. This Congress won't look at increasing the Federal minimum wage of $7.25. And the tip wage of $2.13, a national disgrace, they won't do that. They don't take that up.

They are constantly attacking the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has brought consumers over $12 billion. And they are constantly trying to cut taxes for the rich, and they don't want to invest in anything for the working people. Yet, they always justify everything they are doing by saying, oh, it would hurt the working people themselves.

This is ridiculous. This argument has no merit. It has to be rejected.

Over the past 35 years, we have failed to meaningfully update our overtime pay regulations. Now is the right time.

As I said, at its peak, 62 percent of workers were eligible for overtime pay. Today, only 7 percent are eligible because we have let the working people down. We have delayed action to help working families long enough, and we can't ask them to wait any longer. I urge a very strong ''no.''

□ 1915

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ELLISON. I want to say this. It is about real people. One of those real people is Jodi T. from Minneapolis. She said:

> I work more than 40 hours a week regularly, and this will make a great deal of difference for me and my family. Lately, I find that businesses will eliminate positions and put more work on existing staff regardless of whether they can handle it within the time and the workday. If they pay overtime, they will bear some of the real costs of these decisions.

Vote ''no'' on this bill. It is a bad thing.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Augusta, Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. This legislation works to delay implementation of the Department of Labor's new overtime rule for 6 months.

Without this legislation, the rule goes into effect on December 1, leaving employers scrambling to comply with the new rule and jeopardizing employees' paychecks right before the holiday season—a very bad time.

As a small-business owner who has employed thousands of people, I know the challenges that the business community will face: moving salaried employees to hourly; trouble recruiting qualified, new hires to accept an hourly position; current employees' time being spent monitoring the time clock; and, ultimately, the potential for hours to be cut and paychecks to dwindle.

This is devastating to employees who have worked hard to earn a salaried position. They have earned this position

to be salaried, and then to move to hourly? Many Americans will soon realize they have fewer job prospects, less flexibility in the workplace, and less opportunity to move up the economic ladder. In other words, those who can least afford it will be hit the hardest: small businesses, nonprofits, and educational institutions.

I could stand here before this body, just as Congressman BYRNE did, and tell you stories of all the small businesses in my district and employees that have come to me to warn me of the struggles other employees and families will face because of this overtime rule.

The President is enacting this rule a mere month before he is out of office to try and score cheap political points when he knows he won't be here to clean up the mess. I have to say: I am ashamed, Mr. President. We need to take a step back and hit the pause button.

Unsurprisingly, the administration has no plans to change the rule, so an extra 6-month grace period is crucial to the well-being of our schools, small businesses, and nonprofits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind people that, of the people affected and the people that routinely work overtime, complying with the rule will add less than one-tenth of 1 percent to U.S. payrolls. The costs to nonprofits and to higher education, way under 1 percent. And the time has been sufficient. The last time this rule was changed, they got significantly less time to comply, and that rule was even more complex than this one.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my friend and colleague on the committee.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we look at this bill, what is it about? It is saying that you have got to pay overtime to somebody who is making more than $47,000 a year. What will that mean? It will mean that employers will say: You had better get out of here; we can't have you working more than 40 hours a week. That is what is going to happen.

I am reminded of a buddy of mine back home in my district. His daughter had a new job working for salary. He told her: Always make sure you are the first person to show up in the morning and the last person to go home at night, and you will advance in that company. She was the first person to show up in the morning and the last person to go home at night, and she is having a very successful career by doing so.

What this bill does is it is kind of an odd thing. It makes it against the law to work hard. Think about that gal now. Now she won't be able to be the first person to show up in the morning and the last person to go home at night because her boss is going to say: Get out of here.

It is part of a pattern we are, sadly, seeing from this administration of discouraging hard work. Just like ObamaCare, if you work more hours, then you wind up losing your ObamaCare subsidy. You had better not work hard. There is a plethora of welfare programs around here. I don't care if it is the earned income tax credit, food stamps, low-income housing, whatever; if you work hard, then you will lose your subsidy. We are doing all we can in this country to penalize the hardworking.

Furthermore, think just on a day-to-day basis what it means to you as an employee who has worked for salary. Let's say you have to work on a project. It gets near 5 o'clock, and you are not satisfied with your work product. What are you supposed to do? Turn in a bad work product to your boss, or hang around another hour and do a good job? This, in essence, removes the choice from you: I have got to turn in a bad work product because my boss is going to kick me out of here at the end of 8 hours.

So my final plea is this. Come, Republicans; come, Democrats, race to the Chamber and vote for the bill, H.R. 6094, and stand up for the hardworking of our society.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman for his advocacy on behalf of all working families in this country—not just today, but throughout his entire career.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill and in support of the updated overtime rule that will combat the exploitation of workers across America and put more money in their pockets.

In 1938, Congress came together to pass the Fair Labor Standards Act, a bill that revolutionized opportunity for Americans by ensuring they were fairly compensated for their work and they would work in safe working conditions. One of the provisions in that piece of legislation was the creation of a 40-hour workweek. In addition, this legislation required employers to compensate employees at time and a half for hours worked beyond a 40-hour workweek. It was a compromise.

They went on to say that there is an exemption for protection of those workers who were considered white-collar employees. As a result of their salary, their benefits, and their high level of work within an organization, they were exempt.

Unfortunately, the wage level which determines who is exempt from these worker protections has been updated only once—only once—in the last 40 years. That is where the problem lies. The last time it was updated was in 2004, under Republican President Bush—a Republican President.

Today, the threshold wherein an employee is exempt is $23,660. What this means is somebody making $24,000 a year is routinely required to work 45, 55, 65 hours a week with not just compensation for the overtime, but they are not needed to be paid at all because they are considered exempt employees. In other words, a family of four could be living under the poverty line and still be considered to earn too much money to be considered for overtime protections.

Mr. Speaker, I support these rules because I know, when American families succeed, our country as a whole succeeds, including the entire business community. This is a partnership working together. This rule simply means updating our laws surrounding worker exploitation by simply adjusting that floor to keep up with inflation.

This is not a Democratic or a Republican bill. This is a worker and business bill.

Twelve years before the success of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Henry Ford created the 40-hour workweek. Mr. Speaker, 117 years ago, Peter J. Maguire, the founder of Labor Day, went on to talk about just creating a 6-day workweek.

This is very simple. The experiment with a $5 minimum wage, which today would be $15 an hour with inflation realized, Ford realized that, when his workers could afford to buy the cars they were making and to drive them, his business, his employees, and the economy would do better.

Mr. Speaker, American workers have waited long enough to get a fair day's day for a fair day's work that they certainly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose this bill.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act, a bill I am proud to cosponsor.

This important bill would provide a measure of relief not only for the thousands of small businesses and charitable institutions that would be negatively impacted by the Department of Labor's overtime rule, but also the countless workers who depend on entry- and mid-level employment opportunities.

This rule hurt everyday Americans, raising the cost of living while reducing wages and incomes. Many of the individuals affected by this rule will be forced into part-time employment or be transitioned to jobs with lower hourly wages, no benefits, and no overtime at all.

I have heard from a number of people in my district concerned about the impacts this onerous rule will have for

them. A bank in my district will have to transition 13 of their salaried tellers on staff to hourly wage workers in order to assume the $129,000 in compliance costs they anticipate from this rule. Schools have expressed concerns that they will be forced to cut staff and limit the educational services of extracurricular activities they provide for our students.

I have heard from faith-based and charitable institutions, too. These institutions often operate with fixed operating budgets and serve the most vulnerable in our society, yet this rule will impose similar financial and staffing burdens on them. A senior care group in my district, for example, has told me this rule will likely lead to a reduction in hiring, meaning fewer seniors will be able to get care.

Mr. Speaker, for the countless families, small businesses, and communities that I serve, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and delay this onerous rule.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a good friend, who has a special take on this.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

We are at a crossroads in our country as we are still struggling to build up our economy after the last recession. Since then, businessowners have struggled to not only grow their companies, but also to provide for their employees.

As a small-business owner, I had both the company's and my employees' best interest in mind, as my employees were like a second family to me. I would have wanted nothing more than to ensure they are getting what they need and that they are fully compensated for all of their work. But this rule doesn't do that.

On the surface, this administration is painting this rule as a step forward for American workers, but it is not. Everyone from universities to nonprofits will feel the weight of this rule as they seek to rearrange schedules and reclassify employees so as to prevent compounding negative effects on their organizations.

Universities and colleges will see a sharp jump in payrolls as they have to grapple with how to manage their existing personnel while trying to keep their institution on an upward trajectory. Tuitions will increase. Nonprofit organizations will have to reclassify workers as their annual budgets are stretched to the brink, resulting in a drop in services to the people who need it most.

The Department of Labor spent the last 27 months working on this rule. Since its implementation, they have given businesses a 6-month window to implement it.

I have heard from countless companies, nonprofits, universities, and chambers of commerce who are extremely worried about the impact this will have on their operations. While this rule was intended to ensure employees see an increase in benefits, it will have the direct opposite effect.

This bill would delay the rule for 6 months to allow for a longer look at its effects. It gives Congress more time to find a legislative solution. Mr. Speaker, I have always wanted the best for my employees, and this rule simply doesn't do that.

I applaud Congressman WALBERG, Chairman KLINE, and the Education and the Workforce Committee staff for their hard work in pulling this together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the 40-hour workweek used to mean something. It was installed many years ago so that people wouldn't have to work 6 and 7 days a week, 10 or more hours a day. They could work 5 days a week, 8 hours, and have an opportunity to go home. Now the 40-hour workweek only applies to 7 percent of salaried workers, and they can be forced to work 45, 50, 60 hours, with no additional pay.

We have heard the impact on universities. I think the gentleman from Alabama said that it would cost the Alabama system $17 million. Well, their budget is $2.4 billion; $24 million would be 1 percent.

□ 1930

If his number is right—$17 million—that is still way under 1 percent of their expenditures. But there are a lot of ways to comply with this rule without any cost at all. You can let people go home after 40 hours, or you can honestly restate their salary. If it is $30,000 and a lot of overtime, call it $20,000 and they have got to make $10,000 overtime. They will get the same amount at the end of the year at no cost to the employer, but an honest way to assess the salary. It wouldn't cost anything. So there are ways of complying with this honestly that make the 40-hour workweek mean something.

The new rule only covers about a third of the salaried workers. It is a good rule. It should not be delayed. In fact, it is not being delayed. This is the first step in trying to defeat the rule. This bill should be defeated. Let the people get their salaries on December 1.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I want to remind my colleagues why this legislation is so important.

We all agree our Nation's overtime rules need to be modernized and worker protection should be strengthened. That is not what we are debating today.

Small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges and universities play a critical role in our communities. Right now, they are struggling to implement a fundamentally flawed rule under an unrealistic deadline, and many don't even know about the rule yet. At the very least, they deserve more time. More time would allow small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges and universities to make significant changes and mitigate the impact on workers, students, and individuals in need—for the positive, for the good.

I urge my colleagues to provide that time, even if they stand by the Department's overtime rule. A vote in support of the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act isn't just commonsense; it is the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we are intending to do. We are intending to do the best for our citizens, our employees, and our employers. Shouldn't it be worth an additional 24 weeks to make sure that this is implemented to the positive?

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

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

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5578. An act to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent Resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5325.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL H.R. 5325, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114–800) on the resolution (H. Res. 901) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL H.R. 5325, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 901 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 901

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325, the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act.

The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am always disappointed when we are forced to consider continuing resolutions, especially given the work this House has done in the appropriations process this fiscal year.

For 2 years in a row, the House Appropriations Committee was able to complete all 12 appropriations bills—and complete them before the August recess. In addition, this House passed five appropriations bills. Unfortunately, just as in years past, Senate Democrats prevented consideration of many appropriations bills on the floor of that body. This leads us to the unfortunate situation of having to put forward a short-term CR to fund the government through December 9.

I hope that in the weeks and months ahead, the House, Senate, and the President can come to an agreement on a path forward which ensures we are not in this same position in December.

At the same time, I am pleased that this amendment also includes a fully conferenced MILCON-VA bill. The MILCON-VA portion provides a 4 percent increase for the VA, additional resources to address the disability claims backlog, and contains a number of important oversight provisions to make certain our veterans receive the care that they deserve.

The military construction portion provides $7.9 billion for military family housing, Guard and Reserve facilities, and military bases both in the United States and around the world. This ensures that we can sustain quality housing for 1.3 million military families.

In addition, the MILCON-VA bill maintains a provision which prohibits the closure of Guantanamo Bay and the construction of any facilities to house detainees in the United States or its territories.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, this amendment also provides a total of $1.1 billion to fight Zika and offsets $400 million of this spending. While I would have preferred offsetting the entire amount—and have supported legislation to do just that—I believe this is a reasonable compromise with both the Senate and the administration, both of whom initially proposed no offsets at all.

When combined with funds already preprogramed by the administration for Zika response activities, the total available resources to respond to Zika equals $1.7 billion. This legislation provides the necessary funds for the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, the State Department, and USAID to develop vaccines and diagnostic tests for mosquito control and, in addition, provides healthcare resources to those areas experiencing the highest rates of Zika transmission, all while maintaining the Hyde amendment restrictions barring the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion services.

I am encouraged by the hard work of Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and, of course, the Speaker, whose leadership has made all of this possible. While a CR is not the ideal vehicle, the alternative of a government shutdown is not what we have been sent here to Washington to do.

Additionally, I am encouraged that we are finally returning to regular order and passing full-year appropriations measures by the end of the fiscal year. This is the first time since fiscal year 2006, when we passed two bills by the end of the fiscal year, that we have passed any individual appropriations bills through both Chambers of the United States Congress by the September 30 deadline. While we have a long way to go, this is a good first step that we can hopefully build upon next year.

I urge support for the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the deadline for keeping the government running has been staring us all in the face for months. Yet, the majority is using martial law rule to rush the continuing resolution to the floor just 2 days before the weekend deadline. I wish we had spent the last 4 weeks properly debating the bill under regular order.

Mr. Speaker, I am relieved that a reasonable compromise was reached on a bipartisan amendment to the Water Resources Development Act that will authorize funding for the people of Flint, Michigan, who have been forced to drink and bathe in poisoned water for years. As the only microbiologist in Congress, I can detail the many ways that this is a major public health failure.

The children that have been impacted could suffer everything from neurodevelopmental damage to behavioral changes to anemia to hypertension. These are lifelong impacts, Mr. Speaker, along with a statistically higher risk of incarceration.

This compromise is a positive step forward, but there is much more work

to do at all levels of the government to get the resources needed to help the people of Flint and the United States.

Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the bill finally provides the resources to tackle the Zika virus more than 7 months after President Obama submitted his funding request to Congress to combat the spread of the virus and accelerate research into finding a vaccine.

I am disappointed that this continues a poison pill that would prevent the Securities and Exchange Commission from moving forward with a rule requiring publicly traded companies to disclose their political spending. This is so important. I think the fact that spending is out of control, money comes in from everywhere and we don't know how much, where it goes, and it is not a good thing for a democracy. I think it is nothing more than an attempt to hide from the American people the identities of the big corporate donors and probably people from all over the world who are sending money in here in hidden ways to affect our campaigns.

If sunlight is the best disinfectant, then we certainly should have spread some sunlight on the SEC to be able to do what we had asked them to do. We are very concerned that electoral spending is increasingly being conducted in the dark.

It is also disappointing that, despite overwhelming bipartisan, bicameral support, the continuing resolution fails to ensure that the Export-Import Bank is able to fully help businesses and workers across the country by restoring a board quorum to the bank.

This continuing resolution is going to avert a crisis in the short term, but it is a clear demonstration of the failure of the majority to do the most basic job: fund the government.

The majority has been so preoccupied with holding more than 60 votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act and investigating nonexistent scandals involving Planned Parenthood that they have allowed the body to lurch from crisis to crisis instead of enacting long-term appropriations. All the while, our infrastructure is crumbling and the cost of college education and college loans and the interest on them, which is crippling, is skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, CBS News has highlighted that it costs the taxpayers an estimated $24 million a week to run the House of Representatives. It is abundantly clear that, under this leadership, taxpayers aren't getting their money's worth. Nonetheless, I am pleased to be here to be part of passing this tonight to prevent the awful crisis of a shutdown, and I think we have all learned lessons there.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by congratulating my friend and thanking her. I know she is committed to the resumption of regular order, and she has worked that way tirelessly. That is a goal that we share with our friends on the other side of the aisle.

I think it is worth pointing out that you can't have regular order in the House if you don't have regular order in the Senate. The real reason we are here is because the Senate has refused consistently to take up appropriations bills that have been passed by this House.

At some point, you simply quit passing the bills because the Senate isn't going to deal with you. Once we finally have a Senate that will work in regular order—and I hope we do at the beginning of next January—perhaps we can overcome this and get back to the system that I know my friend from New York and I want to see on this floor: passing each individual appropriations bill, doing so in a way that Members can participate, conferences with our friends in the Senate, and then moving forward.

As to Zika, I think it is worth pointing out that nothing has not been done for lack of money. The reality is, when the administration made its initial request for Zika funds, they immediately received a letter from Chairman ROGERS, from Subcommittee Chairman GRANGER on State-Foreign Operations, and from myself, saying: Look, we know this is an emergency. We agree with you. You have billions of dollars of funds. Start spending that money—a bowl of money, so-called—and we will replace that money.

Frankly, they have done that, to their credit. They set aside $600 million, not all of which has been spent, but that was the responsible thing to do, as Congress studied and look at this problem.

Chairman ROGERS actually led a codel that went to Brazil, Peru, and some of the areas that have suffered from this disease, and we have continued to work. We have twice put on this floor hundreds of millions of dollars for Zika response that our friends on the other side didn't see fit to vote for.

Zika didn't get funded because, frankly, our friends just simply didn't want to pay for it. That has actually been the essence of the dispute, in my opinion. It has not been about Zika. It has been about whether or not you pay for Zika.

The original request from the administration was for $1.9 billion over a 2-year period to come out of State-Foreign Operations and Labor-HHS, two committees that, in that same period, have $425 billion to spend. It is not hard to pay for $1.9 billion out of $425 billion.

Still, at the end of the day, my friend is absolutely correct: we are here. We have not failed to do anything, but we do need to provide a framework to go forward with guaranteed continuity. I am pleased and proud this does that. Frankly, we reserve the option next fiscal year to look at actually covering other parts of the unfunded spending on Zika.

□ 2045

In terms of the Export-Import Bank, I am going to agree with my friend. I don't know that this was the appropriate vehicle, but I think the point she makes is exactly right. We need to restore this particular institution to full functioning. That has been a matter of some partisan debate, but, actually, I agree with my friends. I support the Export-Import Bank, and I think we need to re-establish it. And if we could have done it in this bill, that would have been fine with me.

But I trust the people that negotiated the final product, and they did try to remove a lot of issues that were controversial and divisive so that, hopefully, we could get a substantial majority of both parties to vote for continuing the government.

I want to end by saying that, again, I want to invite our friends in the Senate to participate in regular order. In some ways they have done that. I want to give them credit for last year and this year passing all 12 appropriations bills at least through the full committee level.

But it was a decision by their leadership not to allow those bills to come to the floor that actually gummed up the works. It is not anything that was done in the House. Indeed, we didn't give up on that process until it became abundantly clear that the Senate wasn't going to move.

We are now, however, at the last moment. My friend is correct in that. I am pleased that we have negotiated together in good faith, frankly, within this body, across the rotunda with the other body, and with the administration, to arrive at something that will get us through the election and give us the time when we return from the election to sit down.

In that period of time, I want to commit to my friend that I will be looking forward to working with her and her colleagues to make sure we fully finish the appropriations process.

There are some in this body that don't want to do that. They want to simply CR or do a continuing resolution to some point in the future next year, dumping off the work of this Congress and this administration on the next administration and the next Congress. That would be a big mistake, in my opinion.

I know my friend feels exactly the same way, so I commit to her, I will do everything I can on my side of the aisle—I know she will on her side—to make sure that we continue the full appropriations process, and we make sure fiscal year 2017 is funded.

The new administration, when it shows up, is going to have a lot to do, whoever that person is. They are going to have to advance their agenda. They are going to have to name the Cabinet members. They are going to have to get them confirmed. They are going to have to write a budget for FY18 by the middle of February. We will have a debt ceiling crisis in March, and we

will have, frankly, the sequester to deal with which, like Halley's Comet, will return on schedule on time. That is plenty for a new President and a new Congress to do.

I would hope we do our job in the so-called lameduck session and make sure that they don't have the additional task of picking up and doing the work that this Congress and this President should have done on their own. So my friend is right on that point.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has been in session for the last 4 weeks, more than enough time to properly debate the continuing resolution under regular order. But, instead, we have taken up a lot of one-House bills that will never become law.

Mr. Speaker, you can't run the United States Government in 3-month tranches. The majority should get back to focusing on the issues the American people care about, like repairing our roads and bridges and bringing down the cost of college education.

Also, let's end the brinksmanship that my colleague spoke of—and I accept his offer to work and look forward to working with him—and the temporary stopgap measures and the threats of a government shutdown always hanging over us by getting back to enacting long-term appropriations. That is something that I would be happy to join him in because, frankly, what we have done now is no way to run our government.

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

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

I want to begin by thanking my good friend for her debate and her cooperation and her hard work in this exercise that has been genuinely valuable and significant.

And I want to agree with her basic point. We need to do our business. I wish it would have all been done by this point. It has extended into the period after the election, but that is a place that I hope we finish our business. I know my friend will be working to that end; certainly, I will as well.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this legislation is critical to prevent a government shutdown, to provide the necessary funds to address the Zika virus, and to demonstrate to the American people that Congress can actually govern.

While I would have much preferred considering 12 individual appropriations bills, I am encouraged that at least one fully conferenced bill is included in the legislation before us today. So I want to urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

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

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. 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 further consideration of H.R. 5325, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 901, I call up the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert in lieu thereof:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.
Sec. 4. Statement of appropriations.
Sec. 5. Availability of funds.
Sec. 6. Explanatory statement.

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Title I—Department of Defense
Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs
Title III—Related agencies
Title IV—Overseas contingency operations
Title V—General provisions

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Title I—Department of Health and Human Services
Title II—Department of State
Title III—General Provisions—This Division

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 6. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

(a) The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about September 22, 2016, by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through D of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

(b) Any reference to the ''joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act'' contained in division A of this Act shall be considered to be a reference to the explanatory statement described in subsection (a).

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $513,459,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $98,159,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $1,021,580,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $88,230,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, $1,491,058,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That of this amount, not to exceed $143,582,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be for construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation, Phase 3, at Royal Air Force

Croughton, United Kingdom, unless authorized in an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military construction.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, $2,025,444,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $180,775,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $232,930,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $8,729,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $143,957,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $10,462,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $68,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $7,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $38,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $3,783,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $188,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $4,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $177,932,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $240,237,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $157,172,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $325,995,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $94,011,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $300,915,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $61,352,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $274,429,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $59,157,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $3,258,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: Provided, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in ''Family Housing'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in ''Military Construction'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: Provided, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: Provided, That not more than $35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: Provided further, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation ''Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specifically stipulated in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of civilian employees of the Department of the Army and Army contractor personnel employed exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5–10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 123. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 125. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2021:

''Military Construction, Army'', $40,500,000;

''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $227,099,000;

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $149,500,000;

''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', $67,500,000;

''Military Construction, Air National Guard'', $11,000,000;

''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', $30,000,000:

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2017 submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 126. For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $89,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified by the Department of the Navy in its June 8, 2016, unfunded priority list submission to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing unfunded reprogramming and emergency construction requirements: Provided further, That, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 127. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense from prior appropriation Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

''Military Construction, Army'', $29,602,000;

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $51,460,000;

''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'', $171,600,000, of which $30,000,000 are to be derived from amounts made available for Missile Defense Agency planning and design; and

''North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program'', $30,000,000:

Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 128. Of the unobligated balances made available in prior appropriation Acts for the fund established in section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), $25,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 129. For the purposes of this Act, the term ''congressional defense committees'' means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 130. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used to consolidate or relocate any element of a United States Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) outside of the United States until the Secretary of the Air Force (1) completes an analysis and comparison of the cost and infrastructure investment required to consolidate or relocate a RED HORSE squadron outside of the United States versus within the United States; (2) provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress (''the Committees'') a report detailing the findings of the cost analysis; and (3) certifies in writing to the Committees that the preferred site for the consolidation or relocation yields the greatest savings for the Air Force: Provided, That the term ''United States'' in this section does not include any territory or possession of the United States.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $90,119,449,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: Provided, That not to exceed $17,224,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2018 under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', and ''Information Technology Systems'' for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and Pensions'' appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical Care Collections Fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $13,708,648,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, $124,504,000, to remain available until expended, of which $107,899,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2017, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $198,856,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $36,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $2,517,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $389,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $1,163,000.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $2,856,160,000: Provided, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; $1,078,993,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, $44,886,554,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, $1,400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: Provided further, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide access to therapeutic listening devices to veterans struggling with mental health related problems, substance abuse, or traumatic brain injury.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, $7,246,181,000, plus reimbursements, of which $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020; and, in addition, $9,409,118,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, $1,500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), $6,654,480,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, $100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; $247,668,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, $5,434,880,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, $250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $675,366,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $286,193,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, $345,391,000, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, $156,096,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $4,278,259,000, plus reimbursements: Provided, That $1,272,548,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed $37,100,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided further, That $2,534,442,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed $180,200,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided further, That $471,269,000 shall be for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided further, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: Provided further, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That amounts made available for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account for development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: Provided further, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than $1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: Provided further, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office through the Department of Veterans Affairs to define data standards, code sets, and value sets used to enable interoperability: Provided further, That of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for VistA Evolution or any successor program, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

(1) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the VistA Evolution Business Case and supporting documents regarding continuation of VistA Evolution or alternatives to VistA Evolution, including an analysis of necessary or desired capabilities, technical and security requirements, the plan for modernizing the platform framework, and all associated costs;

(2) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes a strategic plan for VistA Evolution, or any successor program, and the associated implementation plan including metrics and timelines; a master schedule and lifecycle cost estimate for VistA Evolution or any successor; and an implementation plan for the transition from the Project Management Accountability System to a new project delivery framework, the Veteran-focused Integration Process, that includes the methodology by which projects will be tracked, progress measured, and deliverables evaluated;

(3) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report outlining the strategic plan to reach interoperability with private sector healthcare providers, the timeline for reaching ''meaningful use'' as defined by the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for each data domain covered under the VistA Evolution program, and the extent to which the Department of Veterans Affairs leverages the State Health Information Exchanges to share health data with private sector providers;

(4) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes the extent to which VistA Evolution, or any successor program, maximizes the use of commercially available software used by DoD and the private sector, requires an open architecture that leverages best practices and rapidly adapts to technologies produced by the private sector, enhances full interoperability between the VA and DoD and between VA and the private sector, and ensures the security of personally identifiable information of veterans and beneficiaries; and

(5) certifies in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that the Department of Veterans Affairs has met the requirements contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66) which require that electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have reached interoperability, comply with national standards and architectural requirements identified by the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office in collaboration with the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology:

Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $160,106,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $528,110,000, of which $478,110,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, and of which $50,000,000 shall remain available

until expended: Provided, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account and contracting officers who manage specific major construction projects, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2017, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2017; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2018: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: Provided further, That, of the amount made available under this heading, $222,620,000 for Veterans Health Administration major construction projects shall not be available until the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(1) enters into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department of Veterans Affairs Federal entity to serve as the design and/or construction agent for any Veterans Health Administration major construction project with a Total Estimated Cost of $100,000,000 or above by providing full project management services, including management of the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes, consistent with section 502 of Public Law 114–58; and

(2) certifies in writing that such an agreement is executed and intended to minimize or prevent subsequent major construction project cost overruns and provides a copy of the agreement entered into and any required supplementary information to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, $372,069,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, Minor Projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: Provided, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, $90,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, $45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2017 for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: Provided, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, in this or any other Act, under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: Provided, That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided further, That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That any transfers to or from the ''Medical Facilities'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for ''Construction, Major Projects'', and ''Construction, Minor Projects'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the ''Medical Services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from ''Compensation and Pensions''.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: Provided, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2017 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: Provided further, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2017 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed $47,668,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and $3,932,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: Provided, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: Provided further, That amounts received shall be credited to the ''General Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital

care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: Provided, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: Provided further, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects''.

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under ''Medical Services'' are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Medical Services'' and ''Medical Community Care'' accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term ''rural Alaska'' shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Of the amounts appropriated in title II of division J of Public Law 114–113 under the heading ''Medical Services'' which become available on October 1, 2016, $7,246,181,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 218. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled ''Quarterly reporting'', under the heading ''General Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Amounts made available under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', ''General Administration'', and ''National Cemetery Administration'' accounts for fiscal year 2017 may be transferred to or from the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: Provided, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: Provided further, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 220. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''Construction, Minor Projects'', and ''Information Technology Systems'', up to $274,731,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That section 223 of title II of division J of Public Law 114–113 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2017, for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', up to $280,802,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Of the amounts available in this title for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', a minimum of $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 225. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least $5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 227. None of the funds made available for ''Construction, Major Projects'' may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 228. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled ''Disability claims backlog'', under the heading ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

SEC. 229. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for ''Medical Support and Compliance'' a maximum of $40,000,000 may be obligated from the ''Medical Support and Compliance'' account for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects: Provided, That funds in addition to these amounts may be obligated for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed $2,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 232. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the ''Medical Services'' account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2017 in this title (except appropriations made to the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2017, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: Provided, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: Provided further, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: Provided further, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 233. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, under the ''Board of Veterans Appeals'' and the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' accounts may be transferred between such accounts: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 234. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed $5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 235. Of the unobligated balances available within the ''DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund'', $40,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 236. Of the discretionary funds made available in Public Law 114–113 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, $134,000,000 are rescinded from ''Medical Services'', $26,000,000 are rescinded from ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and $9,000,000 are rescinded from ''Medical Facilities''.

SEC. 237. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

(1) ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical and Prosthetic Research'', $2,000,000.

(2) ''Departmental Administration—Board of Veterans Appeals'', $500,000.

(3) ''Veterans Benefits Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', $12,000,000.

(4) ''Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems'', $8,000,000.

(5) ''Departmental Administration—Office of Inspector General'', $500,000.

SEC. 238. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

SEC. 239. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall treat a marriage and family therapist described in subsection (b) as qualified to serve as a marriage and family therapist in the Department of Veterans Affairs, regardless of any requirements established by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

(b) A marriage and family therapist described in this subsection is a therapist who meets each of the following criteria:

(1) Has a masters or higher degree in marriage and family therapy, or a related field, from a regionally accredited institution.

(2) Is licensed as a marriage and family therapist in a State (as defined in section 101(20) of title 38, United States Code) and possesses the highest level of licensure offered from the State.

(3) Has passed the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board Examination in Marital and Family Therapy or a related examination for licensure administered by a State (as so defined).

SEC. 240. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;

(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;

(3) a cost vs. benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;

(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a VA medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care;

(5) an inventory of VA buildings with historic designation and the methodology used to determine the buildings' condition and utilization;

(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and

(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: Provided, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 241. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 242. Paragraph (3) of section 403(a) of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) DURATION.—A veteran may receive health services under this section during the period beginning on the date specified in paragraph (2) and ending on September 30, 2017.''.

SEC. 243. (a) Section 1722A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) Paragraph (1) does not apply to opioid antagonists furnished under this chapter to a veteran who is at high risk for overdose of a specific medication or substance in order to reverse the effect of such an overdose.''.

(b) Section 1710(g)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking ''with respect to home health services'' and inserting ''with respect to the following:''

''(A) Home health services''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) Education on the use of opioid antagonists to reverse the effects of overdoses of specific medications or substances.''.

SEC. 244. Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended in subsection (c)(1) by striking the phrase ''that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action,''.

SEC. 245. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for ''Medical Services'', funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111–163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 246. Section 5701(l) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''may'' and inserting ''shall''.

VA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

SEC. 247. (a) PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

''SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

''§ 731. Whistleblower complaint defined

''In this subchapter, the term 'whistleblower complaint' means a complaint by an employee of the Department disclosing, or assisting another employee to disclose, a potential violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

''§ 732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints

''(a) FILING.—(1) In addition to any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint, an employee of the Department may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with a supervisor of the employee.

''(2) Except as provided by subsection (d)(1), in making a whistleblower complaint under paragraph (1), an employee shall file the initial complaint with the immediate supervisor of the employee.

''(b) NOTIFICATION.—(1)(A) Not later than four business days after the date on which a supervisor receives a whistleblower complaint by an employee under this section, the supervisor shall notify, in writing, the employee of whether the supervisor determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that the complaint discloses a

violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

''(B) The supervisor shall retain written documentation regarding the whistleblower complaint and shall submit to the next-level supervisor and the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h) a written report on the complaint.

''(2)(A) On a monthly basis, the supervisor shall submit to the appropriate director or other official who is superior to the supervisor a written report that includes the number of whistleblower complaints received by the supervisor under this section during the month covered by the report, the disposition of such complaints, and any actions taken because of such complaints pursuant to subsection (c).

''(B) In the case in which such a director or official carries out this paragraph, the director or official shall submit such monthly report to the supervisor of the director or official and to the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h).

''(c) POSITIVE DETERMINATION.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint of an employee, the supervisor shall include in the notification to the employee under such subsection the specific actions that the supervisor will take to address the complaint.

''(d) FILING COMPLAINT WITH NEXT-LEVEL SUPERVISORS.—(1) If any circumstance described in paragraph (3) is met, an employee may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with the next-level supervisor who shall treat such complaint in accordance with this section.

''(2) An employee may file a whistleblower complaint with the Secretary if the employee has filed the whistleblower complaint to each level of supervisors between the employee and the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1).

''(3) A circumstance described in this paragraph is any of the following circumstances:

''(A) A supervisor does not make a timely determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint.

''(B) The employee who made a whistleblower complaint determines that the supervisor did not adequately address the complaint pursuant to subsection (c).

''(C) The immediate supervisor of the employee is the basis of the whistleblower complaint.

''(e) TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE WHO FILES WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint filed by an employee, the Secretary shall—

''(1) inform the employee of the ability to volunteer for a transfer in accordance with section 3352 of title 5; and

''(2) give preference to the employee for such a transfer in accordance with such section.

''(f) PROHIBITION ON EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may not exempt any employee of the Department from being covered by this section.

''(g) WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT FORM.—(1) A whistleblower complaint filed by an employee under subsection (a) or (d) shall consist of the form described in paragraph (2) and any supporting materials or documentation the employee determines necessary.

''(2) The form described in this paragraph is a form developed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, that includes the following:

''(A) An explanation of the purpose of the whistleblower complaint form.

''(B) Instructions for filing a whistleblower complaint as described in this section.

''(C) An explanation that filing a whistleblower complaint under this section does not preclude the employee from any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint.

''(D) A statement directing the employee to information accessible on the Internet website of the Department as described in section 735(d).

''(E) Fields for the employee to provide—

''(i) the date that the form is submitted;

''(ii) the name of the employee;

''(iii) the contact information of the employee;

''(iv) a summary of the whistleblower complaint (including the option to append supporting documents pursuant to paragraph (1)); and

''(v) proposed solutions to the complaint.

''(F) Any other information or fields that the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, shall develop the form described in paragraph (2) by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

''(h) CENTRAL WHISTLEBLOWER OFFICE.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office—

''(A) is not an element of the Office of the General Counsel;

''(B) is not headed by an official who reports to the General Counsel;

''(C) does not provide, or receive from, the General Counsel any information regarding a whistleblower complaint except pursuant to an action regarding the complaint before an administrative body or court; and

''(D) does not provide advice to the General Counsel.

''(2) The central whistleblower office shall be responsible for investigating all whistleblower complaints of the Department, regardless of whether such complaints are made by or against an employee who is not a member of the Senior Executive Service.

''(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office maintains a toll-free hotline to anonymously receive whistleblower complaints.

''(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office has such staff and resources as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the functions of the central whistleblower office.

''(5) In this subsection, the term 'central whistleblower office' means the Office of Accountability Review or a successor office that is established or designated by the Secretary to investigate whistleblower complaints filed under this section or any other method established by law.

''§ 733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints

''(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out the following adverse actions against supervisory employees (as defined in section 7103(a) of title 5) whom the Secretary, an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or the Inspector General of the Department determines committed a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c):

''(A) With respect to the first offense, an adverse action that is not less than a 12-day suspension and not more than removal.

''(B) With respect to the second offense, removal.

''(2)(A) An employee against whom an adverse action under paragraph (1) is proposed is entitled to written notice.

''(B)(i) An employee who is notified under subparagraph (A) of being the subject of a proposed adverse action under paragraph (1) is entitled to 14 days following such notification to answer and furnish evidence in support of the answer.

''(ii) If the employee does not furnish any such evidence as described in clause (i) or if the Secretary determines that such evidence is not sufficient to reverse the determination to propose the adverse action, the Secretary shall carry out the adverse action following such 14-day period.

''(C) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7513 of title 5, subsection (c) of such section, paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7543 of such title, and subsection (c) of such section shall not apply with respect to an adverse action carried out under paragraph (1).

''(b) LIMITATION ON OTHER ADVERSE ACTIONS.—With respect to a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c), if the Secretary carries out an adverse action against a supervisory employee, the Secretary may carry out an additional adverse action under this section based on the same prohibited personnel action if the total severity of the adverse actions do not exceed the level specified in subsection (a).

''(c) PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION DESCRIBED.—A prohibited personnel action described in this subsection is any of the following actions:

''(1) Taking or failing to take a personnel action in violation of section 2302 of title 5 against an employee relating to the employee—

''(A) filing a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 of this title;

''(B) filing a whistleblower complaint with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

''(C) providing information or participating as a witness in an investigation of a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 or with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

''(D) participating in an audit or investigation by the Comptroller General of the United States;

''(E) refusing to perform an action that is unlawful or prohibited by the Department; or

''(F) engaging in communications that are related to the duties of the position or are otherwise protected.

''(2) Preventing or restricting an employee from making an action described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

''(3) Conducting a negative peer review or opening a retaliatory investigation because of an activity of an employee that is protected by section 2302 of title 5.

''(4) Requesting a contractor to carry out an action that is prohibited by section 4705(b) or section 4712(a)(1) of title 41, as the case may be.

''§ 734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses

''(a) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—(1) In evaluating the performance of supervisors of the Department, the Secretary shall include the criteria described in paragraph (2).

''(2) The criteria described in this subsection are the following:

''(A) Whether the supervisor treats whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title.

''(B) Whether the appropriate deciding official, performance review board, or performance review committee determines that the supervisor was found to have committed a prohibited personnel action described in section 733(b) of this title by an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or, in the case of a settlement of a whistleblower complaint (regardless of whether any fault was assigned under such settlement), the Secretary.

''(b) BONUSES.—(1) The Secretary may not pay to a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) an award or bonus under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the determination was made under such subsection.

''(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue an order directing a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) to

repay the amount of any award or bonus paid under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, if—

''(A) such award or bonus was paid for performance during a period in which the supervisor committed a prohibited personnel action as determined pursuant to such subsection (a)(2)(B);

''(B) the Secretary determines such repayment appropriate pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary to carry out this section; and

''(C) the supervisor is afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing before making such repayment.

''§ 735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints

''(a) TRAINING.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary, in coordination with the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman designated under section 3(d)(1)(C) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), shall provide to each employee of the Department training regarding whistleblower complaints, including—

''(1) an explanation of each method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint;

''(2) an explanation of prohibited personnel actions described by section 733(c) of this title;

''(3) with respect to supervisors, how to treat whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title;

''(4) the right of the employee to petition Congress regarding a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 7211 of title 5;

''(5) an explanation that the employee may not be prosecuted or reprised against for disclosing information to Congress, the Inspector General, or another investigatory agency in instances where such disclosure is permitted by law, including under sections 5701, 5705, and 7732 of this title, under section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act), under chapter 93 of title 18, and pursuant to regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191);

''(6) an explanation of the language that is required to be included in all nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements pursuant to section 115(a)(1) of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (5 U.S.C. 2302 note); and

''(7) the right of contractors to be protected from reprisal for the disclosure of certain information under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41.

''(b) MANNER TRAINING IS PROVIDED.—The Secretary shall ensure that training provided under subsection (a) is provided in person.

''(c) CERTIFICATION.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall provide training on merit system protection in a manner that the Special Counsel certifies as being satisfactory.

''(d) PUBLICATION.—(1) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, and display prominently at each facility of the Department, the rights of an employee to file a whistleblower complaint, including the information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a).

''(2) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, the whistleblower complaint form described in section 732(g)(2).

''§ 736. Reports to Congress

''(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

''(1) with respect to whistleblower complaints filed under section 732 of this title during the year covered by the report—

''(A) the number of such complaints filed;

''(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

''(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints in which a positive determination was made by a supervisor under subsection (b)(1) of such section;

''(2) the number of whistleblower complaints filed during the year covered by the report that are not included under paragraph (1), including—

''(A) the method in which such complaints were filed;

''(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

''(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints; and

''(3) with respect to disclosures made by a contractor under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41—

''(A) the number of complaints relating to such disclosures that were investigated by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the year covered by the report;

''(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

''(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints.

''(b) NOTICE OF OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives from the Special Counsel information relating to a whistleblower complaint pursuant to section 1213 of title 5, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such information, including the determination made by the Special Counsel.

''(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

''(2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.''.

(2) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such chapter is further amended by inserting before section 701 the following:

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended—

(i) by inserting before the item relating to section 701 the following new item:

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS'';

and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new items:

''SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

''731. Whistleblower complaint defined.
''732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints.
''733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints.
''734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses.
''735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints.
''736. Reports to Congress.''.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES AS OFFICIAL DUTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, as designated by section 2(a)(2)(A), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty

''(a) CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.—An employee of the Department is performing official duty during the period with respect to which the employee is testifying in an official capacity in front of either chamber of Congress, a committee of either chamber of Congress, or a joint or select committee of Congress.

''(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall provide travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, to any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs performing official duty described under subsection (a).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 2(a)(2)(B), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 713 the following new item:

''715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty.''.

SEC. 248. (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of verifying that an individual performed service under honorable conditions that satisfies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman who is recognized pursuant to section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note) as having performed active duty service for the purposes described in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall accept the following:

(1) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom no applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner's document or Z-card, or other official employment record is available, the Secretary of Defense shall provide such recognition on the basis of applicable Social Security Administration records submitted for or by the individual, together with validated testimony given by the individual or the primary next of kin of the individual that the individual performed such service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(2) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom the applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner's document or Z-card, or other official employment record has been destroyed or otherwise become unavailable by reason of any action committed by a person responsible for the control and maintenance of such form, logbook, or record, the Secretary of Defense shall accept other official documentation demonstrating that the individual performed such service during period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(3) For the purpose of determining whether to recognize service allegedly performed during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, the Secretary shall recognize masters of seagoing vessels or other officers in command of similarly organized groups as agents of the United States who were authorized to document any individual for purposes of hiring the individual to perform service in the merchant marine or discharging an individual from such service.

(b) TREATMENT OF OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Other documentation accepted by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall satisfy all requirements for eligibility of service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(c) BENEFITS ALLOWED.—

(1) MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND DECORATIONS.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) may be awarded an appropriate medal, ribbon, or other military decoration based on such service.

(2) STATUS OF VETERAN.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled by reason of such recognized service to any benefit that is not described in this subsection.

SEC. 249. Section 322(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''allowance to a veteran'' and inserting the following: ''allowance to—

''(A) a veteran'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) a veteran with a VA service-connected disability rated as 30 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs who is selected by the United States Olympic Committee for the United States Olympic Team for any month in which the veteran is competing in any event sanctioned by the National Governing Bodies of the United States Olympic Sports.''.

SEC. 250. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) A veteran with vision impairment, a veteran with a spinal cord injury or disorder, or a veteran with double or multiple amputations whose travel is in connection with care provided through a special disabilities rehabilitation program of the Department (including programs provided by spinal cord injury centers, blind rehabilitation centers, and prosthetics rehabilitation centers) if such care is provided—

''(i) on an in-patient basis; or

''(ii) during a period in which the Secretary provides the veteran with temporary lodging at a facility of the Department to make such care more accessible to the veteran.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the beneficiary travel program under section 111 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), that includes the following:

(1) The cost of the program.

(2) The number of veterans served by the program.

(3) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 251. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct inspections of kitchens and food service areas at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such inspections shall occur not less frequently than annually. The program's goal is to ensure that the same standards for kitchens and food service areas at hospitals in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) INITIAL FAILURE.—If a kitchen or food service area of a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) not to meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector, that medical facility fails the inspection and the Secretary shall—

(A) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 72 hours; and

(B) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 14 days of the failed inspection.

(2) SECOND FAILURE.—If a medical facility of the Department fails the second inspection conducted under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall close the kitchen or food service area at that medical facility that did not meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector until full remediation is completed and all kitchens and food service areas at that medical facility meet such standards.

(3) PROVISION OF FOOD.—If a kitchen or food service area is closed at a medical facility of the Department pursuant to paragraph (2), the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network in which the medical facility is located shall enter into a contract with a vendor approved by the General Services Administration to provide food at the medical facility.

(d) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary of Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 252. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct risk-based inspections for mold and mold issues at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such facilities will be rated high, medium, or low risk for mold. Such inspections at facilities rated high risk shall occur not less frequently than annually, and such inspections at facilities rated medium or low risk shall occur not less frequently than biennially.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) REMEDIATION PLAN.—If a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) to have a mold issue, the Secretary shall—

(1) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 7 days; and

(2) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 90 days of the initial inspection.

(d) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary for Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 253. Section 1706(b)(5)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''through 2008''.

SEC. 254. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 255. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General's access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General's right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 256. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 257. Appropriations made available in this Act under the heading ''Medical Services'' shall be available to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, to include the payment of the administrative expenses necessary to carry out such sections. Of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2017, up to $2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to $8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A. Of the amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2018, up to $2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to $8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A.

SEC. 258. (a) In fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year hereafter, beginning with the fiscal year 2018 budget request submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the budget justification documents submitted for the ''Construction, Major Projects'' account of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall include, at a minimum, the information required under subsection (b).

(b) The budget justification documents submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, for each project—

(1) the estimated total cost of the project;

(2) the funding provided for each fiscal year prior to the budget year;

(3) the amount requested for the budget year;

(4) the estimated funding required for the project for each of the 4 fiscal years succeeding the budget year; and

(5) such additional information as is enumerated under the heading relating to the ''Construction, Major Projects'' account of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(c) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans

Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a proposed budget justification template that complies with the requirements of this section.

SEC. 259. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings, in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to exceed $180,480,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to facilities, including facilities to support homeless veterans, at the medical center in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed $105,500,000.

(3) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed $287,100,000.

(4) Construction of an outpatient clinic, administrative space, cemetery, and columbarium in Alameda, California, in an amount not to exceed $87,332,000.

(5) Realignment of medical facilities in Livermore, California, in an amount not to exceed $194,430,000.

(6) Construction of a medical center in Louisville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed $150,000,000.

(7) Construction of a replacement community living center in Perry Point, Maryland, in an amount not to exceed $92,700,000.

(8) Seismic corrections and other renovations to several buildings and construction of a specialty care building in American Lake, Washington, in an amount not to exceed $16,260,000.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, $1,113,802,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) The projects authorized in subsection (a) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

SEC. 260. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the ''Medical Services'' account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term ''service-connected'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term ''assisted reproductive technology'' means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of ''Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members'' issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member.

(4) The term ''adoption reimbursement'' means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113).

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $75,100,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $30,945,000: Provided, That $2,500,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed $1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $70,800,000, of which not to exceed $15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the ''Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies'' account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $64,300,000, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading ''Department of Defense—Civil, Cemeterial Expenses, Army'', may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery, making additional land available for ground burials.

SEC. 302. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 4727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Army'', $18,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $59,809,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Air Force'' $88,291,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'', $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 401. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so

designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of ''E-Commerce'' technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 504. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 512. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

This division may be cited as the ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017''.

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support'', $394,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: Provided, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the Public Health Service (''PHS'') Act: Provided further, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: Provided further, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be appropriate: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at State and local laboratories: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated in this paragraph, $44,000,000 is included to supplement either fiscal year 2016 or fiscal year 2017 funds for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement program to restore fiscal year 2016 funds that were reprogrammed for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases'', $152,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for research on the virology, natural history, and pathogenesis of the Zika virus infection and preclinical and clinical development of vaccines and other medical countermeasures for the Zika virus and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: Provided, That such funds may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health (''NIH'') to other accounts of the NIH for the purposes provided in this paragraph: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', $387,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out section 501 of the Social Security Act; and for carrying out sections 330 through 336 and 338 of the PHS Act: Provided, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F–2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act): Provided further, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F–2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: Provided further, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to the fund authorized by section 319F–4 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $75,000,000, in addition to the purposes specified above, shall also be available for necessary expenses for support to States, territories, tribes, or tribal organizations with active or local transmission cases of the Zika virus, as confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to reimburse the costs of health care for health conditions related to the Zika virus, other than costs that are covered by private health insurance, of which not less than $60,000,000 shall be for territories with the highest rates of Zika transmission: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $20,000,000 shall be awarded, notwithstanding section 502 of the Social Security Act, for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $40,000,000 shall be used to expand the delivery of primary health services authorized by section 330 of the PHS Act in Puerto Rico and other territories: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $6,000,000 shall, for purposes of providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus or other vector-borne diseases, be used to assign National Health Service Corps (''NHSC'') members to Puerto Rico and other territories, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333A(a) of the PHS Act, and to make NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: Provided further, That for purposes of the previous proviso, section 331(a)(3)(D) of the PHS Act shall be applied as if the term ''primary health services'' included

health services regarding pediatric subspecialists: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

DIRECT HIRES

SEC. 101. Funds appropriated by this title may be used by the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development to appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319 of title 5 of the United States Code, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work relating to Zika response for which—

(1) public notice has been given; and

(2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.

TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

SEC. 102. Funds appropriated by this title may be transferred to, and merged with, other appropriation accounts under the headings ''Centers for Disease Control and Prevention'', ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', and ''National Institutes of Health'' for the purposes specified in this title following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: Provided, That the Committees on Appropriations shall be notified 10 days in advance of any such transfer: Provided further, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation: Provided further, That none of the funds made available by this title may be transferred pursuant to the authority in section 205 of division H of Public Law 114–113 or section 241(a) of the PHS Act.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, to the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That such plans shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 104. Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', up to—

(1) $500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the heading ''Office of the Secretary, Office of Inspector General'', and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and

(2) $500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the Comptroller General shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''Diplomatic and Consular Programs'', $14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: Provided, That such funds may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other department or agency of the United States under Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such department or agency for such costs: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'', $4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''Repatriation Loans Program Account'' for the cost of direct loans, $1,000,000, to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: Provided, That such costs, including costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $1,880,406: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''Operating Expenses'', $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for ''Global Health Programs'', $145,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: Provided, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for vector control activities, vaccines, diagnostics, and vector control technologies: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available as contributions to the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Food and Agriculture Organization: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading shall be subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for the Grand Challenges for Development program: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings ''Diplomatic and Consular Programs'', ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'', ''Repatriation Loans Program Account'', and ''Operating Expenses'' may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this title.

(b) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(c) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

(d) No funds shall be transferred pursuant to this section unless at least 5 days prior to making such transfer the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the details of any such transfer.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 202. Funds appropriated by this title shall only be available for obligation if the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing at least 15 days in advance of such obligation.

CONSOLIDATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SEC. 203. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act and prior to the initial obligation of funds made available by this title, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a consolidated report to the Committees on Appropriations on the anticipated uses of such funds on a country and project basis, including estimated personnel and administrative costs: Provided, That such report shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 204. Of the funds appropriated by this title, up to—

(1) $500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds available under the heading ''United States Agency for International Development, Funds Appropriated to the President, Office of Inspector General'', and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and

(2) $500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the Secretary of State and the Comptroller General, as appropriate, shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE III

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS DIVISION

EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES AND PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Unless otherwise provided for by this division, the additional amounts appropriated pursuant to this division are subject to the requirements for funds contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113).

PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. 302. Funds made available by this division may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)) to support the purposes of titles I and II of this division, within the United States and abroad, subject to prior consultation with, and the notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management: Provided further, That the authority made available pursuant to this section shall expire on September 30, 2017.

DESIGNATION RETENTION

SEC. 303. Any amount appropriated by this division, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this division shall retain such designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 304. This division shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the ''Zika Response and Preparedness Appropriations Act, 2016''.

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2016, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division A of Public Law 114–113), except section 728.

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division B of Public Law 114–113).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016 (division C of Public Law 114–113).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division D of Public Law 114–113).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114–113), which for purposes of this Act shall be treated as including section 707 of division O of Public Law 114–113.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114–113).

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division G of Public Law 114–113).

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division H of Public Law 114–113).

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016 (division I of Public Law 114–113).

(10) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114–113), except title IX.

(11) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division L of Public Law 114–113), except section 420.

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.496 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2016 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2016 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 9, 2016.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2017 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2016 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section;

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading ''Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses'' in division H of Public Law 114–113; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading ''Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account'' in division H of Public Law 114–113.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 114–113 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2017 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts covered by section 101 of this Act shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. (a) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198), at a rate for operations of $17,000,000.

(b) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Attorney General to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198), at a rate for operations of $20,000,000.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the purposes otherwise provided for amounts that become available on October 1, 2016, under the heading ''Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'' in division J of Public Law 114–113, such amounts shall be used to implement the Jason Simcakoski Memorial and Promise Act (title IX of Public Law 114–198) and the amendments made by that Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program'' at a rate for operations of $310,139,000, of which $236,120,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 118. Amounts provided by section 111 to the Department of Agriculture for ''Corporations—Commodity Credit Corporation Fund—Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses'' may be used, prior to the completion of the report described in section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11), to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, as reflected in the June 2016 report of its financial condition.

SEC. 119. Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485).

SEC. 120. Section 529(b)(5) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)(5)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2016''.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 102, within amounts provided for ''Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide'' and ''Department of Defense—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide'', except for amounts designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Secretary of Defense may develop, replace, and sustain Federal Government security and suitability background investigation information technology system requirements of the Office of Personnel Management at a rate for operations of $95,000,000.

SEC. 122. Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1221 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92), shall be applied by substituting ''2017'' for ''2016'' through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading ''District of Columbia Funds'' for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2016 (title IV of division E of Public Law 114–113) at the rate set forth under ''Part A—Summary of Expenses'' as included in the Fiscal Year 2017 Local Budget Act of 2016 (D.C. Act 21–414), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) During the period in which this Act is in effect, the authority and conditions provided in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114–113) which were applicable to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia for any program, project, or activity during fiscal year 2016 shall apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia with respect to such program, project, or activity under any authority.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''General Services Administration—Expenses, Presidential Transition'' for necessary expenses to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), at a rate for operations of $9,500,000, of which not to exceed $1,000,000 is for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: Provided, That such amounts may be transferred and credited to the ''Acquisition Services Fund'' or ''Federal Buildings Fund'' to reimburse obligations incurred prior to enactment of this Act for the purposes provided herein related to the Presidential election in 2016: Provided further, That amounts available under this section shall be in addition to any other amounts available for such purposes.

(b) Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for ''General Services Administration—Pre-Election Presidential Transition''.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, for expenses of the Office of Administration to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and similar expenses, in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated by law, amounts are provided to ''Presidential Transition Administrative Support'' at a rate for operations of $7,582,000: Provided, That such funds may be transferred to other accounts that provide funding for offices within the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President in this Act or any other Act, to carry out such purposes.

SEC. 127. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for ''District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia'' for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration, at a rate for operations of $19,995,000.

SEC. 128. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for ''National Archives and Records Administration—Operating Expenses'' to carry out the Presidential transition responsibilities of the Archivist of the United States under sections 2201 through 2207 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Presidential Records Act of 1978''), at a rate for operations of $4,850,000.

SEC. 129. Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 130. Amounts provided by section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated in the account and budget structure set forth in the table provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Department to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives prior to the end of fiscal year 2016 pursuant to section 563(e) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114–113).

SEC. 131. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of staff achieved on September 30, 2016.

(b) Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Department of Homeland Security—Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of screeners achieved on September 30, 2016.

SEC. 132. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 133. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2017'' and inserting ''September 30, 2018''.

SEC. 134. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106–79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) Section 419(b) of division G of Public Law 114–113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 135. Notwithstanding section 101, subsection 35(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(d)) shall be applied, at a rate for operations, through the date specified in section 106(3), as if the following new paragraph were added at the end—

''(5) There is appropriated to the Fee Account established in subsection (c)(3)(B)(ii) of this section, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $26,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and transferred to such Fee Account pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(A)(ii) of this section, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $0.''.

SEC. 136. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for ''Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System'' for security and visitor safety activities related to the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies, at a rate for operations of $4,200,000.

SEC. 137. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, amounts are provided for ''Environmental Protection Agency—Environmental Programs and Management'' at a rate for operations of $3,000,000, to remain available until expended, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations needed, for necessary expenses of activities described in section 26(b)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2625(b)(1)): Provided, That fees collected pursuant to such section of such Act and deposited in the ''TSCA Service Fee Fund'' as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses under the above heading and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum provided by this section of this Act from the general fund for fiscal year 2017 shall be reduced by the amount of discretionary offsetting receipts received during fiscal year 2017, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $0: Provided further, That to the extent that amounts realized from such receipts exceed $3,000,000, those amounts in excess of $3,000,000 shall be deposited in the

''TSCA Service Fee Fund'' as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017, shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading by section 101, the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction program project shall be allocated for this fiscal year, excluding the amount of any fees made available, not less than the amount of appropriations for that program project for fiscal year 2014.

SEC. 138. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2016''.

SEC. 139. The first proviso under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant'' in title II of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 140. (a) The second proviso under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs'' in title II of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act as if the following were struck from such proviso: '', of which $141,000,000 shall be available for a cost of living adjustment notwithstanding section 640(a)(3)(A) of such Act''.

(b) Amounts made available in the third proviso under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs'' in title II of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall not be included in the calculation of the ''base grant'', as such term is used in section 640(a)(7)(A) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(7)(A)), during the period described in section 106 of this Act.

SEC. 141. (a) Section 529 of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall be applied by substituting ''in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from the appropriation to the Fund for the first semi-annual allotment period for fiscal year 2017 under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act'' for ''or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act''; and

(b) Section 530 of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall be applied by substituting ''$541,900,000'' for ''$4,678,500,000'' and by adding at the end the following: ''and of the funds made available for the purposes of carrying out section 2105(a)(3) of the Social Security Act, $5,669,100,000 are hereby rescinded''.

SEC. 142. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated for payment to Sami A. Takai, widow of Kyle Mark Takai, late a Representative from the State of Hawaii, $174,000.

SEC. 143. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' and ''Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' shall be obligated in the account and budget structure, and under the authorities and conditions, set forth for ''Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' and ''Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' in H.R. 5394 and S. 2844, as introduced in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

(b) Amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) are provided for ''Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' at a rate for operations of $235,000,000, to remain available until expended, and for ''Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' at a rate for operations of $1,155,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 144. Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Maritime Administration—Maritime Security Program'' shall be allocated at an annual rate across all vessels covered by operating agreements, as that term is used in chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, and the Secretary shall distribute equally all such funds for payments due under all operating agreements in equal amounts notwithstanding title 46, United States Code, section 53106: Provided, That no payment shall exceed an annual rate of $3,500,000 per operating agreement.

SEC. 145. (a) In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for the ''Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund'', there is appropriated $500,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared in 2016, and which the disaster occurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act, pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): Provided, That funds shall be awarded directly to the State or unit of general local government at the discretion of the Secretary: Provided further, That as a condition of making any grant, the Secretary shall certify in advance that such grantee has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds: Provided further, That prior to the obligation of funds a grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for approval detailing the proposed use of all funds, including criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure and housing and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas: Provided further, That such funds may not be used for activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Army Corps of Engineers: Provided further, That funds allocated under this heading shall not be considered relevant to the non-disaster formula allocations made pursuant to section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306): Provided further, That a State or subdivision thereof may use up to 5 percent of its allocation for administrative costs: Provided further, That in administering the funds under this heading, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the recipient of these funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), if the Secretary finds that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement and such waiver or alternative requirement would not be inconsistent with the overall purpose of title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: Provided further, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, recipients of funds provided under this heading that use such funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval or permit: Provided further, That, notwithstanding section 104(g)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(g)(2)), the Secretary may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project assisted under this heading if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval or permit under the preceding proviso or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.): Provided further, That the Secretary shall publish via notice in the Federal Register any waiver, or alternative requirement, to any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers pursuant to title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 no later than 5 days before the effective date of such waiver or alternative requirement: Provided further, That amounts provided under this section shall be designated by Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for administrative costs of the Office of Community Planning and Development associated with funds appropriated to the Department for specific disaster relief and related purposes and designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, including information technology costs and costs for administering and overseeing such specific disaster related funds, shall be transferred to the Program Office Salaries and Expenses, Community Planning and Development account for the Department, shall remain available until expended, and may be used for such administrative costs for administering any funds appropriated to the Department for any disaster relief and related purposes in any prior or future act, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: Provided, That the amounts transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be transferred only if the President subsequently so designates the entire transfer and transmits such designation to the Congress.

(c) This section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017''.

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 101. (a) Of the unobligated balances available from prior year appropriations under the heading ''Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs'' designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, $10,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by

the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading ''Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities'' in title II of Public Law 111–212 for responding to economic impacts of fisherman and fishery dependent businesses, $13,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(c) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading ''Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Secretary and Executive Management'' in Public Law 109–148, $279,045 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(d) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading ''Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses'' from emergency funds in Public Law 107–206 and earlier laws transferred to the Department of Homeland Security when it was created in 2003, $39,246 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(e) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading ''Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements'' in Public Law 110–329, Public Law 109–148 and Public Law 109–234, $48,075,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(f) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading ''Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Administrative and Regional Operations'' in Public Law 109–234, $731,790 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(g) Of the unobligated amounts made available under section 1323(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18043(c)(1)), $168,100,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(h) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading ''Operating Expenses'' in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113–235), $7,522,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(i) Of the unobligated balances of appropriations made available under the heading ''Bilateral Economic Assistance, Funds Appropriated to the President'' in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113–235), $109,478,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(j) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment'' in Public Law 109–148, $4,384,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(k) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment'' in Public Law 102–368, $990,277 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(l) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Transportation from amounts provided under section 108 of Public Law 101–130, $37,400,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Rogers of Kentucky moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 901, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325. This legislation includes the fiscal year 2017 continuing resolution and full-year appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. It also includes funding to fight and prevent the spread of the Zika virus and assistance to communities affected by recent, devastating floods.

This is a reasonable and necessary compromise that will keep the government open and operating, address urgent needs across the country, and provide the necessary support for our servicemembers, their families, and our veterans.

First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, this bill helps us avoid the unwarranted damage of a government shutdown by providing the funds required to keep the government open and operational past our September 30 deadline.

The funding is provided at the current rate of $1.067 trillion and lasts through December 9. This short timeframe will allow Congress to complete our annual appropriations work without jeopardizing important government functions.

Secondly, the package contains the full-year Military Construction-VA bill for FY17, which was conferenced by the House and Senate and passed by the House already in June.

In total, $82.5 billion is provided for our military infrastructure and veterans' health and benefits programs, $2.7 billion above current levels, with targeted increases to address mismanagement and improve operations at the VA.

It is important to note that, once the President signs this bill into law, it will be the first time since 2009 that an individual appropriations bill has been conferenced with the Senate and enacted before the September 30 fiscal year deadline.

Third, this legislation includes $1.1 billion in funding to respond to and stop the spread of the Zika virus. This funding is directed to programs that control mosquitoes, develop vaccines, and treat those affected. This funding is spent responsibly, balanced by $400 million in offsets of unused funding from other programs.

Lastly, this legislation includes important provisions that address current national needs, including an additional $37 million to fight the opioid epidemic, which has struck my district especially hard, and an additional $500 million in disaster-designated funding to help States recover and rebuild from recent destructive flooding.

I believe this legislation is a good compromise that this House can and should support. It is not perfect, but it ensures we meet our Nation's current critical needs.

I have said many times before, standing in this exact spot, that a continuing resolution is a last resort. But at this point, it is what we must do to fulfill our congressional responsibility to keep the lights on in our government.

So I urge my colleagues to vote ''aye'' on this necessary legislation so we can send it to the President's desk without delay.

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

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

I rise in support of the 2017 continuing resolution. Seven months after President Obama requested emergency assistance to respond to the Zika virus, it is long past time for Congress to act. The $1.1 billion provided equals the total funding the Senate passed by a vote of 89–8 in May.

The continuing resolution includes the full-year 2017 appropriations bill for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, providing $82.7 billion to address the needs of those who have served our Nation in uniform, as well as construction costs necessary to supportive and reserve components of the military and their families.

It extends current Federal spending rates through December 9, which is sufficient time for Congress to negotiate and enact an omnibus consisting of each of the remaining 11 appropriations bills.

I object to the inclusion of $400 million in rescissions in this CR, which could lead some to believe, incorrectly, that emergency spending should be offset or will be in the future. I also object to the continuation of a rider shielding corporate political spending from public disclosure.

During the lameduck session, Congress must enact a Water Resources Development Act conference report that includes robust funding to respond to the manmade disaster in Flint, as well as emergency funding to respond to the natural disaster in Louisiana.

I intend to vote for this continuing resolution.

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

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

□ 2100

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), the ranking member of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, we know the Republican majority wants to adjourn and go home, but we shouldn't be going home until the work is done. Americans understand that concept. They stay and work until the job is done. So why don't the Republicans?

Here we are, once again, voting on another continuing resolution just hours before a devastating government shutdown. The last shutdown in 2013 cost the American taxpayers $2 billion. Now, that is a lot of money that was wasted because Republicans refused to do their jobs. That was money that could have been used to tackle the Zika outbreak or the water issues in Flint or provide much-needed assistance to flood victims in Louisiana.

In this last-minute CR, Republicans are finally letting us address Zika. That is after months of ignoring this serious issue. We could have—should have—done better. The pregnant women and children infected with Zika deserve better. The same goes for Flint. After thousands of children are poisoned by lead, we finally have some assurances that the contaminated water supply will be addressed.

I am proud to have fought alongside my Democratic colleagues to make sure these children would not continue to be the victims of politics. Even the one job Congress is required to do—fund the government—the majority won't let us do.

Today's CR does not actually amount to Republicans doing their job. We are simply kicking the can down the road and setting up for another eleventh-hour Band-Aid like tonight to, once again, avert a government shutdown in December.

We can do better. We are elected to do better—and better will simply be doing our jobs. That is all the American people want from us.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding and wish to engage the gentleman from Kentucky, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, in a colloquy.

Before I ask the chairman my question, I want to recognize his efforts for reaching an agreement on a package to fund the government through December 9 and include interim aid to the August 2016 flood victims in south Louisiana.

Early last month, the people of south Louisiana experienced an extraordinary flood event, about a 1,000-year rain event. To put it in perspective, 7 trillion gallons of water fell in about 48 hours. That is roughly the same amount of water discharged by the entire Mississippi River system into the Gulf of Mexico over the course of about 80 days. If you live up North, that equates to somewhere in the vicinity of about 25 feet of snow in 36 hours. If you live in Arizona, in some areas, that is up to 10 years of cumulative rainfall.

As many as 110,000 homes and more than 100,000 vehicles were damaged. All told, more than 20,000 people were rescued, 10,000 sheltered, and 13 lost their lives. Early estimates predict that this disaster will cost upward of $15 billion in economic damages, and FEMA estimates this will be the fourth most costly flood disaster in U.S. history.

Over the past several weeks, the gentleman from Kentucky and I have discussed the flood and the extraordinary impact on our State several times. During those meetings, we discussed the devastating impact I just spoke of and the need for both immediate unmet needs assistance as well as a comprehensive strategy and solution to provide the people of south Louisiana certainty that Congress will address their long-term needs when we return after the election.

During those discussions, we discussed—and you acknowledged—that dire situation so many are facing and will face in the coming weeks in south Louisiana—that of handing over their keys and walking away or sticking it out knowing that Congress may provide them with a hand up.

Mr. Chairman, families are facing foreclosure, businesses are facing bankruptcy, and local communities are struggling to provide basic services such as policing, fire protection, and schooling, among others. The disaster funding provided through this legislation, though helpful, will not address all of the financial challenges our community is facing.

That is why I want to engage the chairman tonight.

Mr. Chairman, thousands are facing bankruptcy, foreclosure, elevation of homes, need for flood protection, and other financial challenges as a result of the August flood event in south Louisiana.

Is it your intent, as we discussed, to deliver a package to address the needs of our local communities who desperately need it when we return?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I salute the gentleman from Louisiana, who has been tirelessly working to help the people in his district and the State of Louisiana for the terrible disaster that has stricken that State.

I thank you for your efforts to share information about this with me and the committee regarding the devastating impacts of the flood. Many of the Members of Congress from across the country that you led to the flooded areas have also reached out to us advocating for assistance to Louisiana.

It is my intention to work with the White House, my colleagues in the Senate, as well as our respective leadership teams over the coming weeks to head off the personal and fiscal calamity so many are facing in south Louisiana. Sir, you have my commitment to work towards that end.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. The commitment to work toward additional recovery dollars and assistance is the difference between a viable recovery and a decades-long struggling effort in south Louisiana, and I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for his commitment.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this continuing resolution, though I prefer full-year funding for all of the government rather than just through December 9. It is good that this bill funds veterans and military construction programs through next year.

While I am pleased that the bill includes $1.1 billion for the Zika public health emergency, I am very disappointed that this funding comes 7 months after the President's emergency request and is $800 million short. Zika is a public health crisis that has waited too long to be funded.

Congress should have provided this funding before local transmission began in Florida and in Puerto Rico. Zika is long from over, and we will need to provide additional resources to combat the Zika virus in the future.

In the interim, this supplemental does address some critical Zika-related

needs in the U.S. and its territories. It includes $126 million for healthcare services, including, yes, contraceptive services for Puerto Rico and the territories to help nearly 20,000 people infected with Zika, including more than 1,300 pregnant women. Another $400 million in the Zika supplemental is for advanced research and development at NIH and BARDA, which will support clinical trials of vaccine candidates and advanced diagnostics.

I am pleased that State and local health departments, which are under severe financial strain, will be reimbursed for $44 million that was taken from their budgets earlier this year.

I am disappointed that we are not providing the people of Flint, Michigan, with immediate relief after failing to provide emergency resources for over a year. While I support quickly providing emergency assistance to Louisiana, we should do the same to assist the people of Flint—9,000 children, lead poisoning. I hope that the chairman will have that same commitment to Flint, Michigan, as he does to Louisiana.

I am also disappointed that this bill contains almost half a percent across-the-board funding cuts. We can and must do better going forward.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), the chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee and the author of the bill that is before us now.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, the continuing resolution before you includes, in Division A, the full-year appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2017. Division A is exactly the same as the MILCON-VA conference report that was approved by the House on June 23.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman ROGERS; Mrs. LOWEY, the ranking member, and the partnership of the subcommittee ranking member, SANFORD BISHOP, the gentleman from Georgia, this conference report was negotiated with the Senate and will provide necessary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects.

This conference report demonstrates our firm commitment to fully supporting our Nation's veterans and servicemembers and their families. The total investment is $82.5 billion for Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies—$2.6 billion over last year's level.

This bill provides comprehensive support for servicemembers, military families, and veterans. It supports our troops with the facilities and services necessary to maintain readiness and morale at bases here in the States and, of course, overseas. It provides for Defense Department schools and health clinics that take care of our military families.

The bill funds our veteran healthcare systems to ensure that our promise to care for those who have sacrificed in defense of this great Nation continues as those men and women return home. We owe this to our veterans and are committed to sustained oversight so that programs deliver what they promise and taxpayers are well served by the investments we make.

On the military construction side, the bill provides a total of $7.9 billion for military construction projects and family housing, including base and overseas contingency operations, OCO, funding—an increase of $282 million over the President's request.

This funding meets DOD's most critical needs, including priority projects for the combatant commanders and funding new mission requirements. It provides $304 million for military medical facilities. It provides $246 million for Defense Department education facilities, for construction or renovation of four schools. It supports our Guard and Reserve through $673 million for facilities in 21 States. It funds military family housing at $1.3 billion. It provides $178 million for the NATO Security Investment Program, which is $43 million over last year's level, to deal with the increasing threats and necessary investments overseas.

On the VA side, the legislation includes a total of $74.4 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is $2.9 billion above the fiscal year 2016.

VA medical services, the bill funds VA medical services at $58.8 billion. Many Members expressed concerns about medical services, and we were able to fully fund the budget request for hepatitis C at $1.5 billion—and I believe that is about 70,000 veterans who will be treated for hepatitis C—veteran homelessness at $1.6 billion, long-term care at $8.6 billion, Office of the Inspector General at $160 million, and caregiver stipends at $735 million, $10 million over the request.

For disability claims, we provide $30 million over the request for the Veterans Benefits Administration, which is a $148 million increase over fiscal year 2016, and the full request for the Board of Veterans' Appeals, which is about a $46 million increase.

The bill will enhance transparency and accountability at the VA through further oversight and an increase for the VA Office of Inspector General's independent audits and investigations.

The legislation also contains $260 million for the modernization of the VA electronic health record and includes language restricting the funding until the VA meets milestones and certifies interoperability to meet statutory requirements. This, of course, is a major priority for the committee. I know the chairman and the ranking member have spoken at length about the integrated health record, and we have to get this done.

Major construction—we continue to focus on major construction oversight and maintain strict requirements, including holding back 100 percent of the funding for the largest construction projects until VA meets our requirements.

We include bill language requiring improved standards for the suicide hotline and certification of mental health therapists to expand access for veterans who need their care.

We include major new whistleblower protections for VA employees to avoid retribution for the employees.

In closing, this is a very solid, bipartisan bill that is focused on the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and all their families. We are $2.6 billion—$2.6 billion with a B—over the fiscal year 2016 level; more than a 3 percent increase. We have provided for our military and veterans to the very best level we can in a manner that is fiscally responsible within the constraints of the Budget Act we adopted last year.

We are going to do a lot of good with this bill. It is fair, it is balanced, and it is generous.

On behalf of our servicemembers, military families, and veterans, I urge support of this legislation. Let's take care of those who sacrificed so much for our country.

I urge support of the resolution with an ''aye'' vote.

Once again, I thank the chair, the ranking member, and Mr. BISHOP for all their support of this legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. I am so pleased that Mr. BISHOP and Chairman DENT were able to craft such an outstanding bill to really support our veterans who have served us with such distinction.

□ 2115

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, division A of the MILCON/VA portion provides robust funding for military construction and provides adequate funding for both the Active and Reserve components.

I was pleased the bill provides $35 million above the FY17 budget request to help speed up the cleanup of former Defense Department sites within the Base Realignment and Closure Account.

The bill provides $74.4 billion, $3 billion above the FY16-enacted level in discretionary funding for VA programs. I believe that these resources will have a profound impact on the lives of our Nation's veterans. A couple of VA items that I want to highlight are the $1.5 billion for hepatitis C treatment, which is $840 million above the President's request.

In addition, the bill includes $78 million for the Veterans Crisis Line and,

overall, $173 million for suicide prevention. Furthermore, language is included that requires certain professional standards for the suicide hotline. This is a topic that many Members on both sides of the aisle were concerned about, and I think that we have taken some important steps for it to function better.

Mr. Speaker, the funding provided will help the Department of Veterans Affairs provide better care and better service to our veterans. I believe that the resources provided in the bill will help lead to the elimination of a claims backlog, which is now under $75,000, down from a high of $650,000. The bill includes healthy funding for the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the bill carries the authorization for several major construction projects that were previously funded. I believe it is past time to get these projects going because the demand on the VA is going to grow.

As I stated earlier, the MILCON/VA portion of this package is a good one and is one that I think we can all be proud of.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and my colleague and friend Chairman DENT for their hard work on this bill. I couldn't have asked for better partners in conducting our business and fashioning a bipartisan bill.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for joining me in pushing for us to reach the point that we have, where we now have not all the funding we need, but $1.1 billion to finally fight the Zika virus without also fighting the political weight that had weighed it down for many, many months.

While I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2017 continuing resolution, I also rise to express my significant objections to the delay in bringing this bill to the floor with funds to attack the Zika virus.

In south Florida, we have waited more than 7 months for congressional Republicans to drop their political games and approve funding to stop the spread of the Zika virus. South Florida, as many probably know by now, is the epicenter for this virus. And yesterday, the Florida Department of Health confirmed its 900th case of the Zika virus.

Despite this hefty toll, Congressional Republicans repeatedly put partisan politics before women's health care and inserted a provision in the Zika bills that would have cut off funding for Planned Parenthood. My Republican colleagues spent much of the past 9 months firm in their belief that the most appropriate response to a virus that overwhelmingly affects pregnant women was to place a politically motivated ban on funding for reproductive health care, and that was unacceptable. This is shameful conduct that hurt women all across Florida and Puerto Rico.

And while some may praise today's agreement as a breakthrough and the end of our action on Zika, I must warn my colleagues that the mosquitos that carry the Zika virus do not know if they are biting a Republican or a Democrat, they don't know whether they are in Florida or Georgia or Michigan or Louisiana or any other State, or whether Congress has passed an eleventh-hour stopgap funding bill. They simply bite you and infect you with Zika. And because of that risk, our work in defeating this virus is far from over. We must drop the politics and stop playing politics with women's health.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee for yielding. And I thank her for her great work being involved in the appropriations process, which I shared with her for many years, but a place where so many of our values are reflected by how we allocate our resources. I particularly want to thank Congresswoman NITA LOWEY, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO for their relentless, persistent, constant advocacy for this Flint money.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, it was February when President Obama sent over a request for $1.9 billion to address the Zika crisis. This was an amount of money based on expert advice and was related to scientific evidence. It related to how we would do research for a vaccine, how we would do vector control, how we would do prevention, and, as our colleagues have mentioned, how we address the issue that this is a very unusual situation because it is sexually transmitted, and we had the obstacle of saying no contraception, which held us up for awhile.

So today, finally, we come to the floor, and I think it is very important that we take the action that we do. But I do want to remind you that $1.1 billion is still $800 million short of the $1.9 billion the President requested. Some of that other money was taken from the Ebola resources, which were sorely needed, and continue to be needed there. So while this is an important, giant step, it is not complete in terms of what we need to do.

The continuing resolution before us must recognize that more than 23,000 Americans, including almost 2,100 pregnant women, have been infected with Zika. The bill falls short, as I said, of the $1.9 billion that top public health officials said is the full amount required to protect American communities.

But I would say this. I think there are some good intentions in a bipartisan way of the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee and others, working with Congresswoman LOWEY, Congresswoman DELAURO, and Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, to think in terms of anticipation rather than reaction that perhaps we could have a FEMA-like fund for disasters of this kind that affect the public health. The public health system is a strength of our country, and when it is threatened, we must have the resources to protect it.

So perhaps out of this long delay, one of the things that could come together is a conversation that says, let's have FEMA-like biomedical research, whatever it happens to be, reaction to a public health emergency that enables us to do the research necessary to protect the public health of the American people.

Earlier tonight, the House took an important, long overdue step toward addressing a man-made disaster in Flint, Michigan. The success of the Flint amendment is a tribute to the leadership of Congressman DAN KILDEE, who has been an absolute lion—a lion—for the children and families of Flint throughout this crisis. Thanks to Congressman KILDEE, we have sent a message of hope to the people of Flint.

It is my hope that in the House-Senate WRDA conference, we can move forward the Flint assistance that overwhelmingly passed the Senate by 95–3 earlier this month. With strong bipartisan support, the amendment passed earlier this month.

While we would have preferred to deliver those funds to the children of Flint in this bill, we are at least on a path to meaningful action, and that is important to mention.

In this bill—and our distinguished chairman made this reference, and certainly our distinguished ranking member on the committee, Mr. BISHOP, made the point about what the bill contains to increase the funding for the military and veteran caregivers. So much is in this bill about veterans. And as they say in the military, on the battlefield, we leave no soldier behind; and when they come home, we leave no veteran behind. So many in this room on both sides of the aisle have been champions in that, and certainly our ranking member, Mr. BISHOP.

I particularly want to highlight that in this bill, we have increased funding for our military and veteran caregivers, strengthening the support for America's hidden heroes. The hidden heroes were named such by Senator, Secretary—she carries many titles—Elizabeth Dole.

Yesterday, in the United States Capitol Visitor Center theater, hundreds of

caregivers of our military and veteran families came together to talk about the shared challenges that they have to be engaged in a Hidden Heroes launch, the launching of cities in conjunction with the actions of the Hidden Heroes initiative. I am proud to be a cochair with the Hidden Heroes Congressional Caucus with Senator MCCAIN and Senator REED on the Senate side and our chairman, Congressman JEFF MILLER, on the House side.

In this bill, there is $10 million to boost the VA caregivers initiatives that will help address the increasing demand on VA services as servicemembers continue to come home to their families. Hidden heroes, do you know how many there are? 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers in our country. How these families raise their children, care for their loved ones, siblings, spouses, children is remarkable, and this legislation recognizes that need to assist with training and all.

We must ensure that the VA can meet the demand of a growing population of caregivers, hiring more staff and coordinators to make sure veterans and their families, friends, and loved ones get the services they earned and deserve.

With this CR, we will keep the government open and prevent any self-inflicted wounds to our economy that had been inflicted before.

I want to especially thank our ranking member, NITA LOWEY, for her leadership in helping to craft this bipartisan path forward. I thank our distinguished chairman for his leadership. I extend my gratitude to the Speaker for us coming together to address the issue of Flint, which has enabled us to come forward in this legislation. For that reason, I will be supporting this legislation.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me associate myself with the words of our leader. Let me also thank Ranking Member LOWEY, all of the appropriators, and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

This is a terrible time to shut the government down. So I rise today to support this CR for a number of reasons.

A few months ago, in Houston, Texas, I organized the regional Zika Virus Task Force. The committee members, representing public and private health professionals, talked about active surveillance, were concerned about the number of infections among pregnant women, and talked as well about the issue of mosquito control, research, and a vaccination.

□ 2130

I am glad that some of the funds here will be able to help us in dealing with these issues—long overdue. Coming from a flood-ridden State, let me say that I appreciate the funding for Baton Rouge. I thank those who were involved, particularly CEDRIC RICHMOND, who, on our side of the aisle, worked so very hard.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to make mention of the Flint dollars. We have worked very hard with the Michigan delegation on the issue of Flint funding. I am glad that the amendment of Mr. KILDEE and others passed in the WRDA bill, but we must deal with that question as well.

Where we are is that we are keeping hardworking employees and government services going. We are helping our veterans. We are making sure health services are going forward. We are making sure the necessary facilities that our public uses will be open. What a shame to have closed a number of these facilities that are so important.

As we go forward, in coming from Houston and in having experienced the tax day floods and the Memorial Day floods, I am looking forward to working with the appropriators for funding—that will help us do a massive study on the bayous in the region—with an amendment that I have submitted to the energy and water bill.

Finally, I would say that it is time that we recognize that government worked for the American people, and what we have to do is not borrow to pay Paul. We should have given the $1.9 billion in Zika funding. It is $1.1 billion, but I think we can do better, and I hope we will do so.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished whip of the House and a champion for the people in his State and in his district during their devastating floods.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his leadership in bringing this critical piece of legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I specifically want to talk about the important language that is in this bill to help the people of south Louisiana recover from the devastating flooding that we saw last month. Over 100,000 houses were damaged, and thousands of families are still making the decision of whether or not they are going to be able to rebuild. This legislation gives them not only hope but a serious down payment so that people will know that the Federal Government is there to help them get back in their homes and rebuild their communities at such a vital stage.

We saw so many positive things come out of the resiliency of the people of Louisiana. You saw the Cajun Navy—citizens—just helping their fellow neighbors, saving people's lives over and over again, and faith-based organizations coming together. When you see the worst of times, like we did during that tragic flooding, you also see the best in people, and this bill makes a serious down payment to help those people get back in their homes and rebuild their communities.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill so that we can do the work of the people of this great Nation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I inquire of the gentleman from Kentucky if he has any further requests for time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons that you have heard tonight, we need to pass this bill to keep the government operating—and keep the lights on in the government—and to provide the assistance to the Nation's needs, as you have heard described here. I urge the adoption of the bill.

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that, once again, Republican leaders have failed to complete the appropriations process on time, and decided that critical government funding decisions can be delayed until December. While I will vote for tonight's Continuing Resolution so that our government can keep functioning, I will cast my vote in the hope that Congress will act in December to pass an omnibus spending bill that does more to create jobs, bolster paychecks, improve our infrastructure, and keep our country safe.

The CR includes a badly needed and long-overdue $1.1 billion to fund our fight against the Zika virus. While I would have preferred a bill that funded President Obama's $1.9 billion Zika request, the funding in this resolution is an important first step in helping us to combat Zika's terrible threat. In addition, I am pleased that Republican leaders agreed to stop tying this funding to partisan political tactics, such as gutting the Clean Water Act.

However, I am concerned about several elements of the CR. For example, it hobbles the Export-Import Bank's ability to help American businesses and workers and it prevents the Securities and Exchange Commission from making public companies' political spending more transparent.

Again, I will vote for this CR to keep government doors open. I hope the December omnibus will address the defects I described, and endeavor on many fronts to make our nation more prosperous and secure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 901, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. 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, this 15-minute vote on the motion to concur will be followed by 5-minute votes on the passage of H.R. 6094 and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 342, nays 85, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 573]

YEAS—342

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
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
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibson
Goodlatte
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lee
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—85

Amash
Babin
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Burgess
Byrne
Conyers
Davidson
DeFazio
DesJarlais
Dingell
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Flores
Fortenberry
Franks (AZ)
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Griffith
Harris
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Holding
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
King (IA)
Labrador
LaHood
Lawrence
Levin
Long
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McDermott
Meadows
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Palmer
Pearce
Perry
Pitts
Pompeo
Ratcliffe
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Roskam
Rothfus
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Stutzman
Walker
Waters, Maxine
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman

NOT VOTING—5

Cárdenas
Kirkpatrick
Payne
Poe (TX)
Rush

□ 2156

Messrs. ROSKAM, CONYERS, and RUSSELL changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. HURT of Virginia, LAMBORN, ROUZER, and POSEY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 573.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANNE BRADBURY

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I have the bittersweet task tonight of paying tribute to a valued member of our team, one of the most widely respected people in this institution. That is our director of floor operations, Anne Bradbury.

As many Members now know, this is her last week on the job. When we return in November, this House will convene without Anne on the floor for the first time in 11 years.

It was Speaker John Boehner who had the good sense to hire Anne for this post, and it is not hard to figure out why he did that. She is just absolutely first class, the absolute consummate professional, always focused on getting the job done. There may be times when we get hung up on small things, trying to figure out what the heck just happened on the floor, and she is always out there working on the plan for the next steps a mile ahead of everybody else. When everybody else is thinking short term, she is out there thinking long term, and not only in terms of this vote or that bill, but how to protect this institution.

Anne Bradbury has been here for 11 years, protecting both the majority and the minority. She fights for this House as an institution, and I am sure that Leader PELOSI and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) would agree with that.

As for me, Anne, I hope you thought through how this is a huge inconvenience for me. Who am I going to call when we are in a jam? Who do we get to take all the chocolate that is gifted to our office every day?

Anne has been such an indispensable help to us, especially taking the job in the middle of a session, not having experience doing something like this. I just can't conceive of having gone through this past year without this brilliant woman.

The last point I want to make is this. To do such a big job so well for so long, as Anne has, takes certain things. It takes a really thick skin, for one, but it takes a very, very deep desire to serve, and you have to have the support of the ones that you love.

Anne has two great boys, John and Clayton, and they are 7 and 8 years old—great kids. On so many nights, just like this night tonight, they have had to share their mom with us. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

And I want to say on behalf of every single Member of the House of Representatives: Anne Bradbury, thank you for serving this institution. Thank you for serving the people's House. You will be sorely missed.

□ 2200

It is my pleasure to yield to the distinguished leader, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Speaker for yielding.

Anne, apparently my colleagues did not understand the gravity of this occasion, the solemnness of this occasion, and they did not dress accordingly, apparently.

Anne, I want you to know that I just left the Crown Prince of Denmark and Princess Mary because I told them I had to come see Queen Anne.

I have risen before and talked about our extraordinary staff, the people who really make this institution what it wants to be. They are the best of us, whether they are at the desk, whether they are with the Sergeant at Arms, whether they are recording our debates; and the best of them who has one of the toughest jobs is to help us, as the Speaker has said, manage this floor. Sitting next to me is Shuwanza Goff. She is the floor director on our side.

You cannot leave.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I tried that.

Mr. HOYER. Anne, as the Speaker so well said, serves us all. Shuwanza does as well because their job, as the Speaker has so well stated, is to help make this institution work in a democratic nation to make our citizens proud. Very frankly, if they knew the work of Anne Bradbury and others who work on this floor, the level of their pride would be much higher than sometimes it is, because they are people of extraordinary ability, great reticence and fairness in dealing with Members, all 435 of us.

Anne, you have been a shining example of the best that is in this House. You have always been quick to share your views as to what needed to be done. You were always fair when any of us talked to you—I know, when I talked to you. There were differences, of course, as one would expect, but there was no acrimony. There was no judgment. There was simply an attempt to make sure that this institution was working well.

Anne, we will miss you. The Speaker, as he says, will be inconvenienced. We will be sad, and we will be a lesser place for your leaving. You also worked with my chief of staff, Alexis Covey-Brandt, who was at one point in time the floor director. Both Shuwanza and Alexis have unrestrained respect and affection for you. You have made us all better.

Whatever you do in the future, I know you will bring the same quality, the same commitment, the same energy, the same judgment, the same fairness, and they will be advantaged, as we have been.

Godspeed.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the whip.

REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, 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 passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 246, nays 177, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 574]

YEAS—246

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
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
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—177

Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Carter (TX)
Cramer
Grijalva
Hanna
Kirkpatrick
Payne
Poe (TX)
Rush

□ 2214

Mr. HUFFMAN changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 5325

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table (S. Con. Res. 53) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5325, 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 gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 53

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5325, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction to the title so as to read: ''Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.''.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMEMBERING ARNOLD PALMER

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, we said goodbye to a true American hero, not just in the golf world but in American life.

Arnold Palmer was larger than life, both on and off the golf course. After learning to play golf at age 4, he never quit and changed the sport forever. The ''King,'' as he was known, had 62 victories on the PGA Tour, including 7 majors and 10 on the Champions Tour, not to mention his own signature drink that delighted the masses for generations.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the 12th District of Georgia and the good people who live and work there. Georgia's 12th Congressional District is home to the Augusta National, which hosts the most famous Masters tournament.

In Augusta, we consider Arnold Palmer one of our own. He won the coveted green jacket four times: 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1964. He took the Masters and golf to a whole new level in the sports world. The Masters will never be the same. Like Tiger Woods said, ''It's hard to imagine golf without him.'' I am not sure we even want to.

Arnie's Army mourns together. We remember the king of golf, the legendary Arnold Palmer.

Arnie, you will be sorely missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY NOEL ELLIS, SR.

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Mr. Rodney Noel Ellis, Sr., a dedicated public servant and immediate past president of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

Throughout his entire career, Rodney was a talented teacher and a steadfast advocate for North Carolina's students and educators, who worked relentlessly to improve public schools and fought tirelessly for equal and quality education.

A cherished friend and confidant, I never met anyone who worked harder or gave more than Rodney Ellis. He will not only be remembered as our champion for education and kids, but as a dedicated and devoted family man who loved his wife and five children. He was an inspiration. His loss will be felt throughout our entire State.

Rodney was a titan with a gentile spirit and a heart of gold. North Carolina has lost one of her most extraordinary educators and one of her greatest leaders.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Rodney's family, his friends, and our community.

□ 2220

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we approach October to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The statistics are sobering: one in eight women will get breast cancer in her lifetime.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 41, I quickly understood the importance of knowing your risk for breast cancer. I learned that, as an Ashkenazi Jewish woman, my chances of having the BRCA mutation linked to breast cancer were significantly higher.

That is why in 2009 I introduced the EARLY Act, which equips young women with the tools they need to make informed decisions about their breast health. Though we have made significant advances on some fronts, there is still work to be done. For example, there has been no statistically significant improvement in survival rates for the metastatic cancer community in the past 20 years.

We must do more to support those who are affected by this deadly disease and do everything we can to eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 166) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution as follows:

H. CON. RES. 166

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Wednesday, September 28, 2016, through Friday, November 11, 2016, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

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

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

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016, TO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 30, 2016, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 166, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1475. An act to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

H.R. 2494. An act to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of

partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1004. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1698. An act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

S. 1878.An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 2683. An act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 30, 2016, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 166, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

7011. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2015 Inventory of Contracted Services, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2330a(c)(1); Public Law 107-107, Sec. 801(c)(1) (as amended by Public Law 112-81, Sec. 936(a)(1)); (125 Stat. 1545); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7012. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun, United States Navy Reserve, and her advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7013. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert P. Otto, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7014. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Technical Mapping Advisory Council National Flood Mapping Program Review for June 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4101d; Public Law 113-89, Sec. 17; (128 Stat. 1027); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7015. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs [Docket No.: FR 5863-F-02] (RIN: 2506-AC40) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7016. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for the Handling of Retaliation Complaints Under the Employee Protection Provision of the Seaman's Protection Act, as Amended [Docket No.: OSHA-2011-0841] (RIN: 1218-AC58) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7017. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received September 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7018. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities for August 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 15834; Public Law 109-58, Sec. 141(b); (119 Stat. 648); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7019. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking for September 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290bb-25b(c)(1)(F); Public Law 109-422, Sec. 2; (120 Stat. 2892); ; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7020. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's 2015 Annual Report to the President and Congress, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 2076(j); Public Law 92-573, Sec. 27(j) (as amended by Public Law 110-314, Sec. 209(a)); (122 Stat. 3046); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7021. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Three Synthetic Phenethylamines Into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-423] received September 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7022. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-059, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7023. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-065, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7024. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-077, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7025. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-049, pursuant to Section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7026. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7027. A letter from the Chair and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Releasing Information; Availability of Records of the Farm Credit Administration; FOIA Fees (RIN: 3052-AD18) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7028. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-91 [Docket No.: FAR-2016-0051, Sequence No.: 5] received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7029. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005-91; Item XI; Docket No.: 2016-0052; Sequence No.: 4] received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7030. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Limitation on Allowable Government Contractor Employee Compensation Costs [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2014-012; Item X; Docket No.: 2014-0012; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AM75) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7031. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Contractors Performing Private Security Functions [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2014-018; Item IX; Docket No.: 2014-0018, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN07) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7032. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Amendment Relating to Multi-year Contract Authority for Acquisition of Property [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2016-006; Item VII; Docket No.: 2016-0006, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN24) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7033. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting

the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Consolidation and Bundling [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2014-015; Item VI; Docket No.: 2014-0015, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AM92) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7034. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Unique Identification of Entities Receiving Federal Awards [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-022; Item V; Docket No.: 2015-0022, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN00) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7035. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Sole Source Contracts for Women-Owned Small Businesses [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-032; Item IV; Docket No.: 2015-0032; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN13) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7036. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Non-Retaliation for Disclosure of Compensation Information [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2016-007; Item III; Docket No.: 2016-0007; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN10) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7037. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Updating Federal Contractor Reporting of Veterans' Employment [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-036; Item II; Docket No.: 2015-0036, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN14) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7038. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration' final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation Prohibition on Contracting with Corporations with Delinquent Taxes or a Felony Conviction [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-011; Item I; Docket No.: 2015-0011, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN05) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7039. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summery presentation of interim and final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-91; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2016-0051, Sequence No.: 5] received September 28, 206, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7040. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; New Designated Countries-Ukraine and Moldova [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2016-009; Item VIII; Docket No.: 2016-0009, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN25) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7041. A letter from the Executive Secretary, United States Agency for International Development, transmitting two notifications of nomination, action on nomination, and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7042. A letter from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the final map and perimeter boundary description for the Skagit Wild and Scenic River, in Washington, added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274(b); Public Law 90-542, Sec. 3(b) (as amended by Public Law 100-534, Sec. 501); (102 Stat. 2708); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7043. A letter from the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, transmitting a report titled ''Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: Status Update to the House and Senate'', pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 2196(g); Public Law 114-187, Sec. 409(g); (130 Stat. 593); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7044. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a recent decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Pursuing America's Greatness v. Federal Election Commission, ——-F. 3d——, 2016 WL 4087943 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 2, 2016); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7045. A letter from the Counsel to the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, transmitting an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, United States v. Wolfname, No. 15-8025, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 15778 (10th Cir. Aug 26, 2016); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7046. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RIN: 1505-AC52) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7047. A letter from the Deputy Secretary and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, transmitting the Departments' FY 2015 Annual Joint Report, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1); Public Law 96-22, Sec. 301(a) (as added by Public Law 97-174, Sec. 3(a)(3)); (96 Stat. 73); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

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:

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 4092. A bill to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–703 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 5227. A bill to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all forms, to establish a National Collection Stewardship Fund for the processing and storage of collection materials of the Library of Congress, and to provide for the continuation of service of returning members of Joint Committee on the Library at beginning of a Congress (Rept. 114–706 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DENT: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative David McKinley (Rept. 114–795). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2261. A bill to facilitate the continued development of the commercial remote sensing industry and protect national security; with an amendment (Rept. 114–796). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2263. A bill to rename the Office of Space Commerce and for other purposes (Rept. 114–797). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5311. A bill to improve the quality of proxy advisory firms for the protection of investors and the U.S. economy, and in the public interest, by fostering accountability, transparency, responsiveness, and competition in the proxy advisory firm industry, with an amendment (Rept. 114–798). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5429. A bill to improve the consideration by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders (Rept. 114–799). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 901. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–800). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4092 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5227 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. SCALISE (for himself and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia):

H.R. 6195. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable organizations to make statements relating to political campaigns if such statements are made in the ordinary course of carrying out its tax exempt purpose; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 6196. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to ensure community accountability for areas repetitively damaged by floods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6197. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide loan deferment and loan cancellation for founders and employees of small business start-ups, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, and 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. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 6198. A bill to provide that no alien may be naturalized as a citizen of the United States until such time as the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement completes the digitization of all remaining paper-based fingerprint records for inclusion in the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6199. A bill to require the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to complete a study on the human health implications of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in drinking water; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 6200. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Puget Sound Restoration Semipostal Stamp; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6201. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the monitoring program for unregulated contaminants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 6202. A bill to amend the Act popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1915 to prohibit the establishment of certain anchorage grounds within five miles of a nuclear power plant, a location on the national register of historic places, a superfund site, or critical habitat of an endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 6203. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM grant program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6204. A bill to amend section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Service to award grants to institutions of higher education for courses that use only publicly available digital resources for required reading assignments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6205. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow certain payments made by public service employees to qualify for public service repayment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6206. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize certain students in retain financial aid eligibility while completing a drug rehabilitation program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. NUNES, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 6207. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in scheduling veterans for health care appointments; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 6208. A bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. SIRES):

H.R. 6209. A bill to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 6210. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen accountability of authorized public chartering agencies and reduce charter school authorizing misconduct; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. MENG, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BERA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 6211. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 6212. A bill to authorize the Department of Energy to assess and score new and existing homes for the cost-effective reduction in the energy use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. COLE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 6213. A bill to direct the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to perform an outreach program for the new markets tax credit to underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. POMPEO:

H.R. 6214. A bill to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6215. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual health insurance mandate certain low-income individuals residing in States that have not elected the Medicaid expansion under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6216. A bill to require State and local law enforcement agencies to submit information about law enforcement investigations to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6217. A bill to require States and units of local government to have in place laws requiring law enforcement officers to submit reports when an individual is injured or killed by such a law enforcement officer in the course of the officer's employment as a condition on receiving certain grant funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 6218. A bill to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.R. 6219. A bill to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to ensure that individuals who are found to have stored classified information on unsecured servers are disqualified from receiving security clearances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. YOHO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 6220. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain

major medical facility leases of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BARTON, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 6221. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Don Stephens, President and Founder of Mercy Ships, in recognition of his 38 years of service as the leader of a humanitarian relief organization that exemplifies the compassionate character of America; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:

H.R. 6222. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require publication of information pertaining to the persons participating in the rule making, and on the basis on which the rule is made, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. ISSA (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6223. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide that a national of the United States may only bring a claim against a foreign state for an injury which was caused by international terrorism and which occurred on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa):

H.R. 6224. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote the inclusion of minorities and women in clinical research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 6225. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require Federal reserve banks to interview at least one individual reflective of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity when appointing Federal reserve bank presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 6226. A bill to delay the Medicare demonstration for pre-claim review of home health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERA (for himself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 6227. A bill to provide for a comprehensive interdisciplinary research and development initiative to strengthen the capacity of the electricity sector to neutralize cyber attacks; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, 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. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6228. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the alternative fuel and alternative fuel mixture credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 6229. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate assignment of military trauma care providers to civilian trauma centers in order to maintain military trauma readiness and to support such centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 6230. A bill to ensure that seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities who receive Social Security and certain other Federal benefits receive a $250 payment in the event that no cost-of-living adjustment is payable in a calendar year; 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. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. BASS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. HAHN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 6231. A bill to carry out an income-contingent repayment program for Federal Interest Free Education Loans for undergraduate students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. MACARTHUR):

H.R. 6232. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission on the Advancement of Social Enterprise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. WILLIAMS):

H.R. 6233. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the George W. Bush Childhood Home, located at 1412 West Ohio Avenue, Midland, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 6234. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for penalties for the sale of any Purple Heart awarded to a member of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 6235. A bill a bill to transfer certain land from the Secretary of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. POLIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6236. A bill to elevate the teaching profession through systemic innovations in teacher recruitment and retention to ensure that students, especially those from low-income families, are taught by excellent, well-prepared, and well-supported teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6237. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to coordinate the reduction in the American Opportunity Tax Credit with Federal Pell Grants, to the extent such grants are attributable to expenses not eligible for such credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 6238. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program for issuing identity protection personal identification numbers (IP PINs) to adopted children for purposes of tax administration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 6239. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve Federal Pell Grants and loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DELANEY (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 6240. A bill to accelerate reductions in climate pollution in order to leave a better planet for future generations, and to create a bipartisan commission to develop economically viable policies to achieve science-based emissions reduction targets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 6241. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for reciprocal marketing approval of certain drugs, biological products, and devices that are authorized to be lawfully marketed abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the rate of income tax of a publicly traded corporation based on the ratio of compensation of the corporation's highest paid employee to the median compensation of all the corporation's employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DONOVAN (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 6243. A bill to improve the ability of the Federal Government to address synthetic opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 6244. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain non-significant investments in the capital of unconsolidated financial institutions as qualifying capital instruments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 6245. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell Pershing Hall, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6246. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the indexing of certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss of eligible individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 6247. A bill to provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. WOODALL):

H.R. 6248. A bill to establish a direct spending safeguard limitation on any direct spending program without a specific level of authorized spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6249. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide for a macadamia tree health initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 6250. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow qualified entrepreneurs to temporarily defer Federal student loan payments after starting a new business; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 6251. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6252. A bill to make any city or county that has in effect any law or ordinance that is in violation of Federal immigration law ineligible for any Federal grant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6253. A bill to establish an advisory commission to examine licensing and certification challenges confronting members of the Armed Forces and their spouses upon post-service entry into the civilian workforce and to make recommendations to Congress for the development of a new class of uniform veteran's certifications for selected occupations that can be accepted by States and United States territories; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. EDWARDS):

H.R. 6254. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit schools and libraries that receive universal service support from blocking Internet access to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. BERA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DENT, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HILL, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MARINO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 6255. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Norman Yoshio Mineta in recognition of his courageous, principled dedication to public service, civic engagement, and civil rights; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6256. A bill to provide temporary visitation to spouses of United States citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 6257. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to provide for nominations of individuals for appointment as Coast Guard Academy cadets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 6258. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to enter into certain contracts for the acquisition of vessels for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6259. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure that liquid over-the-counter medications are packaged with appropriate dosage delivery devices and, in the case of such medications labeled for pediatric use, appropriate flow restrictors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 6260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 6261. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare shared savings program by also basing such assignment on primary care services furnished by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 6262. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the family members with respect to whom treatment for alcohol and drug addiction is treated as a qualified medical expense for purposes of health reimbursement arrangements, health flexible spending arrangements, and health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 6263. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the family members with respect to whom treatment for alcohol and drug addiction is treated as a medical expense for certain purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6264. A bill to assist States in providing voluntary high-quality universal prekindergarten programs and programs to support infants and toddlers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 6265. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain reforms with respect to medicare supplemental health insurance policies; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 6266. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify the definition of a deposit broker, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 6267. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the rehabilitation credit for commercial buildings and to provide a rehabilitation credit for principal residences; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6268. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a definition of the term ''gang'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 6269. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers and the replacement of bisphenol A in such containers with unsafe alternatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 6270. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the avoidance of tax by insurance companies through reinsurance with non-taxed affiliates; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 6271. A bill to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to require a period of service at an overseas post of at least four years, to amend title 10, United States Code, to require a tour of duty at defense attaché offices of at least four years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

H.R. 6272. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the maximum market pay of physicians and dentists in the Veterans Health Administration who work in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 6273. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of education debt reduction available for health care professionals employed by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 6274. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create incentives for healthcare providers to promote quality healthcare outcomes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. DENT, and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 6275. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program for FDA-approved qualifying colorectal cancer screening blood-based tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 6276. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of locum tenens physicians as independent contractors to help alleviate physician shortages in underserved areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 6277. A bill to prohibit the implementation of a proposed Department of Veterans Affairs rule relating to the practice authority of advanced practice registered nurses; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 6278. A bill to provide certain reforms to promote accountability and efficiency in the civil service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 6279. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under holocaust-era insurance policies; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 6280. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give priority to eligible entities that partner with certain community partners with respect to grants awarded under the maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BERA, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MARINO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 6281. A bill to prevent further advances in North Korea's nuclear program by preventing specialized financial messaging services to, or direct or indirect access to such messaging services for, the Central Bank of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and certain other financial institutions and sanctioned persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MENG, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HANNA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. GIBSON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. REED, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ZELDIN, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 6282. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the ''Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 6283. A bill to establish agency procedures for the issuance of significant guidance documents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 6284. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the marketing of authorized generic drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 6285. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize admission of Canadian retirees as long-term visitors for pleasure described in section 101(a)(15)(B) of such Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6286. A bill to provide for the consideration of energy storage systems by electric utilities as part of a supply side resource process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 6287. A bill to establish requirements for use of a driver's license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 6288. A bill to provide protections and certainty for private landowners related to resurveying certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HILL, and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 6289. A bill to provide priority under certain federally assisted housing programs to assisting youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 6290. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain tax incentives for biodiesel, renewable diesel, and alternative fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VISCLOSKY (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MESSER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 6291. A bill to retitle Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. JOLLY):

H.R. 6292. A bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6293. A bill to prohibit an employer from inquiring about the salary history of an applicant for employment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. HILL, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 6294. A bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. ZINKE (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 6295. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the requirements for secure geological storage of carbon dioxide for purposes of the carbon dioxide sequestration credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. PITTENGER):

H.J. Res. 99. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition 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.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS):

H.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give States the authority to repeal a Federal rule or regulation when ratified by the legislatures of two-thirds of the several States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Con. Res. 165. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress and reaffirming longstanding United States policy in support of a direct bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MESSER:

H. Con. Res. 166. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the House; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. AGUILAR):

H. Con. Res. 167. Concurrent resolution honoring Vincent Edward ''Vin'' Scully, the baseball broadcaster who has magnificently served as the play-by-play announcer for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers for 67 Major League Baseball seasons since 1950; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H. Con. Res. 168. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the United States Capitol Police and their role in securing the United States Capitol complex and protecting Members of Congress, their staff, and the general public; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. KIND, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BOST, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. DOLD, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. YODER, Mr. REED, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H. Con. Res. 169. Concurrent resolution establishing a Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H. Con. Res. 170. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation of a ''National Purebred Dog Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H. Res. 898. A resolution supporting the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H. Res. 899. A resolution expressing support for a stable and sustainable funding source for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H. Res. 900. A resolution providing for the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 769) terminating a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. WALZ):

H. Res. 902. A resolution recognizing and honoring the life of Jose Fernandez; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. RANGEL):

H. Res. 903. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of September 2016 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H. Res. 904. A resolution honoring Sisters Network Inc. for its work to raise awareness about the tragic impact of breast cancer in the African-American community; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H. Res. 905. A resolution expressing condolences to the family of Ms. Jacqueline A. Ellis, and commemorating the life and work of Ms. Jacqueline Ellis; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H. Res. 906. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H. Res. 907. A resolution recognizing Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H. Res. 908. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2016 as ''Bullying Prevention Month''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HONDA:

H. Res. 909. A resolution expressing support for the right to rescue animals; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H. Res. 910. A resolution supporting the ideals and goals of the ''International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H. Res. 911. A resolution expressing appreciation during ''Domestic Violence Action Month'' to all the providers of services in the Second District of Washington state that work tirelessly to end the scourge of domestic violence and to provide education, shelter and assistance to victims of domestic violence; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself and Mr. RIBBLE):

H. Res. 912. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that congressional redistricting should be reformed to remove political gerrymandering; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts,

Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. FUDGE):

H. Res. 913. A resolution supporting a Federal, publically-funded universal school meal and nutrition program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 914. A resolution expressing support for designation of September 2016 as ''Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. LEWIS, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 915. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Marcus Garvey; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H. Res. 916. A resolution recognizing the impact of tribology on the United States economy and competitiveness in providing solutions to critical technical problems in manufacturing, energy production and use, transportation vehicles and infrastructure, greenhouse gas emissions, defense and homeland security, health care, mining safety and reliability, and space exploration, among others, and recognizing the need for increased research and development investments in tribology and related fields; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H. Res. 917. A resolution congratulating The Optical Society on its 100th anniversary; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 918. A resolution expressing support for policies that maintain a robust Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and do not jeopardize care for veterans by moving essential resources to the private sector; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H. Res. 919. A resolution encouraging States to uphold the rights and dignity of human trafficking survivors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H. Res. 920. A resolution calling for revisisions to the existing rules of engagement under Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

296. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 26, calling upon the President of the United States to encourage the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to repeal the current discriminatory donor suitability policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding blood donations by men who have had sex with another man and, instead, direct the FDA to develop science-based policies such as criteria based on risky behavior in lieu of sexual orientation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

297. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 29, declaring unnecessary and unexplained increases in pharmaceutical pricing is a harm to our health care system that will no longer be tolerated because the system cannot sustain it; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

298. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 28, to ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under the law when they are fighting to remain in the United States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

299. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 24, commending Congress and the President of the United States for enacting the FAST Act to provide stability and reliability in federal transportation funding over the next five years; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

300. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 22, urging the Congress to appropriate $248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

301. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Resolution 86, requesting the Congress of the United States to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (H.R. 2646), and further requests President Barack Obama to sign that legislation; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. HUFFMAN introduced A bill (H.R. 6296) For the relief of Yeganeh Salehi Rezaian; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 1021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 2507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 3298.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 6195.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The First Amendment guarantees both free speech and the free exercise of religion. The Free Speech Fairness Act restores these fundamental liberties to churches and nonprofits.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 6196.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6197.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

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. CULBERSON:

H.R. 6198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6203.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 6205.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 6206.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. VALADAO:
H.R. 6207.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 6208.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1
By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:
H.R. 6209.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mrs. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 6210.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
United States Constitution Amendment X: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.
By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H.R. 6211.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution: ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the forgoeing 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. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 6212.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;
By Mr. HECK of Washington:
H.R. 6213.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. POMPEO:
H.R. 6214.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. VEASEY:
H.R. 6215.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. VEASEY:
H.R. 6216.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. VEASEY:
H.R. 6217.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. POLIQUIN:
H.R. 6218.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: ''The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.''
By Mrs. ROBY:
H.R. 6219.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 6220.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. GOHMERT:
H.R. 6221.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 5. To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:
H.R. 6222.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. ISSA:
H.R. 6223.
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 Mrs. BEATTY:
H.R. 6224.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.
By Mrs. BEATTY:
H.R. 6225.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, clause 3
(To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.)
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 thereof).
By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:
H.R. 6226.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of the Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. BERA:
H.R. 6227.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. BOUSTANY:
H.R. 6228.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States
By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 6229.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States.
By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 6230.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 6231.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 6232.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CONAWAY:
H.R. 6233.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. COOK:
H.R. 6234.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. CRAMER:
H.R. 6235.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States, as enumerated in Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2, of the United States Constitution.
By Mrs. DAVIS of California:
H.R. 6236.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 6237.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 6238.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3
By Mr. DEFAZIO:
H.R. 6239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. DELANEY:

H.R. 6240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 6241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. DONOVAN:

H.R. 6243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 6244.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution, Clause 1: All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6246.

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. FLEMING:

H.R. 6247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which states ''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.''

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 6248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 grants Congress the power to ''pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.'' Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 grants Congress the power to ''make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing PoWers.'' As this legislation concerns oversight of federal spending on programs authorized by Congress, it is an appropriate use of the authority granted to Congress by the above clauses of the Constitution.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 6250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 6251.

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 within the Indian Tribes'') and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof'').

Additional authority derives from Article III, Section 1 (''The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.) Additional authority also derives from Article III, Section2, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 6254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3)

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 6255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6256.

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 office thereof.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 6257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8, Clause 18, of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 6258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 6260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 6261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 6262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8:

Congress shall have Power To Law and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 6263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8:

Congress shall have Power To Law and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6264.

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. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 6265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 6266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence . . . of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 6267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 6270.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 6271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, section 2 of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to ''by Law vest the appointment of . . . inferior Officers, as they think proper . . . in the Heads of Departments.'' Article I, section 8 provides that Congress shall have power, among other things, to ''regulate Commerce with foreign Nations''; ''make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces''; and ''make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested in this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 6272.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing a Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 6273.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 6274.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—necessary and proper

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 6275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 3—Congress has the ability to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 6276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: ''All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.''

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 6277.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 6278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 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. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 6279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 6280.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 6281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 6282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 6283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 to 17, and Section 9, Clauses 1 to 2, 4, and 7 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of specific legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause ''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;'' and Article III, Section 1, Clause 1, Sentence 1, Section 2, Clause 1, and Section 2, Clause 2, Sentence 2, of the Constitution, in that the legislation defines or affects judicial powers and cases that are subject to legislation by Congress.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 6284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 6285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or officer thereof.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Aricle 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 6287.

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. TIPTON:

H.R. 6288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4 Section 3 Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 6289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ''provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause) of the United States Constitution, to ''regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 6290.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Mr. VISCLOSKY:

H.R. 6291.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 6292.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment XIII which authorizes Congress to make laws enforcing the extension of civil rights and universal freedom to victims of slavery.

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution which states that Congress has the power ''To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 6294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 6295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6296.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to ''establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization''.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.J. Res. 99.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact the following due to its power of the purse, outlined in Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution: ''No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law;''

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.J. Res. 100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.J. Res. 101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 5:

''The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 27: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 169: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 213: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. CONNOLLY,
H.R. 265: Ms. MCCOLLUM,
H.R. 297: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. FARR, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 303: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 465: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 546: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 556: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 583: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 703: Mr. BRAT.
H.R. 711: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 750: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 775: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 789: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 900: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 923: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 973: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 1095: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1111: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 1147: Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 1196: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1209: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1220: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1258: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1282: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1399: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1427: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 1457: Mr. ISSA, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 1507: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1552: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1608: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1650: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 1655: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1669: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1700: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1706: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 1848: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1854: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1911: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1959: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2016: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2095: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2103: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2116: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MENG, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 2124: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 2125: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2148: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2192: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2293: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2302: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2403: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2461: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2493: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2518: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 2653: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2660: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2680: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2694: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2698: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 2715: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2737: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. MICA, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 2759: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 2808: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2849: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2858: Mr. KATKO,
H.R. 2948: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 2991: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3074: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3084: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. MENG, and Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 3099: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 3119: Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 3163: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3201: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3316: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3343: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3381: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3397: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 3411: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 3436: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3515: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 3526: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3535: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3546: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3562: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3652: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3660: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 3666: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. SANFORD.
H.R. 3687: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3706: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3742: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 3770: Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 3830: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3833: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 3882: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3886: Mr. VEASEY and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3892: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 3929: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 3985: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 3991: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 4016: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 4131: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4164: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4172: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4184: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4223: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4247: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4272: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 4298: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4301: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 4352: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 4374: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4399: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4456: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 4475: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 4514: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 4524: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 4558: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4559: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4585: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4622: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4626: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BEYER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. HAHN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BERA, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4657: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4695: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4700: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4706: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4718: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4764: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 4766: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4770: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 4773: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4784: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 4818: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 4833: Mr. NORCROSS and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4907: Mr. BEYER, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 4919: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4927: Mrs. LAWRENCE
H.R. 4932: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4949: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4980: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 5009: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 5015: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 5067: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 5082: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 5090: Mr. POLIS, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. FLORES, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 5167: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 5177: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 5180: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 5182: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5187: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 5191: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 5205: Ms. DELAURO and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5208: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 5219: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5256: Mr. BECERRA.
H.R. 5272: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 5285: Mr. DONOVAN.
H.R. 5299: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5301: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 5369: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 5373: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 5405: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 5410: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 5418: Mr. GARRETT, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MICA, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 5482: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 5489: Mr. STIVERS and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5555: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5557: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 5567: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 5571: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 5573: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 5584: Mr. LOWENTHAL
H.R. 5589: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 5600: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 5610: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 5621: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LEE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 5632: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 5650: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 5653: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DONOVAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5671: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 5686: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5689: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 5726: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 5732: Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 5742: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 5745: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5772: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 5779: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 5797: Ms. LEE and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5813: Mr. BERA, Mr. KIND, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 5814: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5887: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 5899: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 5902: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5910: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 5932: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 5942: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 5955: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 5962: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5965: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 5980: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 5989: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 5996: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 5999: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6025: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 6030: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 6034: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 6037: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 6045: Mr. KATKO and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 6047: Mr. OLSON, Mr. MESSER, Mr. BARTON, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 6059: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 6072: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 6073: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 6076: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 6086: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 6087: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 6093: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 6094: Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. WALKER.
H.R. 6097: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 6100: Mr. HILL, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. COOK, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 6104: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.
H.R. 6108: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COLE, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. VELA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6110: Mr. GOWDY.
H.R. 6122: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 6126: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 6132: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 6149: Mr. COHEN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 6168: Mr. POLIS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 6171: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. YOHO, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.R. 6176: Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 6181: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 6186: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 6188: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. STEWART.
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. CLEAVER.
H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. HARPER.
H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. KATKO.
H. Con. Res. 141: Mr. PETERS and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H. Con. Res. 143: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. KEATING.
H. Con. Res. 153: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H. Con. Res. 155: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. REICHERT.
H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. SIRES, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. OLSON.
H. Con. Res. 161: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H. Res. 28: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. LAHOOD.
H. Res. 110: Mr. DESANTIS.
H. Res. 647: Mr. VALADAO.
H. Res. 703: Mr. PAYNE.
H. Res. 750: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H. Res. 752: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H. Res. 784: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H. Res. 840: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 848: Mr. HUNTER.
H. Res. 854: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 861: Mr. SESSIONS and Mrs. BEATTY.
H. Res. 882: Mr. SERRANO.
H. Res. 883: Mr. COOPER.
H. Res. 885: Mrs. TORRES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H. Res. 887: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 891: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 895: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.