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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREGG HARPER 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 8, 2018, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

REAUTHORIZING THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House Agriculture Committee passed a bill out that would reauthorize the farm bill. This is the most important bill that most Americans don't pay that much attention to. Sadly, I don't think it gets the attention that it needs here in Congress.

This is just the beginning of a long process to deal with the bill that is going to be the most important health bill that this Congress will consider, because it would have us continue to subsidize a diet that literally makes Americans sick. It is the most important environmental bill, in terms of carbon emissions and water quality, and it makes a big difference for the men and women who are in the agriculture sector.

There are long-term challenges that we face, such as beginning farmers and ranchers and what happens in terms of transition. The average farmer is 58.2 years of age. What are we going to do to provide the workforce for the future, to transition lands, to be able to get the most out of the investment in the lands?

The bill that is awaiting House action—and I hope it awaits House action a long time, because there are many things we can do to make it better—would cut environmental funding, even though only one out of four applications for environmental programs ever get funded. The environmental programs are not performance-based to make sure that we get the most benefit for those dollars.

The bill does not rein in unnecessary subsidies. Indeed, it broadens loopholes and coverage to have subsidies go to more people who are only tangentially related to operating the farm and people who don't necessarily need it.

But the thing that I find most troubling is the provision known as the King amendment. This provision in the farm bill would prohibit State and local governments from being able to set their own protections for agriculture, food, and the environment.

Every State has agriculture and fishing industries that have their own special needs: pests, disease, and protections for consumers. The interest of various industries are widely different across the country. The needs of the fisheries of the Great Lakes are different from those of the Gulf Coast, New England, and the Pacific Northwest.

The King amendment would prevent States from being able to tailor protections to their own industry and their own consumers. I strongly urge my colleagues to investigate what this provision would mean.

There is a great study from the Harvard Law School about an analysis of H.R. 4879 and the King amendment preempting State laws, for instance, on sell-by or best-used dates for shellfish, meat, dairy, and eggs. It would prevent States from stopping the import of pests that kill fruit, nut, and lumber trees. It would allow fishing vessels to fish waters of the various States without complying with the rules of those States, if their States have different provisions. It would even prohibit pet distributor licenses from being denied animal abusers.

These are the sorts of things that, when the public looks at it, they are shaking their heads in wonder. Why would Congress have a race to the bottom for protections for the environment, consumers, and animal protections?

It is interesting. There was a provision voted on by people in Oklahoma in the fall of 2016. The so-called ''freedom to farm'' has many of these same provisions. When the voters in Oklahoma did a deep dive, they rejected the Farm Bureau's initiative by a 60–40 margin. That is the State that gave Donald Trump his largest margin of victory for any State, other than West Virginia.

I hope Congress does what the people of Oklahoma did: look at the details, understand what it would do, and reject unnecessary restrictions on the ability of your State and local government to tailor protections for the people who fish, farm, and shop.

We can do better. I hope that we are going to be able to enlist the support of the vast majority of Congress to take a moment, pause, and look at a farm bill that is worthy of this body.

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TUESDAY'S CHILDREN

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize three amazing kids: Arianna, Julius, and Kaydin, who join me today on the floor. All three are taking part in Take Our Children to Work Today hosted by Tuesday's Children. This is my second year participating in this wonderful event, and both times it has brightened my day.

Tuesday's Children provides support to children whose parents passed away in the military or due to terrorism. More than 15,000 individuals directly impacted by the events of September 11 have been supported by Tuesday's Children, and more than 6,000 individuals are currently served by Tuesday's Children's First Responder Alliance program today.

In my 30 years in the Air Force, I was able to meet with the families of loved ones who passed. I know how important organizations like Tuesday's Children are for our Nation's youth.

Today, it is about kids like Arianna, Julius, and Kaydin. They are shadowing me this morning and seeing what life is like in Congress. Julius is 9 years old. He is from Maryland and enjoys robotics and LEGOs. Kaydin, from Pennsylvania, is 10 years old, and is a big New York Giants fan. I tried to make him a Chicago Bears fan, but I couldn't do it. Finally, Arianna is from Maryland. She is 7 years old, and loves to play tennis.

I hope they enjoy their time in Washington and remember this day as a very special one, because they are special. I look forward to spending more time with them this afternoon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members to refrain from references to guests on the floor.

BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, bipartisanship is often applauded in Congress, but seldom rewarded. Let me repeat that. Bipartisanship is often applauded, but seldom rewarded, which is an important part of why we have been unable to pass any meaningful immigration reform in this body for years.

I have worked with good men and women on the other side of the aisle on many occasions to advance immigration reform, but none of those efforts forced the Speaker of the House, whoever he or she was at the time, to allow a vote, except for the time the House passed the DREAM Act in 2010.

I continue to work with partners on the other side, because I know if a vote is allowed, those who see immigrants and immigration as important assets to this country will prevail. It will take Democrats and Republicans working together to enact commonsense immigration reform.

Just this week, the gentleman from Colorado, Republican MIKE COFFMAN, and I worked together to demand statistics from the Department of Homeland Security to determine if the Trump administration is complying with Federal court orders on the renewal of DACA applications, and to get more information on the DACA processing backlogs.

Working with Republicans doesn't win me many friends among Democrats, who spend their days trying to defeat people like Mr. COFFMAN. They would probably prefer I stop working with him. As I said, bipartisanship is often praised, but seldom rewarded.

Secondly, bipartisanship is more than just signing your name.

JEFF DENHAM of California and some other Republicans are promoting an idea that has a great deal of merit: the so-called ''Queen of the Hill'' rule, which has almost 50 Republican cosponsors and all the Democrats, myself included.

This rule calls for a debate and votes in the House on a series of immigration reform bills, some of which would address the vulnerability of Dreamers and their families to deportation. It is an unprecedented bipartisan action to demand an immigration vote, and I support it wholeheartedly. But so far, all the Republicans have had to do is sign their names as cosponsors. The next step should be that we demand that Speaker RYAN bring the rule and related bills to the floor for a vote through a discharge petition.

You see, working with people from the other side of the aisle is just one aspect of bipartisanship. When the rubber meets the road is when you take on the leaders of your own party in order to achieve a bipartisan goal.

When I got arrested protesting President Obama's treatment of Dreamers and migrants, I didn't win any popularity contest with the Democratic Caucus. My colleagues were quick to defend the President and the Democratic Speaker at the time. I was shunned and passed over many times by my own team.

Later, when I and other Democrats worked with Judge CARTER, SAM JOHNSON, and RAUL LABRADOR to find bipartisan immigration solutions in the 113th Congress, Members of my own party told me to stay away. Right here on this floor they told me: ''Don't help Republicans solve their immigration problem.''

But I didn't stay away. I kept working with the Republicans, until they walked away. They were unwilling to take on their own party in the end. Speaker Boehner backed away when the chips were down.

Speaker RYAN came to my district in Chicago and talked about moving forward on immigration, with me standing by his side. We are still waiting for him to put skin in the game. That is what it will take: taking a courageous position, even in the face of opposition from your own party.

So the 48 Republicans who joined Mr. DENHAM's ''Queen of the Hill'' rule calling for immigration votes should not declare mission accomplished just yet. Your country needs you right now, today. We need your courage, in addition to your signature. Sign a discharge petition to bring about the vote on immigration solutions for Dreamers. That puts your skin in the game. You may not get invited to the next state dinner or fly on Air Force One, but you will have done a service to your Nation.

A discharge petition on the Denham bill says you are willing to expend your personal reputation and political capital to do what is right and what is necessary in a time of great hatred and divisiveness at the highest levels over immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Will you be praised for your bipartisan courage? I hope so.

Will you be rewarded by other politicians or activists in your own party, or voters in mine? Probably not.

Which is exactly my point. It is hard, it is thankless, but your country needs help that only Republicans in Congress can provide: put pressure on your own Republican leadership. I, and a lot of my colleagues, will work with you, stand by you, support you, but we need you to lead the way.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICK ANTLE

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I sadly rise today with fellow colleagues because we lost a friend way too soon.

Rick Antle was an ag visionary, community leader, family man, and to Sonia and I, a mentor and a friend. His passion and dedication made him not only a leader in California's Salinas Valley, but in the entire ag industry nationwide.

At the age of 26, he became the president and CEO of Tanimura & Antle, one of the largest ag companies in the entire country. He would grow this to become the largest leafy greens and vegetable producer in the region. He set it up as an ESOP, making it an employee-owned business. This is now a four-generation legacy that farms over 35,000 acres, distributing to North America, Europe, and Asia.

Rick worked right alongside his sons, Brian and Jeffrey. He constantly pushed different innovations, even ideas that were against conventional practice, things that were sometimes mocked or said that they would never work, but are now the important innovations that lead the rest of the industry.

Rick emphasized the importance of support and investing in employees, whom he always saw as the backbone

of his company. His company's 800-person Spreckels Crossing housing complex has since become a blueprint for other farmworker housing projects across the country.

On a personal note, I would just say that Sonia and Tonya—Sonia and Tonya, as they were known to most in the industry—worked side by side. Rick and I worked side by side as well.

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Not only was Tonya a mentor to Sonia, Rick was a mentor to me. I learned a lot about business. I learned a lot about friendship. I saw the pride in his generational family. He is going to be missed by many here in Washington, D.C.; in the Salinas Valley; around the country; and certainly as a family man. Brian and Jeffrey, I know that they are going through tremendous pain, as are Anthony and Natalie. He thought the world of his family and certainly thought the world of his employees.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for any remarks he may have.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I join with Congressman JEFF DENHAM and Congressman JIMMY PANETTA to celebrate a life well lived.

Rick Antle was truly an icon in not only California agriculture but American agriculture. He was a leader. Rick and Tonya always put their family first, and what a family it was. To be a part with them, with their children and with his father, Bob, I have fond, fond memories over the years of working together on public policy affecting California agriculture.

They farmed not just in the Salad Bowl but in the San Joaquin Valley. Their efforts to bring value added and innovation is legendary in terms of the incredible food products that we enjoy today at home. His efforts with employees set the gold standard, creating housing initiatives so that the 800 employees at Tanimura & Antle would have the kind of housing that farm workers deserve to have.

The list goes on and on and on, but I just wanted to join today and pay my respects to our friend Rick, and to his family. Tonya, we know this is a very difficult time for all of you, but we just want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. We thank you for all of the contributions you have made over the years. Rick was a leader in California agriculture. And I just personally want to say thank you for all the good advice you have given me over the years. We will miss Rick Antle.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my good friends and colleagues Mr. DENHAM and Mr. COSTA, to recognize somebody, as you can tell, who clearly impacted not just the lives of the three of us but the lives of many people on the Central Coast of California, the Central Valley of California, and across this Nation.

Today we obviously commemorate, we celebrate, Rick Antle and what he has done for the Salinas Valley agriculture industry and what he and his family at T&A did to claim that area as the Salad Bowl of the World. Let me tell you, he did it through innovation, and he did it through ingenuity, in dealing with the specialty crops and the technology and practices that are needed in order to grow those types of crops.

He was on the forefront of innovation when it came to precision farming, from growing hydroponic lettuce to plant tape, to a Robovator. The farming at T&A used less water and less pesticides, and that led to less harm to our environment. Yet they still continued to grow a vast amount of vegetables.

I can tell you it wasn't just his investments in innovation that set Rick apart; it was his ingenuity and foresight that inspired him to implement standards to protect our community, our environment, to invest in making his employees' lives better, and to strive to impact policies that would improve the agricultural industry.

Rick clearly was a steward of our environment, from T&A's packaging and energy use, to maintaining soil health, to monitoring water usage. T&A was dedicated to ensuring long-term sustainability to benefit our community, our planet, and yes, our next generation.

Rick was committed to making his employees' lives better, from providing that state-of-the-art housing that my colleagues mentioned to offering employees stock options so that they could be a part of that company, they could have a stake in that company.

Yes, Rick was always a tireless advocate for the agriculture industry. We definitely valued his voice and his advice. And I can tell you, like I said, it wasn't just us but clearly his family that he influenced. I will never forget his son Brian talking about the best piece of advice that he got from Rick. It was when he was in high school. Rick was getting him out in the fields. And Rick's advice to Brian was: Look, the best fertilizer a farmer can have is his farmer's own shadow. Being there, showing up. That is what Rick did.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Rick was and he is a legend, not just on the Central Coast, not just in the Central Valley, but in the agricultural community. Carrie and I will miss him, and we know that his spirit will continue to be felt, not just in the Salad Bowl of the World but in all of our worlds.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, let me just, in closing, say my wife and I extend our condolences and prayers for Rick's loving wife, his mother, their children and grandchildren. On behalf of all who knew him and benefited from his tireless efforts, we thank them for graciously giving us some of their time to spend with Rick and the many things that we all learned from him. Mr. Speaker, I will just say special prayers and condolences.

WHO WILL BE HARMED BY THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week after turning their backs on bipartisanship, Republicans on the Agriculture Committee advanced a highly partisan farm bill that hurts our most vulnerable constituents. The farm bill cuts the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, by over $23 billion. It eliminates State flexibility. It erects new barriers to assessing the program and creates a massive new untested and underfunded bureaucracy.

Most troubling, the bill reduces or eliminates benefits for nearly 2 million kids, veterans, working families, and other vulnerable adults. The bill was drafted in secret and is not reflective of the 23 hearings that our committee held on SNAP over the past 2½ years. In fact, I am having a difficult time determining where some of these controversial provisions originated.

Were they cooked up at some far-rightwing think tank? Did they come from some outlier in the Trump administration? Were they the creation of Speaker RYAN, who is desperate to pass his extreme welfare reform agenda before he retires at the end of this Congress? This secretive, closed process has left me with more questions than I have answers, Mr. Speaker. It is awful. And it is not the way the people's House should operate. It is not fair to our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, last week I came to the House floor and outlined some of the most troubling provisions Chairman CONAWAY and House Republicans insisted on including in this bill. Today I would like to take a few minutes to share with my colleagues who will be harmed if this reckless proposal is allowed to advance.

Provisions in the Republican farm bill specifically target millions of older adults, over the age of 50, who rely on SNAP to put food on the table when times are tough. While SNAP law already includes strict work requirements and time limits, House Republicans are now seeking to completely cut off assistance for people who are unable to find work or a suitable job training program, and they are doing this without a serious plan that would actually help them find work. It is a rotten thing to do.

To make matters worse, Republicans are extending these mandatory work requirements to people up to the age of 60. The AARP, our country's leading voice for those over 50, has cautioned Chairman CONAWAY and Republicans in Congress that it is particularly difficult for individuals over 50 to find

consistent work. In a letter to our committee, AARP's senior vice president for government affairs, Joyce Rogers, said this bill could ''increase food insecurity and likely have negative consequences on health.''

Mr. Speaker, this damaging mandatory work proposal does not just impact older Americans; it extends to other groups as well. For example, under this bill, thousands of veterans would lose access to SNAP benefits if they can't find work or a job training program. Veterans, Mr. Speaker, men and women who have put their lives on the line for us. The least we could do—the very least—is ensure that they have access to modest food benefits when they fall upon hard times.

Among the other vulnerable adults who will be subjected to mandatory work requirements are teenagers just aging out of foster care, people with underlying mental health issues, chronically homeless individuals, and ex-offenders with nowhere else to turn. Are these the people we want to be turning our backs on, Mr. Speaker? Their lives are already challenging. This Republican Congress should not be making it more difficult for them to survive.

Other provisions in this terrible bill target working families with kids. The bill eliminates an important provision that provides States with the flexibility to raise income cutoffs and ease asset limits. Taking away this State option cuts 400,000 eligible households—900,000 adults and kids—off of SNAP and takes free school meals away from 265,000 kids.

Sadly, this bill also limits access to benefits for people with disabilities. It imposes new paperwork requirements on SNAP recipients with out-of-pocket utility costs, placing more burdens on those living with disabilities. While there appear to be some exceptions to the burdensome work requirements I noted earlier for people with disabilities, many others who may not meet the statutory definition, who have not yet been identified, would be cut off of assistance.

That is why the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities sent our committee a letter strongly opposing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the letters from AARP and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities.

AARP REAL POSSIBILITIES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON,
Ranking Member, House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONAWAY & RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: On behalf of our members and all Americans age 50 and older, I am writing to urge you to modify H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, to avoid the negative impact the current bill would have on the millions of Americans, including older Americans, who rely on the Supplementation Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). AARP, with its nearly 38 million members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as health care, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

The changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) included in H.R. 2 will put at risk the critical food and nutrition assistance for 43 million Americans who depend on this program. In 2016, 8.7 million SNAP households had at least one adult age 50 or older. As we stated in a letter sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on April 10, 2018, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a critical part of the safety net available to low-income families, including many older Americans and people with disabilities. It has been shown that participating in SNAP can lead to improvements in a household's food security status, especially for those with very low food security.

Categorical eligibility is essential to improving access to SNAP for low-income Americans of all ages and must be protected, as was done in the last farm bill. Categorical eligibility advances the goals of simplifying administration, easing entry to the program for eligible households, emphasizing coordination among low-income assistance programs, and reducing the potential for errors in establishing eligibility for benefits. Individuals who have already undergone determinations for programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TAN F) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) bypass the income and resource tests and have their SNAP benefits approved. This streamlined process leads to individuals receiving their SNAP benefits faster and reduces the number of individuals who may be facing hunger.

Most individuals who receive SNAP benefits and are required to work already do work. Unfortunately, those individuals who are not working are likely to have chronic health conditions, which prevent them from holding employment. Over 1.7 million low-income older workers have a health difficulty. Expanding work requirements for SNAP would be especially burdensome for older workers ages 50–59. Workers ages 50 and older typically take longer than younger workers to find employment after being unemployed. Denying individual's access to SNAP benefits for up to three years for not being able to comply with tougher work requirements could increase food insecurity and likely have negative consequences on health. One recent study showed how healthcare and food insecurity causes are inexorably linked, finding the risk for hospital admissions for low blood sugar spike 27 percent in the last week of the month as compared to the first week of the month when food and SNAP budgets of low-income populations have often been exhausted.

We urge you, as this bill heads into markup, to protect the critical assistance that SNAP provides and preserve the program's ability to carry out its important mission in providing nutrition to America's vulnerable populations. We ask you to work in a bipartisan manner, bringing all perspectives to the table, and prioritizing the needs of the individuals being served. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

JOYCE A. ROGERS,
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs.

CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

Re H.R. 2, Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (Farm Bill)

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONAWAY AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Poverty Ad Hoc Task Force, we urge you to continue the longstanding bipartisan commitment to protect and strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by rejecting proposals to restrict eligibility, reduce benefits, cap or reduce funding, or make harmful structural changes to SNAP in the Farm Bill.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

In the United States, all too often food insecurity and disability go together. Families that include people with disabilities are two to three more likely to experience food insecurity than families that have no members with disabilities. Similarly, people experiencing food insecurity have increased likelihood of chronic illness and disability.

SNAP is vitally important for people with disabilities and their families. By increasing access to adequate, nutritious food SNAP plays a key role in reducing hunger and helping people with disabilities to maximize their health and participate in their communities.

Using an inclusive definition of ''disability,'' in 2015 an estimated 11 million people with disabilities of all ages received SNAP, representing roughly one in four SNAP participants.

Roughly 4.4 million households with non-elderly adults with disabilities received SNAP in 2016.

Non-elderly adults with disabilities who receive SNAP have very low incomes, averaging only about $12,000 per year in 2016.

SNAP benefits are extremely modest, averaging $187 per month for non-elderly people with disabilities in 2016—or just $6 per day.

Existing SNAP time limits are harsh, unfair, and harm many people with disabilities and their families by cutting off essential food assistance. Federal law currently limits SNAP eligibility for adults between the ages of 18 to 49 without dependents to just three months out of every three years—unless they can engage in work or job training activities at least half time, or qualify for an exemption. These provisions cut off food assistance at a time when people need it most and do not result in increased employment and earnings. At least 500,000 low-income individuals nationwide lost SNAP in 2016 due to this time limit.

Many people with disabilities are already hurt by SNAP time limits, despite existing exemptions for people who receive governmental or private benefits on the basis of a disability or are able to document that they are ''physically or mentally unfit for employment.'' For example, in a study of SNAP participants subject to time limits referred to participate in work activities in Franklin County, Ohio, one-third reported a ''physical or mental limitation''.

Cutting off food assistance from SNAP would only make it harder for people to work and increase their economic self-sufficiency. We strongly oppose any action that

would cut off or reduce SNAP benefits, narrow eligibility, or force more people to navigate harsh and unnecessary program rules, including people with disabilities and their families.

In particular, we are concerned that the draft Farm Bill released last week includes a number of provisions that would harm people with disabilities and their families. Small increases in the proposed bill are insufficient to make up for significant benefit reductions.

New work requirements with highly punitive rules would cut off SNAP benefits for many people—including in families with children, adults, and seniors with disabilities. It may seem simple to assert that ''people with disabilities will be exempt,'' but converting such a statement into an effective policy process is complicated, expensive, and fundamentally flawed. Many people with disabilities receive SNAP, but do not meet SNAP's statutory definitions of ''disability'' or have not been so identified. Under SNAP, states have no obligation to help people prove they are exempt, even if they have difficulty obtaining the necessary records or verification from a doctor. In addition, states are under no obligation to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the full array of services they might need to work—such as accessible transportation, supported employment, and personal care aid services. People with disabilities often want to work, but need additional supports and services to obtain and keep jobs, in addition to facing discrimination and misconceptions about their ability to work.

Underfunded work programs would be woefully inadequate to meet training needs. Proposed new investments in SNAP employment and training programs—funded in large part by benefit cuts—amount to only about $30 per person per month. This amount would be grossly insufficient to provide adequate employment services for people subject to proposed new work requirements, including jobseekers with disabilities.

New reporting requirements would create major hurdles to benefits. Proposed new reporting requirements related to eligibility, employment and training, and time limits would be extremely difficult for many people with disabilities to navigate and comply with. For example, ending a decades-old simplification measure and instead requiring people to share utility bills with the SNAP office—or else, see their benefits reduced—is harsh, unnecessary, and burdensome both for SNAP participants and states.

If Congress wishes to explore meaningful opportunities for SNAP participants to increase self-sufficiency through employment, we recommend awaiting the results of the Employment & Training pilot projects authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded pilot grants in 2015, all 10 state programs are operational, and evaluation activities will operate through 2021. Already, a number of pilot states have cited multiple barriers faced by participants, including ''health issues.'' It will be important for USDA and the evaluators to carefully explore the experiences and outcomes of people with disabilities and their families in these pilot programs. Congress should await the final pilot evaluations before considering any changes in these areas.

We call on you to reconsider proposals that would weaken SNAP's effectiveness as our nation's foremost anti-hunger program by limiting access, reducing benefits, and creating administrative hurdles. We urge all Members to vote no on the draft Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 released last week, and instead to work on a bipartisan basis to strengthen and protect SNAP as part of the Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

CCD POVERTY AD HOC TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS:
LISA EKMAN,
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives.
CHRIS RODRIGUEZ,
National Disability Institute.
T.J. SUTCLIFFE,
The Arc of the United States.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I could spend hours pointing out the bad provisions in this bill, but I'll close by once again urging this Republican leadership to stop their attacks on those living in poverty. Pull this bill. Pull this awful bill.

Let's work together to craft a bipartisan farm bill that supports our farmers and our nutrition programs. Let's advance a bill that we can all be proud of. Negotiate a bipartisan bill. Stop insisting on this $23 billion cut to SNAP benefits. Let's pass a good farm bill, not this partisan nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Republican leadership in this Congress to join with us to end hunger now. Stop trying to make hunger worse. Let's join together and end hunger now. It is our moral imperative.

PATH TO DEBT CRISIS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, in December we adopted one of the most important tax reform laws in our Nation's history. It is producing higher wages, better job opportunities, and greater economic expansion than we have seen in a decade. But having cut taxes, we assumed an urgent responsibility to restrain spending.

Taxes and debt are two sides of the same coin. A debt is simply a future tax. Once we have spent a dollar, we have already decided to tax it, either now or in the future. It is the spending that is the problem. Three numbers—26, 29, and 46—tell the whole story. Over the last 10 years, population and inflation have increased a combined 26 percent. Our revenues have more than kept pace, increasing 29 percent. The problem is that third number. Our spending has grown 46 percent.

We are now approaching a trillion-dollar annual deficit with $21 trillion of total debt. This not only crowds out capital that would otherwise be used for economic expansion; it also produces staggering interest costs on that debt, which today amount to $475 billion a year.

Our total defense spending this year is roughly $675 billion. Every 1 percent increase in interest rates adds roughly $200 billion to our annual interest costs. If capital markets believe we have no plan and no inclination to control our spending, they could soon begin demanding higher rates to compensate their added risk.

That is a debt spiral. It leads to a debt crisis. Pension systems implode, basic services falter, the economy collapses, and the population flees. Puerto Rico's debt crisis has left its Government completely helpless to respond to last year's hurricanes.

The instrument required to prevent this from happening is the Federal budget. It is supposed to set limits on discretionary and mandatory spending and to provide a streamlined process to adjust statutes to meet those levels. The deadline for Congress to pass such a budget was April 15. To date, the House Budget Committee has done precisely nothing to fulfill this statutory requirement and this fiscal imperative. Nothing.

The Constitution gives to the House the power of the purse. A dollar is not spent by this government unless the House says it gets spent. Two months ago, having cut taxes, the House has approved a 20 percent increase in discretionary spending, placing us on a path that will inexorably lead to a sovereign debt crisis. And the House Budget Committee, over the objections of myself and others, has done nothing to produce a plan to get us off that path.

□ 1030

Fortunately, the Republican Study Committee, the largest caucus in the Congress, has stepped forward to offer a comprehensive budget for fiscal year 2019. I chair the Budget and Spending Task Force of the RSC, and I want to thank the many Members and staff who provided countless hours to produce it.

The RSC budget is, at present, the only credible and comprehensive plan in Congress to turn us back toward fiscal solvency before it is too late, getting us back to balance by 2026. It combines the fiscal reforms proposed by the members of the RSC over the last several sessions, along with innovations and service delivery proposed by the CBO, the GAO, the administration, and by think tanks like Heritage Foundation and Mercatus.

It shows, program by program, how we can reform them in a manner that produces more effective service delivery at a much lower cost, save Medicare and Social Security from impending collapse, and fully fund our Nation's defense.

Yes, it gores every sacred cow in the Federal bureaucracy, and we will hear howls of protest from the partisans of the status quo; but we are running out of time, and we are running out of options. Those same voices have placed us on a collision course with bankruptcy, and countries that bankrupt themselves aren't around very long.

A sovereign debt crisis is coming to America, and at our current rate of spending and borrowing, it could be coming very soon. I implore the House

leadership to allow this budget to be brought at once to the floor and at least give the House the fleeting and perhaps final chance to avert the fiscal crisis that looms before us.

Given the fact that there is no credible plan even being considered to avert this crisis, the RSC budget may represent the last best hope of restoring our government to solvency and assuring that we can continue to provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare for ourselves and our posterity.

PHILIPS LIGHTING FACTORY CLOSING

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I stood in Fall River, Massachusetts, and told our country the story of that proud and resilient city.

Today, for nearly 200 working families, that resilience is being tested because, this week, after celebrating $342 million in profits, Philips Lighting announced that they would be closing their factory in Fall River and moving those jobs to Mexico. Almost 200 loyal, lifelong employees are left behind, careers upended, savings lost. Mortgages, healthcare bills, tuition payments will be missed.

For the 61-year-old worker who is near retirement and paying off his daughter's student loans, a meager investment in workforce retraining is not worth all that much.

For the countless workers who sit around dining room tables in southeastern Massachusetts tonight trying to figure out how their family budget can absorb impossible cuts, bland lip service given by this White House yesterday means nothing.

But that is not even the whole story. Philips Lighting shareholders are being showered with $187.4 million in stock buybacks because of Donald Trump's tax plan.

Make no mistake, that is the legacy of this tax bill: working families that are left sorting through the wreckage while CEOs bask in windfalls; lights turned off on empty American factory floors while shareholders grin around boardroom tables; success somehow defined in dividends and return on investment rather than in jobs, in paychecks, in families supported, retirements earned, and dreams realized.

Yes, Fall River is a unique city, but across this country, other families and communities find themselves in the same impossible place as economic afterthoughts in a Republican economy increasingly tilted towards the privileged and the powerful with a government that refuses to hear their voices.

HONORING SALSA SOKOLSKI

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent from Warren County who has a truly remarkable story, an American story.

Salsa Ananda Catherina grew up in rural Indonesia on the central island of Java. She was raised by her grandmother and uncle and lived in a house without electricity, where water came from an underground spring.

Salsa left home at age 16 to go to work for Sony TV in Malaysia. Most of the money she made was sent home to help her family, primarily for her brother and his four children, but also to her uncle, who helped raise her.

Salsa moved to Hong Kong at the age of 26 to work with families. She helped raise children, did cooking and general housekeeping. Again, most of the money she made was sent back to Indonesia to help her family survive.

It was in Hong Kong that Salsa taught herself how to speak English, and, today, she not only speaks English fluently, but she is also fluent in more than six languages, all of them self-taught.

It was in Hong Kong that Salsa met her future husband, Lincoln Sokolski, who was there on business. Lincoln is president of Whirley-DrinkWorks! in Warren, Pennsylvania. The pair dated long distance for 5 years, and in 2010, Salsa came to the United States on a fiancee visa.

Salsa and Lincoln were married in Warren on July 10, 2010, on the beautiful grounds of the Crary Museum. Salsa's first job was as a volunteer at the Warren County YMCA. She helped greet guests and performed other customer service responsibilities.

A year later, Salsa had done something she had never done before: she learned to drive. She obtained her driver's license and started working at Blair, in the packaging area. Salsa had never driven a car prior to moving to the United States.

She would soon take a job at Whirley-DrinkWorks! in the office performing administrative functions, communications, and human resources. In her more than 5 years at Whirley-DrinkWorks!, she has become a highly valued and respected teammate. Salsa has also been recognized for her teamwork, positive attitude, and always coming to work with the highest integrity and loyalty to the company.

In 2013, Salsa graduated from the year-long Leadership Warren program, which is designed to educate future leaders on how to work with nonprofit organizations and help them achieve sustained success. One key project her team took on was to help teach disadvantaged children how to read.

Salsa and Lincoln are very active in giving back to the community with their time, leadership, and personal resources to help make Warren County a better place to live and work. Among the organizations the Sokolskis have worked with include the Warren YMCA, the United Fund of Warren County, Struthers Library Theatre, Warren General Hospital, Salvation Army, and numerous others.

Mr. Speaker, Salsa Sokolski's story doesn't end there. On February 2, 2018, Salsa achieved one of her greatest accomplishments, something she considers to be her highest honor—she became a U.S. citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remark on what an incredible person Salsa Sokolski is. From working hard to take care of her family, to teaching herself more that six languages and giving back to her community, Salsa truly is impressive.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Salsa on achieving her American citizenship. I am proud to call her a fellow American.

103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the world marked the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians and the displacement of millions more in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923.

In my district in Los Angeles, I joined tens of thousands of descendants of genocide survivors and others to march through the streets, a living testament to the resilience of the Armenian people. Yet, in our Nation's Capital, the White House and Congress were once again sadly silent, failing to properly recognize the genocide.

More than a century after the Armenian Genocide, it is our solemn responsibility to remember those who were lost, to seek justice and restitution, and to educate Americans and the world about the crime of genocide.

A recent poll of Americans found that the details of the Holocaust are increasingly fading from memory, particularly among younger generations. Two-thirds of millennials do not know what Auschwitz is or what happened there, and many others of all ages couldn't answer basic questions about the Holocaust. As someone who lost family members in the Holocaust, I find these results horrifying.

There is no doubt that public understanding of the Armenian Genocide is far lower, and that is due, in part, to the silence of those who should be leading the conversation about it and to Turkey's nefarious campaign of denial.

How many Americans know of Red Sunday, the day in 1915 in which Armenian leaders and intellectuals in Constantinople were rounded up to be sent to camps from which many would never return?

How many know of the concentration camps in Deir ez-Zor, where Armenians were tortured, raped, and starved?

How many Americans know that, in the years after the genocide, through

the Near East Relief effort, the generosity of the American people saved the lives of thousands of survivors and helped secure the future of the Armenian people?

And finally, how many Americans know that the Congress and the President have refused to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, intimidated into silence by Turkey?

Turkey has invested heavily in the cause of denial, and to our shame, the U.S. Government has been intimidated into silence. Though Turkey remains a member of NATO, under the autocratic and repressive rule of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey has become the leading jailer of journalists in the world and discussion of the genocide can bring criminal punishment.

U.S. citizens have also been the victims of Erdogan's crackdown on free expression. Last year, Erdogan's security detail brutally assaulted peaceful protesters in Washington, D.C. Charges against 11 of the 15 Turkish nationals charged have been dropped, and there is little indication that Turkey will pay any diplomatic price for this attack.

In northern Syria, where the United States has worked closely with partners to devastate ISIS, Turkey has chosen to place its paramount focus on fighting the Kurds, even launching a military offensive into Syria that threatens our own soldiers and those of our allies. Erdogan has even gone so far as to threaten the United States with an ''Ottoman slap.''

These are not the actions of an ally. They are the actions of a nation that feels emboldened to act with indifference to the United States. And who can blame them? For over a quarter century, Presidents and Congresses of both parties have been bullied into genocide denial for fear Turkey will withdraw their already transactional and fleeting cooperation.

It has never been in our national security interest to be complicit in another country's denial of human rights, let alone denial of genocide. It is time for America to speak plainly about the Armenian Genocide and the violation of human rights anywhere in the world.

IMPOSING NEW SANCTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. SCHIFF, for his remarks on genocide and turning our back on the facts that we find around the world. I really appreciate his thoughts.

I want to rise today and talk to my colleagues and the American people about the atrocities in Syria and call on my colleagues in the Senate to expeditiously vote on a bill authored here in the House by the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL, H.R. 1677, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2017.

This legislation imposes new sanctions on human rights abusers in the sad state of affairs in Syria and those who facilitate the Assad regime's atrocities, and it encourages negotiations to bring about a lasting political solution there. It also authorizes the State Department to support entities that are collecting and preserving the chain of evidence for the eventual prosecution of those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria since March of 2011.

The world has witnessed many generational examples of butchery and genocide by menaces, including Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, and many others. But in the last 7 years, the world has allowed us to recognize a new name for evil and cruelty in this millennium: Bashar al-Assad and his henchmen.

For the last 7 years, the world has expressed outrage, yet twiddled their thumbs while this modern-day Hitler annihilates the civilian population of Syria.

□ 1045

Systematically, leader Assad has savagely directed the bombing, bludgeoning, gassing, electrocution, and torture of his people.

Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons in the 1980s against Iran appears tame in comparison to the calculated bombing of weaponized chlorine and sarin dropped into children's hospitals, medical facilities, and villages across Syria.

I am grateful that, after a little thumb twiddling from the prior administration, the Trump administration has galvanized our allies against this genocide and has taken action to stop the use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people.

I call on the Senate to act with expedition and pass the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, and finally help obtain the kind of documentation that we need, Mr. Speaker, to end this step back into darkness and convict Assad and his co-conspirators and his enablers of war crimes.

VILONIA STUDENTS RETURNING LOST ITEMS AFTER TORNADO

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of students in Vilonia, Arkansas, who are collecting personal items lost after the devastating tornado that hit their town 4 years ago.

Erin Rappold, the teacher who created this project, was inspired after finding a baby picture in the debris.

Over the last 4 years, the students have collected 90,000 items, and only have about 2,000 left to be claimed. They launched their own website to help people reunite with their photos, their birth certificates, and their education diplomas.

A memorial dedication planned by those students will be held Friday, at 10 a.m., to remember the victims of the 2011 and 2014 tornadoes.

In the face of tragedy, these students have furnished us with an inspirational model for solidarity and hope.

I applaud Ms. Rappold and these courageous students for their efforts and dedication to the Vilonia community.

SNAP CUTS

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to decry the majority's war on the poor, especially those women who get up every single day and struggle as mothers, often are caretakers for elderly parents, who are juggling two and three minimum wage jobs at $7.25 an hour to take care of their families, and then being told that they are welfare cheats because they need assistance from programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in order to meet basic food needs. The last time I checked, Mr. Speaker, food was not a luxury, but a basic life necessity.

In a few weeks, this House will take up a bill which has been designated H.R. 2, an enumeration which reflects the majority's priorities. Now, as you recall, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1 was reserved for the over $1 trillion tax giveaway we gave to corporations and to the wealthy. And as has been noted earlier in our morning hour, we are facing a sovereign debt crisis because that bill will thrust us into trillions of dollars of debt in the future.

So what does H.R. 2 do?

H.R. 2 makes very harmful changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, cutting $23 billion in funding, reducing eligibility, and to generate resentment against the poor so that these draconian cuts will be tolerated by the public. After all, we have to pay for H.R. 1 some kind of way, so H.R. 2 is the solution. The numerous ideological and unproven policies that simply stigmatize and punish the poor are what constitutes H.R. 2, along with the $23 billion cut.

Now, just let me say, Mr. Speaker, I want to remind you that the majority of SNAP participants are children, seniors, and people with disabilities. These are individuals who will not be part of any workforce. No matter how mean-spirited you decide to be, Mr. Speaker, and no matter how many of these ill-advised work policies you put in place, a 7-year-old cannot work; someone disabled cannot work; someone 68, 69 years old may not be able to find a job that an employer will provide for them.

And of the rest of those who receive SNAP, let's talk about the facts. More than half of SNAP households have at least one working age disabled adult in it while receiving SNAP. More than 80 percent work in the year before or after receiving SNAP. Work rates are even higher for families with children where more than 60 percent work. Work, Mr. Speaker, while receiving SNAP.

Yet, we have H.R. 2, which requires work requirements. And yet, we talk about how to extend and make the

safety net better for farmers in our farm bill. But here comes more proposals to restrict eligibility, reduce benefits, cap or reduce funding, and alter SNAP's core purpose—to help struggling Americans when tough times hit—and tough times are right now, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is that for low-income families, every single dollar counts, no matter where these families live. If they are urban families, they are rural families, tens of millions of Americans who are old and young, hunger sees no gender, race, religion, or culture. And, Mr. Speaker, there are hungry Republicans as well.

I just want to send a reality check to our colleagues who are running around the country praising their tax cuts for the wealthy. Poverty and joblessness remains a stark reality in our country, and the populations that have the highest levels of poverty and unemployment, including older Americans, are the ones most affected. Punishing disadvantaged families will not break the grip of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us to reject these cuts.

CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY OF BOB CASHELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a Nevada icon. I am sure you all recall that the State of Nevada turned 150 a few years ago, and that the Biggest Little City in the World, Reno, is turning 150.

Well, Bob Cashell, former University of Nevada regent, former Nevada lieutenant governor, and former mayor of the city of Reno, is past the halfway point in catching the State of Nevada and the city of Reno at 150. He is 80, four score.

A native of the Lone Star State, like many Nevadans, Bob got to Nevada as fast as he could. A leader in Nevada's gaming resort industry, an A list philanthropist, and a blue chip public servant, he has done some great work as a Nevadan.

Of course, he owes all of his success, and his defiance of the actuarial tables, to his wife Nancy, who has performed miracles during their lifelong partnership of transforming this pilgrim from Texas into a special part of Nevada's fabric. Thank you, Nancy. And happy birthday to you, Mr. Mayor, for life. Bob Cashell is 80.

MUELLER INVESTIGATION MUST CONTINUE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise because I love my country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I want to thank the President and compliment the President. I thank the President for indicating this morning that he will not—N-O-T—will not interfere with the Mueller investigation. He said as much on national TV. I compliment him for saying this, Mr. Speaker, because if he does so in contravention of Article II, section 4 of the Constitution, it would be tantamount to impeachment.

So, I compliment you, Mr. President, for being forthright, and I assume you meant what you said. However, you went on to say: ''I may change my mind.''

Mr. Speaker, I trust that the President meant what he said initially, and that he will not change his mind. Because, again, to do so in contravention of Article II, section 4 of the Constitution will be tantamount to impeachment. The only body in this country that can litigate impeachment is the Congress of the United States of America.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure all—especially the President—if you do this, Mr. President, I assure you there will be articles of Impeachment brought before the Congress of the United States of America.

Now, Mr. President, I am in no rush to do this. As a matter of fact, I don't enjoy using the personal pronoun when it comes to this kind of dialogue—monologue, in this case, as I am talking directly to you. But, Mr. President, if no one else does, I will. I will not allow the Constitution to be ignored and, to a certain extent, trampled upon. I will bring the Articles of Impeachment. As a matter of fact, I have instructed my staff to draft them. They will be ready to go.

I also have instructed my staff to tweet this message that if you do so, Mr. President, if you interfere in contravention of Article II, section 4, I will bring the Articles of Impeachment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING COLONEL STAN CASS

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Stan Cass, United States Army, retired. Colonel Cass passed away on April 14, at the age of 84.

Born in Weld County, Colorado, to a family of farmers, Colonel Cass graduated from Briggsdale High School and attended West Point.

After brief stints in Germany and France, Stan began his first tour of duty in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot, dangerously traversing the skies to support infantry troops. He briefly came back to the States to complete a master's degree before returning to Vietnam to command 300 helicopters in an air cavalry fleet.

After his valiant efforts in Vietnam, Colonel Cass worked in the Pentagon on the Hellfire missile system, and then returned to Weld County to take over the family farm.

But he wasn't finished serving. In 2008, he launched the northern Colorado chapter of Honor Flight, a nationwide nonprofit that transports America's veterans for visits to our war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Stan helped transport over 2,500 veterans to Washington over the past decade, giving our heroes a chance to reflect on and find closure in their wartime experiences.

Like so many other families in northern Colorado, Colonel Cass very personally impacted my family. My wife, Perry, has volunteered for the organization, and my father-in-law, Bill, has gone on one of those flights as a veteran. They both have been alongside Colonel Cass and meeting some of the amazing veterans living in our community. Their humility, endurance, and wisdom have taught us so much.

Colonel Cass dedicated his life to this country and the men and women who serve it. I offer my condolences to his wife, Cecily, the rest of his family, and everyone in our community who had the chance to know this humble, incredible human being. I know there are many.

RECOGNIZING RANDY BANGERT

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Bangert, editor of the Greeley Tribune newspaper.

On April 14, the Colorado Press Association inducted Mr. Bangert into the Hall of Fame, honoring his incredible 45-year career with the paper of note in Weld County. Just 3 years ago, he earned the Newspaper Person of the Year Award from the same association.

The Greeley Tribune is a reflection of Randy, conducting itself with class and dignity. His goal is to equip the public with knowledge so that citizens can make things right in their community.

□ 1100

Randy never shies away from telling the truth. If he disagrees with one of my positions, he lets me know it, and he lets everyone else know it, too, in his editorial that day. But Randy's critiques are always fair and respectful. He wants to build consensus to make our community, State, and country a better place. We need more people who believe in civility in our public discourse like Randy.

Randy also cares deeply about his community. I know this, because I see him everywhere around town. This is what makes him such a good newspaper editor. He knows who he works for, the people, and he listens to them.

But last year Randy received some bad news. He faces the toughest battle so far in his life—cancer. The thing about Randy is we know how he is fighting it. It is the same way he ran

the newspaper. He is feisty, passionate, caring, and optimistic.

I pray for Randy and his family in this challenging time, and I pray for our community, as others step up in the big shoes they must now fill as Randy transitions to the editor emeritus role.

Randy's induction into the Colorado Hall of Fame is important. I congratulate him on this incredible honor, but what seems more important is the impact he has had on our community. I thank him today for the way he has shaped Greeley and Weld County. That impact will never be forgotten.

FARM BILL AND SNAP

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saying that there are a lot of things in this farm bill that I actually agree with, and I would like to be supportive of such components of this bill. I agree with and would like to be a partner in getting this bill passed. However, there are some things I need to mention.

For the last 50 years, Democrats and Republicans have worked together to combine food and farming programs in a bipartisan effort. However, when discussing the 2018 farm bill, which will come up for a vote very soon, I want to shed some light on some things that don't quite add up, some things that aren't what I would call common sense.

In essence, this bill aims to restrict eligibility and reduce benefits of the Nation's most effective antihunger program, SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. Moreover, this proposed bill dumps a massive burden on State governments. Therefore, although I intend to be an active partner in the final passage of this legislation, I cannot and will not support the 2018 farm bill until the necessary changes are made.

If enacted, this bill, as it is currently designed, will deal damaging blows to the very heart of America by cutting nearly $20 billion from SNAP, resulting in higher levels of hunger, poverty, and critical health problems.

I want to take just a minute to remind my colleagues and those who are watching at home who the SNAP recipients are.

In my home State of Missouri, SNAP reached 759,000 residents, more than 10 percent of the population. That is 1 in every 10 Missourians. SNAP kept 221,000 people out of poverty in Missouri, including 109,000 children, which reminds me—and this is the painful part of being in a body that has now become tribal in the way we conduct business, and it is so sad that we have come into this situation.

Over and over and over there is this theory that is floated out in America that people are stealing food stamps and living in luxury homes and all of this; and it is just so sad because, when you hear something like this for decades, people actually believe it. There is no proof to what they say when they make these allegations.

It may be important to know that 82 percent of the places where food stamps or SNAP are redeemed, there is 0.5 percent fraud.

But if you listen to people, they are not going to say it on the floor. They could go and say it out in the world, but they won't say it on the floor, because they know that it is inaccurate, but you would come to believe that, boy, these people are ripping these hardworking Americans off.

Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive. That is from Macbeth, and it is exactly what is happening. We are deceiving the American public.

I read somewhere that says the generous will themselves be blessed for the food they share with the poor. That is something that we should remember, particularly those of us who are inclined to read the book from which that quote came.

As Representatives of the United States of America, it is our responsibility to pass legislation that is proactive, not reactive. It is our responsibility to understand the very real and human consequences that could take place if this legislation is passed as it currently stands.

Once again, let me remind you of the fact that the SNAP program is the most effective way to combat food insecurity. I know. I grew up poor. I grew up in public housing. I saw my father working three jobs to get us out of public housing. We lived there 5 years. He would not even take food stamps because he didn't want anybody to think that he was not working hard enough. So I get a little frustrated when I hear people lying about people who receive SNAP.

The fact that, in the year 2018, there are children and adults in America who go hungry is absolutely appalling. It is important to note that over 70 percent of the people who receive SNAP are the children, the disabled, and the poor.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman, my colleague, Democratic colleague, for his comments and his personal testimony, and I respect his dad and the heritage of work that he left for his son.

I am on the Agriculture Committee, and I have got to say I am confused, I am perplexed, and, quite frankly, I am outraged in many ways with some of my colleagues' comments about work and the work requirements that we are putting in the Food Stamp program. This doesn't have anything to do about children, about disabled people, about the elderly. This is about requiring people who are able-bodied to work who aren't working.

We are long overdue for reforms in this country. We are long overdue to have policies in place that encourage work. We want people to have the blessing and dignity of work. We want people to fulfill their God-given potential. We want them to contribute to society.

We have 6 million jobs, surplus jobs. We want folks to make the best out of the life that God has given them for their communities, for their families, for themselves.

This is unbelievable in the United States of America. We are asking that, if you receive assistance from hardworking, taxpaying Americans, you would just work 20 hours a week or volunteer or be trained to work. That is all we are asking.

I see hardworking people throughout the gallery, and I bet you they feel the same way. I have seen the polls. Over 80 percent of the people in this country say more people need to work and pay taxes and contribute to this great country.

I believe in the safety net. I believe in compassion. I believe that is the heart of God, and I think it should be reflected in our policies. But God also expects personal responsibility, and He expects us to have responsible policies that pull people up and out of a cycle of dependency and poverty. That is not compassion; that is not decency; and that is not common sense.

So I support this farm bill, and I appreciate the tone, I really do, of my colleague. He is a gentleman, I can tell. I don't even know him, but I can tell he is a gentleman and a statesman, but I cannot listen to folks who, in my opinion, are scaring folks in the public and my colleagues who are on the Agriculture Committee and here in the House from not voting to make responsible, reasonable, compassionate, and commonsense reforms to food stamps.

We need to do that in every government assistance program. We need to pull people out of the welfare trap, and we need to equip them and encourage them and support them to be the best that they can be.

I don't know how much time I have left, Mr. Speaker, but I want to also comment on some fellow west Texans who are here in town to compete for the 2018 National Science Bowl.

This week, Lubbock High School will join select schools across the country who earned the opportunity to compete at the national finals. I want to thank the Department of Energy and my fellow Texan, Secretary Rick Perry, for sponsoring this important competition.

The students from Lubbock competing in this tournament are part of a national effort to ensure America continues to lead the way in science and remains the laboratory of innovation in the entire world. That is the greatness of American innovation.

We want this generation to discover the cure to cancer, to solve the challenges of cybersecurity, and to push the boundaries of outer space.

These students' commitment to science is impressive, and I am confident that their generation will propel us to new heights of discovery that will improve the quality of life for all humanity.

Congratulations again to Lubbock High School and to all the schools competing in the tournament.

Go Westerners.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, I thank Chairman CONAWAY and the leadership of the Ag Committee for providing the safety net so that we can feed and clothe the American people, so that we can make important investments in rural infrastructure for sustainable small towns, the heartbeat of this country, so that we can continue to be the leader in agriculture innovation and technology development, and so we can make the compassionate reforms to food stamps.

God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from references to occupants of the gallery.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FACE A CLEAR CHOICE

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, the American people face a clear choice about the way forward: the Republican raw deal or the Democratic better deal.

House Republicans want to take away healthcare from more than 23 million Americans—raw deal; Democrats want to strengthen the Affordable Care Act and dramatically lower the cost of prescription drugs—better deal.

House Republicans have a fake infrastructure plan that will do nothing to repair our Nation's crumbling bridges, roads, and tunnels—raw deal; Democrats have a real infrastructure plan that would invest $1 trillion and create 16 million good-paying jobs—better deal.

House Republicans passed a tax scam where 83 percent of the benefits went to the wealthiest 1 percent in America simply to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and shameless—raw deal; Democrats want a permanent tax cut for working families so we can put more money into the pockets of everyday Americans—better deal.

House Republicans want to cut more than $2 trillion from Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—raw deal; Democrats want to strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid so that senior citizens from throughout the land can live out their golden years with grace and dignity. That is A Better Deal.

House Republicans are all about chaos, crisis, and confusion; Democrats are working to deliver better jobs, better wages, and a better future.

The American people deserve A Better Deal.

□ 1115

RECOGNIZING HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize outstanding students in my district from Highlands High School in Fort Thomas. These exceptional students competed in the ''We the People'' State-level competition, and they will represent our State at the national competition here in D.C. this weekend. This is their 15th State championship win.

The ''We the People'' program is directed by the Center for Civic Education, and its goal is to increase students' knowledge of constitutional history and government—I think some of my colleagues could stand to participate in this program—and to provide a foundation in civics education that will prepare them for future leadership roles.

The program sponsors student debates and hearings. This year, some of the national hearing questions for discussion include: What are classical republicanism and natural rights philosophy, and how did they influence the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights? How has the relationship among the three branches of government changed in the course of the history of our country? It has changed quite a bit.

I am proud of my constituent students' hard work and dedication. I wish them the very best of luck in this competition this weekend and congratulate them for their outstanding work representing the State of Kentucky.

PRESIDENT MACRON'S BRAND OF SOCIALISM

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I let the statements and the speech of our guest yesterday go unanswered. The President of France was here, right at this microphone, delivering his own brand of socialism. It is new and improved.

We have all seen the inefficiencies of socialism play out in Europe over the decades and the horrors of national socialism. But the French President has a new brand of socialism that we are all supposed to be enamored with. I would call it global socialism, maybe even global corporate socialism.

I hope none of my colleagues were seduced by his ideas. Ironically, they are motivated by fear, an irrational fear of the carbon dioxide molecule. Carbon dioxide is a necessary ingredient for all life on this planet.

For instance, let me give you the equation for photosynthesis. Basically, plants take six CO_2 molecules and react them with six water molecules, in the presence of sunlight, to create one sugar molecule and six oxygen molecules.

Take CO_2 off this planet, and what happens? Nearly everything dies and we die.

So I think it is very interesting that this new socialism has a twist to it, this global socialism, and that is, it is motivated by an irrational fear of one of the two chemical compounds that form the basis of our food chain. Very ironic.

It is also motivated by something else that the Europeans have had a penchant for for centuries, that has bankrupted nearly every country over there, and that is a penchant for war, for interventionism. Nearly all of them, at one point or time, have sought to build an empire.

So the President of France was over here saying that we should also be interventionists; that we need to get involved in the Middle East more; that we need to be involved in all of the countries.

I reject this. I would urge my colleagues to stick with the plan we have got. Stick with the policy that we have had since the beginning of this country. Stick with the Constitution. Stick with capitalism. Stick with the idea that if you build something you own it, and reject European socialism.

BRITISH OFFICIALS ARE HOLDING ALFIE EVANS CAPTIVE

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, as someone who went to grade and high school in the 1970s, I learned about countries, particularly the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellites, that severely limited the right of their people to travel. In effect, they were prisoners in their own country.

Indeed, in postwar Germany, the Communists even built a wall through Berlin. They did so not to keep people from West Berlin from traveling to East Berlin; they did it to prevent the captives of East Berlin from running to freedom in the West.

There is a tragic story unfolding in Britain this week of a new, virtual Berlin Wall that British and European authorities have erected around little 2-year-old Alfie Evans, who lives in Britain. They have eliminated this child's right to travel, and they are holding him prisoner.

Alfie is severely handicapped. British officials have made the decision, over the objection of Alfie's young parents, that Alfie would be better off dead. As such, they are prohibiting Alfie's parents from taking him to Bambino Gesu hospital in Rome, which has offered to care for the boy.

Alfie is not suffering, but British officials appear to be projecting their own subjective views on Alfie's quality of life and are deeming his life not worthy of living.

Among my most heartwarming experiences in my work in my district are visits to residences of the severely handicapped. I have visited with individuals who will never walk and who will never communicate verbally. But they can and do love, and they are loved.

For some folks in life, their calling is that simple, to love and be loved; and their presence makes us better persons. Perhaps that is Alfie's calling, to love and be loved. Maybe those in Britain responsible for Alfie's faith should consider that.

To be clear, Alfie's right to life does not come from Parliament; it doesn't come from the crown; it doesn't come from any British court. It comes from God.

Mr. Speaker, the British authorities should back down. They should allow Alfie's parents to take him to Bambino Gesu hospital in Rome. The British authorities should tear down the virtual wall they have put up around him and let him be free so he can continue to love and be loved.

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 21 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

Chaplain Phil Crenshaw, Lubbock, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Dear Holy Father, it is with grateful hearts we begin this day with Thee, the author and finisher of our faith. We come praying for Thy blessing for every man and woman in this assembly representing all the people of our great Nation.

We recognize our inability to exist at our best without Thy supreme wisdom, for Thou hast said: ''A contrite heart, O God, Thou will not despise.'' And because of this, we seek supreme direction in the deliberation and our need for divine petition.

We further recognize our imperfection and beseech Thy forgiveness when unintentional errors in judgment are forthcoming. Grant, dear Father, Thy unhindered blessing to all those assembled at this moment, remembering Thy words: ''Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord.''

Thank You for loving us and praying that we may in turn love You with grateful, overflowing hearts.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD 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.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN PHIL CRENSHAW

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, the Good Book says, ''a righteous man's prayers availeth much.''

What a prayer, Mr. Crenshaw; what a man; what a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our guest chaplain and my dear friend, Mr. Phil Crenshaw.

Mr. Crenshaw's life has taken him across the globe, from serving our country in World War II to spreading the Gospel of Jesus in places like Norway, Israel, Russia, and India. At every stop on his journey, Mr. Crenshaw's mission has always been the same: simply to love God and serve others.

While stationed in Okinawa, he ministered to marines, soldiers, and airmen, as well as over 4,000 Japanese POWs, living out God's commandment not just to love our neighbors, but to love our enemies as well.

Over the years, following his return from war, Mr. Crenshaw, along with his late wife, Ruth, to whom he was married for 66 years, opened up their home and their hearts to more than 50 young people who were in need of a place to stay, some of them orphans.

At 95, Mr. Crenshaw is the last living chaplain's assistant from World War II, and he still lives every day to the fullest, serving our community and serving the Lord with all his body, soul, and strength.

Mr. Crenshaw, your life of personal sacrifice and faithful service to our country and to the Kingdom of God is an inspiration to all of us. We are all honored to have you here this day.

God bless you, Mr. Crenshaw; God bless the country you fought for and served; and, go, West Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CUBAN EXILES

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2018 honorees of an organization named FACE, or Facts About Cuban Exiles. The awardees are: Gus Machado, Jorge Santos, and Cesar Pizarro.

These three men embody the drive and spirit of Cuban exiles and have made outstanding contributions to our south Florida community. Since its foundation, FACE has been working to highlight the achievements of the Cuban diaspora in Miami.

FACE has given a voice to refugees like me who had no other choice but to leave our native homeland in search of freedom and human rights here in the U.S. It disseminates the truth about what is occurring in Cuba and ensures that the victims of the communist regime are not forgotten.

Through FACE, and many other organizations that share the same goals, we will finally see a free and democratic Cuba, where citizens are given the opportunity to build up their country, instead of being forced to flee it.

I would like to thank FACE for its work over these 36 years. Again, I congratulate Gus, Jorge, and Cesar on this wonderful, well-deserved honor.

REAUTHORIZING THE FAA

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the House will vote tomorrow to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 2010, Congress approved landmark flight safety legislation after flight 3407 crashed outside of Buffalo, New York, in 2009. The National Transportation Safety Board concluded that pilot error was the cause of that tragedy.

The bill the House will vote on tomorrow must uphold and reaffirm our commitment to those safety standards. The Southwest Airlines emergency landing 2 weeks ago is an urgent and inspiring reminder of the importance of pilot training to keep the flying public safe.

The Southwest pilot, Tammie Jo Shults, piloted that plane to a safe landing in a calm, controlled, and competent manner borne out of one thing: excellent pilot training.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today to celebrate National Small Business Week.

With 30 million small businesses in the country, and nearly 280,000 of those in Utah, I was proud to join with my colleagues on the Small Business Committee to coauthor H. Res. 840 to recognize the vital role of small businesses.

It should come as no surprise that Utah is consistently ranked among the best in the Nation for innovative startups and small businesses. In fact, small businesses make up over 99 percent of Utah's business, employ one-half of all employees in the State, and are responsible for two-thirds of our job growth.

After spending much of my career as a scrappy small-business owner myself, I strongly believe that small business is the heartbeat of our economy. From emerging tech companies in Silicon Slopes to mom-and-pop shops in rural Utah, I am proud to salute the overwhelming impact of these small businesses.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, for too long, companies like Purdue Pharma have lied, cheated, and swindled the American people, leaving death, addiction, and despair in their wake, all because of their greed and their desire to improve their bottom line.

Through marketing lies and overdistribution of these dangerously addictive drugs, they have oversaturated parts of our country already struggling from high levels of addiction, while knowing but not disclosing their highly addictive nature and risks. Because of their tactics, this opioid epidemic now takes 115 American lives every single day.

The time for holding these drug companies and their leaders accountable is long overdue. These companies rake in billions of dollars in profit every year on the backs of the American people, and not one of them has been prosecuted or held accountable.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting bicameral legislation, the Opioid Crisis Accountability Act, that would prohibit illegal marketing and distribution of opioids and empower prosecutors to punish those who break the law.

We cannot allow perpetrators of this epidemic to continue ruining lives in this country. We must hold those responsible accountable for the damage, heartache, and suffering they have caused.

WELCOMING SETH PARRISH TO CAPITOL FOR TAKE YOUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today there are a lot of boys and girls in the Capitol who are dressed for success and ready to get to work. Of course, I am talking about Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

While my three sons are grown and my oldest has children of his own, I do have the privilege of having Seth Lewis Parrish with me today.

Seth lives in Maryland, and thanks to the nonprofit Tuesday's Children, he gets to spend the day with me; or, rather, I get to spend the day with him. This is my second year in a row with my friend, Seth. I have had the privilege of hosting him for our Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009, Seth's dad was serving in the Army and lost his life a month and 2 days, Seth tells me, before he was born. Tuesday's Children uses its experience and expertise to help our military families work through their own losses.

April is also the Month of the Military Child, so it is even more of an honor for me to have Seth here again with me today. He is a great young man with a bright future. He is a Cub Scout, hockey player, flag football player, and great kid.

TRUMP JUNK PLANS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the rule that the Trump administration is expected to release shortly, which will allow fake, short-term health insurance plans to be sold.

During the 115th Congress, the Republican majority has taken every action possible to undermine and sabotage the Affordable Care Act. I expect these new regulations will be no different.

No matter how the Trump administration and our majority try to sell short-term insurance plans to the American people, the devil is in the details. These junk plans are just that: junk.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation report, these plans are likely to exclude coverage for preexisting conditions and not cover essential services such as maternity care, mental health, and substance abuse treatment and prescription drugs. The people need to know what is covered when they buy that insurance and what is not covered when they get sick.

AARP, the American Heart Association, the American Medical Association, and many other health and patient advocacy organizations have urged the President to withdraw this proposed rule. I ask my colleagues to join me and ask President Trump to withdraw this harmful rule.

HONORING DR. RANDY STITH

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize a truly great citizen of Aurora, Colorado, Dr. Randy Stith.

As the executive director and CEO of Aurora Mental Health Center for over 40 years, Randy has exemplified the qualities of a great Colorado leader throughout his entire career. He has spent the last four decades providing access to mental healthcare to those in the greater Aurora area, often committing to 60-hour work weeks, while keeping up-to-date in the behavioral healthcare field, which is constantly evolving.

Randy has been a true trailblazer in championing the expansion of mental healthcare, as it has rapidly progressed as part of the healthcare industry, especially over the past 50 years. He has served his community valiantly through triumph and tragedy, most notably, offering free counseling through the Aurora Mental Health Center to anyone in the Aurora area who had been impacted by the 2012 theater mass shooting.

Randy's commitment to serving his patients, as well as his community, will be difficult to replace. However, I know that the entire Aurora community takes great pride in knowing that we have civic leaders such as Randy who are locally active.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Randy Stith, and to the entire staff of the Aurora Mental Health Center, for their tireless and unwavering commitment to offering excellent mental healthcare services to the people of Aurora, Colorado, over the last 40 years.

□ 1215

A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the GOP is consumed by chaos and confusion. My fellow Democrats and I are focused on delivering better jobs, better wages, and a better future for hardworking Americans in Philadelphia and neighbors nationwide.

When it comes to childcare, the Republicans are offering a raw deal for our future leaders. We must protect, defend, and provide for the American children. That means better childcare, healthcare, and education. I am a firm believer that quality pre-K for our kids is an investment in the continued success of our cities.

That is exactly what we have seen in the city of Philadelphia, a city I have been proud to call home my entire life. Mayor Kenney's pre-K initiative in our city is making quality, reliable pre-K a reality for all kids. I have visited several early education providers: KenCrest, the Parent Infant Center, and Smart Beginnings. I can tell you firsthand that the services they offer are building a stronger city.

As your voice in Congress, please know I am working hard to deliver a better deal for our children and families, and that means to ensure pre-K for our children. Together we can build and level the playing field for a stronger Philadelphia block by block and a better place for all.

TECHNOLOGY REDUCES EMISSIONS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to ensure environmental progress, we must let technology lead the way. However, the liberal media often ignores news about innovations that would mitigate climate change.

A recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency shows that U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have declined by 11 percent since 2005. No other industrialized country has made so much progress. Investor's Business Daily points out in an editorial, ''How U.S. Slashed CO_2,'' that breakthroughs in technology, and not one-size-fits-all regulations, are the reason for U.S. success in reducing emissions.

The IBD article also notes that many countries that signed the Paris accord continue to increase their emissions. Instead of innovating, these countries are regulating. Regulations set impossible targets for carbon emissions and have little impact on the environment. The media should report on technological innovations that address climate change. Instead, they use scare tactics to promote more government regulations and government control of the economy.

INTERNATIONAL CHART DAY

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to recognize April 26 as International Chart Day, a celebration of charts, data visualization, and infographics of all types.

An American public that is better equipped to understand what goes in a good chart will be better equipped to spot and discard fake news. In news reporting and academia, the use of properly sourced and formatted charts help explain complex issues. Charts help the brain discern patterns and trends that large amounts of data often hide.

The goal of International Chart Day is to study the history of data visualization, celebrate innovations in infographics, and encourage wider adoption of their use across society. My colleagues and I in Congress are prolific creators of charts, many of which are archived on the excellent blog ''Floor Charts,'' curated by William Gray. If you are interested in joining in on the celebration, please share your favorite charts online and use #chartday.

HONORING TAMMIE JO SHULTS

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tammie Jo Shults, the Southwest Airlines captain who heroically and expertly landed the damaged Boeing 737 last week. She saved 148 lives through her courage, skill, professionalism, and nerves of steel.

We also mourn the death of Jennifer Riordan, who was killed by the immediate effects of this mishap.

Tammie Jo Shults was a hero long before this successful emergency landing. Captain Shults was one of the first female fighter pilots for the U.S. Navy and one of the first to fly the F/A–18. Although she was never allowed to fly in combat, she became an aggressive pilot and an instructor. Tammie Jo reminds us that the airplane doesn't care whether you have ovaries or not, as long as you have the qualifications and training to complete the mission.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I introduced a resolution on Monday to commend Captain Tammie Jo Shults for her unflappable courage that saved so many lives and for paving the way for women in the military and commercial aviation to finally fly in combat and lead as equals. Generations of women can fight for freedom and save lives, like she did, because of her.

Thanks for leading the way, Tammie Jo, for all of us.

GOP TAX SCAM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a real-life account of the raw deal Republicans gave the American people with their GOP tax scam.

Dennis, a retired constituent of mine from Louisville, who still works part time, recently wrote a letter to the Courier-Journal newspaper. He stated: ''The so-called tax cut for the middle class is going to cost me an estimated $600 more in taxes in 2018.''

Dennis pays his taxes quarterly, which is why he did these calculations now. He added in part: ''I urge people to look into this so-called great tax break for the middle class. This might change your mind on the current Members of Congress that have been misleading you to thinking they are actually working to help you, unless you are one of the big donors!''

Dennis isn't alone. By the time this scam is fully implemented, more than 80 million middle class families will see their taxes increase. That is not progress. That is a ripoff.

AIR MARSHALS PROGRAM

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's New York Times carried a story headlined ''Scandals and Investigations, but Few Arrests, for Air Marshals Program.''

In fact, in the most recent 10-year period that was studied, 148 air marshals were arrested; and throughout the history of this program, there have been many more air marshals arrested than there have been arrests made by air marshals. Yet, over the last 10 years, the Congress has appropriated well over $8 billion for this needless, useless program. At least 250 air marshals have been terminated for misconduct and over 400 more have resigned or retired during conduct investigations.

This has to be about the easiest job in the country today. All these marshals do is fly back and forth, back and forth, on airplanes, usually or often in first class. The New York Times' story said the program ''is in such disarray that it does little to deter terrorists, many of its employees say.''

The story also said alcohol abuse is so rampant that the TSA has had to monitor whether the armed guards show up for their shifts sober.

Mr. Speaker, yet, we are going to give this needless, useless program another $800 million this year. Ridiculous.

ADAPT ACT

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, in 2016, more than 63,000 people died from drug overdose, more than 30,000 of these from opioids. We also know that 80 percent of heroin users started with prescription opioids. Reducing opioid-related deaths will take a broad, multifaceted effort, and everyone has a role to play, including physicians.

In congressional hearings and community conversations, I constantly hear that enhancing continuing education for prescribers on the risks associated with opioid medication and indications and treatment of addictive behaviors can help reduce dependence and abuse of these drugs.

This week, I was proud to partner with Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS of Indiana to introduce the bipartisan ADAPT Act. Our bill would help ensure prescribers have continuing medical education on safe prescribing, opioid risks, pain management alternatives, early detection of drug abuse, and treatment options for patients suffering from addiction.

We know more about opioid addiction today than we did 20 years ago. With ongoing research, we will continue to gain new insights and understanding. We need our doctors to be equipped with the latest tools and best practices when treating patients.

I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this effort to equip those on the front lines of the opioid crisis with the latest and best training to help our communities.

HONORING CORPORAL EUGENE COLE

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

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my fellow Mainers woke up to heartbreaking news: Corporal Eugene Cole, a deputy at Somerset County Sheriff's Office in Norridgewock, was shot and killed in the line of duty. This horrific act was the first killing of a police officer in Maine in almost 30 years.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, for 13 years, Eugene Cole put on his uniform and his equipment and set out to protect our families in Maine. Mr. Cole served central Maine with honor and integrity and a relentless sense of duty.

Mr. Speaker, Maine is one of the safest places in the country to live and work and raise your kids, and that is because of heroes like Eugene Cole. I am so grateful for his work and his sacrifice.

On behalf of all of my fellow Mainers, Mr. Speaker, I send our deepest sympathies to the family of Eugene Cole. I will be praying for them during this very, very difficult time.

THE NEXT VA SECRETARY

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

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's veterans.

Over the last 16 months, this Congress and President have made tremendous progress for the men and women who have served our country in uniform. Congress passed and the President signed into law the largest expansion of GI benefits since World War II: appeals reform, the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, and several other important bills.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have been proud to author legislation and contribute to these initiatives on behalf of Hoosier veterans. But there is still so much more to do for our veterans and to address many of the longstanding issues within the VA, which is why it is absolutely vital that our next VA Secretary has the experience and commitment needed to build upon the progress that we have already made.

Our veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to keep our Nation free and secure, and they deserve the highest quality of people serving at the VA. Today, I urge the Trump administration to nominate a VA Secretary committed to making important reforms and serving our Nation's heroes who have served us so well.

PAKISTAN'S SUPPORT OF TERRORISTS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Pakistan has been betraying the international community and is supporting terrorism. The Financial Action Task Force officially placed Pakistan on its grey list of countries not doing enough to counter terror finance. Not only does Pakistan provide safe haven for all stripes of terrorist groups, it also turns a blind eye to so-called Islamic charities tied to terrorist operations and other terrorist financiers. Pakistan has paid lip service to the fight against terrorism, while supporting the very criminals that kill Americans and our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I was just at the White House where the President honored many of our wounded warriors, some of them wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq. Pakistan's intelligence services have fostered working relationships with the Haqqani network, al-Qaida, and the Taliban—terrorist groups. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Government has received over $30 billion of American aid.

Pakistan is a Benedict Arnold unfaithful ally. We need to stop paying Pakistan to betray us. They will do it for free.

And that is just the way it is.

KANSAS TEAMS REACH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL NATIONAL FINALS

(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 congratulate Blue Valley West High School and Pleasant Ridge Middle School on winning their regional competitions of the National Science Bowl.

Since 1991, the Department of Energy has been using the National Science Bowl to encourage students from diverse backgrounds who excel in science and mathematics to pursue careers in those areas. For our Nation to remain the beacon of innovation and creation that it is today, we must support and inspire our youth to experiment and explore the world around them.

In January of this year, 9,000 high school students and 4,500 middle school students passionate about science and mathematics began to compete. The young people from my district worked hard and have found themselves participating in the national finals. Starting today, these two bright groups of young people will represent Kansas in the National Science Bowl's national finals.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon all of us in this body to join me in wishing Blue Valley West and Pleasant Ridge's team good luck in the National Science Bowl's national finals.

□ 1230

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 839 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1232

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. DONOVAN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. Chairman, in calling up H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, this bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by every chair and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

This bill is critical to our economy, to millions of Americans who work in aviation, and to hundreds of millions of Americans who use the system every year. H.R. 4 authorizes FAA programs through FY 2023.

This is a long-term bill, something that is overdue. Too often, our aviation programs face short-term extensions, CRs, and threats of government shutdowns. We are now operating on the fifth extension from the last long-term FAA law, which was signed on February 14, 2012.

Before the bill was signed into law, Congress passed 23 short-term extensions. This is an incredible amount of uncertainty for programs that rely on long-term stability. That uncertainty was one of the reasons I initially pushed for air traffic control reform, to separate the modernization of our system from the unreliable Federal budget process.

In that regard, this bill only maintains the status quo. I still strongly believe Congress must soon pass real air traffic control reform for the U.S. to finally develop the most modern, advanced aviation system in the world, and right now, we cannot claim that. The more we delay, the more we risk losing our position in the world as a leader in aviation.

So, while H.R. 4 does not contain all the reforms our system needs, it does contain other important reforms that must be implemented. For example, this bill cuts red tape in the certification process so our manufacturers can get products to market on time, stay competitive, and continue providing millions of American jobs.

It streamlines the regulatory process to encourage innovation and new technologies, like unmanned aircraft systems.

It provides critical funding for the AIP program and airport infrastructure across America.

It strengthens protections for passengers, and it addresses safety issues that have arisen in recent years.

The bill contains many good provisions, and I plan to offer a manager's amendment that provides additional improvements. That includes an additional safety provision in light of the April 17 Southwest flight 1380 engine failure.

I want to commend pilot Tammie Jo Shults for her absolute heroic performance after a catastrophic engine failure at over 30,000 feet. This was a prolonged emergency—not over in just a minute or two. For the next 15 to 20 minutes, with a hole in the cabin and believing that a passenger may have been completely sucked out, she calmly and expertly guided the plane to an emergency landing.

Tragically, one person died in the incident, but 148 people are alive today because of Captain Shults and her crew. She prevented what could have been a large tragedy. In my opinion, this is one of the most heroic performances by a pilot and crew in recent memory.

Strengthening our aviation system is only one of the reasons we need to pass today's legislation. H.R. 4 also includes the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, a measure that passed the House in December with overwhelming support, but it was not taken up in the Senate.

These provisions strengthen FAA's focus on predisaster mitigation, preparing our communities to better withstand the next hurricane, wildfire, flood, or other disasters. Building better and building smarter will save lives and lower the growing cost of disaster recovery. Investing more in mitigating disasters before they strike makes common sense.

This bill is a result of the hard work of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the bill sponsors, and many others. I want to thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO, Chairman LOBIONDO, Ranking Member LARSEN, Chairman BARLETTA, Ranking Member TITUS, and the many other Members who worked on this legislation. I look forward to a good debate today and to moving this bill to the Senate.

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On April 13, 2018, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure introduced H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with an additional referral to the Committee on Ways and Means.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 17, 2018.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: I am writing with respect to H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, on which the Committee on Ways and Means was granted a referral.

As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 4 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive formal consideration of this bill so that it may move expeditiously to the floor. The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2018.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On April 13, 2018, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure introduced H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with an additional referral to the Committee on Financial Services.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Financial Services to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Financial Services represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2018.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for writing regarding H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward. I appreciate your support for Committee on Financial Services representation on a related conference committee, should one be necessary.

Thank you in advance for a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4. I also appreciate your willingness to insert a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On April 13, 2018, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure introduced H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with an additional referral to the Committee on Natural Resources.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Natural Resources to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Natural Resources represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 18, 2018.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received your letter regarding H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, which was additionally referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

In the interest of permitting you to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this very important bill, I will agree to discharge the Natural Resources Committee from further consideration of the bill. I do so with the understanding that the Natural Resources Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I also appreciate your support to name members of the Natural Resources Committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions and for inserting our exchange of letters on H.R. 4 into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Thank you once again for the very cooperative spirit in which you and your staff have worked regarding this matter and many others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2018.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On April 13, 2018, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure introduced H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with an additional referral to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2018.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 4, the ''FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.''

H.R. 4 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

I am pleased to be here today with the chairman of the full committee, Mr. SHUSTER; the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. LOBIONDO; and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), the ranking member.

This bill also includes important provisions of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, something that previously passed the House and somehow escaped the attention of the Senate. We are sending it to them again in the hope they might notice if it is part of this package.

Last week was tragic: the first death on a U.S.-flagged passenger aircraft since 2009, and that just followed an alarming news story by ''60 Minutes'' a few days before about an FAA oversight of a low-cost carrier.

As a result, Ranking Member LARSEN and I have sent a letter to the Secretary of Transportation demanding information on the oversight of the industry. We want to make sure that the FAA is being the watchdog that they need to be.

It was many years ago, after the horrible ValuJet tragedy, the committee had already rejected my amendment to say to strip away the promotional duty of the FAA. Then, after the horrible ValuJet crash, when it turned out it was an incompetent subcontractor to a maintenance station, a totally preventable accident, they suddenly decided to change their mind and decided to include my amendment and remove the promotional authority.

The FAA's principal duty is to protect the safety of the flying public, so we have got to be sure they are doing everything needed to do that.

There is an important provision in the bill, long overdue, to give flight attendants a 10-hour minimum rest. Think of the schedule now—8 hours: Oh, well, the plane landed. You have got to get off the plane. You have got to get out of the airport. You have got to get in a cab or a van. You have got to go to the hotel. You get to return, reverse all that around, and do that.

How much sleep are you going to get?

So, finally, we are going to get the 10-hour requirement—again, long overdue. Flight attendants are critical safety personnel on the airplane. They cannot be fatigued, just like a pilot can't be fatigued.

I have another concern that we are using computer simulations to meet the FAA standard for evacuation of a plane mandated in 90 seconds. As they jam more and more and more seats into these planes, I wonder if we have reached a point where we can no longer meet that standard, and we are going to have that. We are going to have the inspector general look at that topic and see whether or not we need to revisit it.

You know, it is critical that we be able to get people off as quickly as possible. The U.K. Civil Aviation Authority led this many years ago after the Manchester accident, with the spacing for the over-wing exit, something that took me 7 years to get done here. But they have also dropped in more strictures on hand baggage and other things and made that part of the briefing, which we don't get because we don't want to scare people. Well, we need to be letting people know that they can't take stuff with them if they have to evacuate quickly.

The FAA certification process, we have known for years, it needs reform, and this bill answers that call. It mandates a top-to-bottom reform of the process by which the FAA certifies new airplane engine and component designs. This will help our manufacturers become much more competitive in the world market and introduce their products more quickly to stay ahead of the market, but they will still be certified safe.

The bill also contains the text of the Flags of Convenience Don't Fly Here Act. There are some who would turn the airline industry into the cruise line industry, where planes would be crewed by the cheapest labor you can find somewhere in the world. It is being done already with contract crews out of Asia for a so-called European airline, Norwegian Air, and they are circumventing the process that the EU is bound to under our Open Skies Agreement.

The bill, unfortunately, lets stand something that Congress adopted in 2012, over my objections, which is to

say we cannot have a higher standard than the International Civil Aviation Authority on lithium batteries.

Lithium batteries are incredibly, incredibly dangerous on aircraft. We have already lost two 747s, and I will discuss this more when we get to my amendment.

It is time to remove the prohibition and let the FAA regulate as they see fit regarding lithium batteries and not bind ourselves to an international group that is captive of other special interests. Just eight lithium batteries can take down an aircraft in a thermal runaway. So that, we will discuss later.

This bill also, unfortunately, does not increase the cap on passenger facility charge. I would observe, flying a lot, that there are more and more and more tarmac delays because: I am sorry, your gate is occupied. Oh, the alley to the gate is full of planes. Oh, this, that.

A lot of airports are bonded out. We haven't allowed them, since 2000, to increase the passenger facility charge, and so we are going to continue to have those delays. Until they can build larger terminals and they can build more gates, that is going to continue.

We are also putting in some new mandates on the airports, which I support in this bill, having to do with pets and changing rooms and those sorts of things; but, again, we are not allowing them to get any increase in revenues to meet these new Federal mandates. I haven't given that up, but, obviously, we are not going to get it in this bill.

You know, NextGen will be all for naught. NextGen is progressing well, despite what some say, but if we don't have enough terminals and gates at those terminals, as the former Administrator Randy Babbitt said:

> We can land them with closer spacing, we can do everything in the world, but at the end of the day at La Guardia Airport when it is a one-runway operation, you can still only land them once every 54 seconds.

There are physical limits on the ground all around the country. Even if we enhance air traffic movement, avoiding weather and all that, we are going to be constrained at the airports unless the airports have what they need to make these investments.

There are a number of amendments that will improve safety and efficiency, and I look forward to discussing those here on the floor.

□ 1245

There is one amendment which is cropping up in this bill that relates to trucking. The gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) will offer it. It has been offered before in the House. It has never gone anywhere in the Senate. I predict the same thing will happen here.

The bottom line is there is an issue from a court case that could be solved with a rifle shot, so to speak, regarding interstate commerce. Instead, despite what the proponents have told Representative DENHAM and others, this language would preempt every single State wage and hour law that pertains to trucking in the United States of America. The only strictures would be the Federal hours of service and the Federal minimum wage. The rest would be wiped out by this amendment because of the unfortunate language. There is a real underlying problem, and it could be solved much more discretely.

But beyond that, this is a great bill.

I again thank the chairmen of the full committee and subcommittee, the ranking member, and other members of the committee.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, it is my great privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the former chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman, Mr. SHUSTER, and the ranking member, Mr. DEFAZIO, for bringing a bipartisan bill to the floor.

This is a piece of legislation that is long overdue. I think we have had—how many extensions?—five extensions. This bill is needed for air traffic.

As everybody knows in this room, if you take Alaska, which is 2½ times the size of Texas, we don't have any roads; we have air travel. Everybody travels in Alaska, probably more than you travel in your car, by airplane. So this bill handles a lot of the problems in Alaska that we have been addressing through the FAA, which plays a major role.

Number one is Essential Air Service. Many people don't understand the history of Essential Air Service.

When we deregulated the airlines, Alaska was left out. Senator Stevens and I kept regulated airlines for 2 extra years until we got the commitment from Essential Air Service so we can serve our communities, and this committee has always seen to it that that did occur.

Now, it has been used in other rural areas of America. I understand that need.

There will be an amendment to do away with Essential Air Service. I hope all of you will vote against that. It is crucially important to my State.

We have another small issue that has come up—and I want to thank the chairman again—which is lithium batteries. These were talked about, and it was just talked about by the ranking member.

In my State, again, we don't have highways, we can't truck things, so an air carrier that has no passengers can transport lithium batteries. They were not allowed to do that under the toxic transportation clause in our law that says they can't do it.

I will tell you, again, that it takes care of the Alaskan Part 121 pilots, who are subject to burdensome Terminal Aerodrome Forecasting regulations. This will allow pilots to use area forecasting for weather, et cetera, for flying our airplanes.

This is a good bill. I am really proud of what Congressman SHUSTER has been able to do. I believe this will be Congressman LOBIONDO's last bill working on something of this significance for the United States of America.

We do have a great air system. I will say that it has worked, it is working, and I am quite proud of the people who work for the airlines.

I will only make one suggestion in closing, Mr. Chairman. I am a little concerned about some of the airlines making the spaces a little bit narrower, less legroom.

I think, frankly, when you have less legroom, you have safety problems. I say that because it is awful hard, in a 3-year-old seat, to get people out from the window if there is an accident when they are all jammed together. So I am just respectfully suggesting the airlines don't take away any more space; in fact, give some of it back.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, vote for it, and let's get this bipartisan piece of legislation passed.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

I am pleased that Congress is here today to consider a long-term bill to reauthorize the FAA. This moment has been a long time in coming. Congress has not enacted a long-term FAA bill since 2012, and it is currently running on its fifth extension since that time.

We are here to consider a comprehensive, bipartisan piece of legislation that provides long-term, predictable funding for the FAA, improves aviation safety, addresses workforce needs, and advances vital research in the aviation field.

Whether large or small, airports across the United States play an important role in communities by connecting people, goods, services, and creating jobs. In Washington State, my constituents rely on airports of all sizes. In my hometown of Arlington, general aviation at Arlington Municipal Airport is vital, and the annual EAA fly-in brings in people from all across the country.

Bellingham International Airport in northwest Washington is a developing airport, which requires further investments in terminal and operations infrastructure to help keep pace with passenger demands.

Paine Field Airport in Snohomish County is a growing hub in the Pacific Northwest, with the construction of a new terminal and expanded air service expected later this year.

Each of these airports plays a different, yet important, role in serving the local community and the national aviation network.

The bill reflects Congress' consensus to reform FAA's aircraft certification processes, improve aviation safety, provide additional protections for U.S. passengers, and help to better prepare the aviation workforce and further the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace.

One of the most important things this bill does is to make FAA's certification process more streamlined, consistent, and efficient, while maintaining the highest level of safety.

The U.S. aviation industry is an economic powerhouse. It is particularly important to my home State of Washington. In our State, general aviation, alone, contributes an estimated $3.6 billion to the economy and more than 30,000 jobs a year.

Without question, predictable and timely certification of aircraft and aircraft components is critical for domestic manufacturers to get their products to market. These reforms are desperately needed to allow U.S. aviation manufacturers like my constituents in Everett, who are, as well, smaller contractors, to compete globally.

This bill ensures that FAA's product certification remains the gold standard abroad, as well, so that U.S. manufacturers remain competitive.

As passenger growth continues, Congress must ensure airports have the right tools in place to safely accommodate this new demand.

The bill makes a host of improvements to make our skies safer, including:

Ensuring the FAA safety workforce is utilized efficiently and receives enhanced training;

Strengthening the FAA's current voluntary safety reporting program for pilots so that critical safety enhancements are not needlessly delayed;

Making progress toward NextGen implementation through engagement with local communities and airports in the process;

Improving the Federal Contract Tower Program to allow airports to make investments in their critical infrastructure; and

Ensuring flight attendants have sufficient rest between duty periods.

It also includes numerous provisions that enhance the air travel experience for more than 900 million passengers who fly each year, including:

A prohibition on airlines involuntarily bumping passengers after they have boarded;

A prohibition on the use of cell phones for voice communications during flight; and

A requirement for airlines to create a one-page document outlining the rights of passengers, which will bring much-needed transparency to this industry.

One of my top priorities is to ensure working families in the Pacific Northwest get a better deal, which means expanding opportunities, creating more jobs, and making sure that the next generation of workers have the tools necessary to succeed.

This bipartisan bill that my colleagues and I have agreed to will protect and create American jobs through airport construction and aerospace manufacturing, ultimately boosting the Nation's economy. As an example, the Port of Skagit is focused on expanding the Skagit Regional Airport and is working to build a new hangar and longer taxiing runways. These improvements are not only for safety, but will create well-paying jobs in construction.

Further, the Career Connect Washington initiative aims to connect more than 100,000 students, over the next 5 years, with career-focused learning opportunities, building a bridge from school into high-demand and good-paying jobs. Across my district, nearly 900 young adults participating in this initiative have connected to apprenticeships, job shadows, or other structured work-based activity.

This bill builds on these efforts to better prepare students for the aviation workforce by:

Encouraging schools, industry, and other stakeholders to address the skills gap in the aviation maintenance field; and

Requiring a GAO study of best practices to incentivize, recruit, and retain new aviation workers.

I am pleased that the bill includes my proposal to create a Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force. This task force will work with aviation trade schools and community colleges, airline carriers and industry, labor unions, and other relevant stakeholders to develop recommendations to encourage high school students to enroll in aviation manufacturing, maintenance, and engineering apprenticeships.

This legislation includes a title on unmanned aircraft systems, or drones, which are flourishing in the skies at a pace we did not imagine just a few years ago. Provisions in the current bill will help the commercial drone industry safely thrive, while also addressing the many issues these new users present as they become integrated into U.S. airspace.

Finally, this bill enacts a multiyear reauthorization, Mr. Chairman, of aviation taxes and FAA expenditure authority. This will provide the stable, predictable funding needed to carry out its safety mission and ensure the FAA remains the world leader in aviation research and development.

While these are all positive areas to address, I understand that some amendments on slot exemptions and slot swaps have been made in order that would have regional consequences. I oppose these efforts and believe it would be better to have a more substantive discussion to address these issues in the committee.

Mr. Chairman, we have the biggest, most complex, and busiest aviation system in the world. We are years past due in enacting a long-term FAA reauthorization that will allow the U.S. to remain the gold standard in aviation. I am pleased to cosponsor this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, it is my great pleasure and honor to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO), my friend and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, who has been a tireless advocate for aviation safety efficiency, but who has also been a great partner on the committee to me and to the other members of the committee.

Also, I want to mention that—and I think this is accurate—he is the only Member of Congress who has a CDL, commercial driver's license, so he is in a very unique position to not only know and advocate for aviation, but also, on the ground, he knows how commerce moves.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman SHUSTER for yielding.

I rise in very strong support of H.R. 4, the reauthorization bill.

The Subcommittee on Aviation began the reauthorization process over 3 years ago, a very long process. In that time, we have held a series of roundtables and hearings on the state of the FAA's certification and safety processes, regulatory efforts, airport grant programs, customer service, and the air traffic control system.

The subcommittee also had more than 200 stakeholder meetings in order to gather feedback and hear from various constituencies to understand what would work in the real world—not what 535 Members of Congress may think, but to get input from the people who have to make it work every day.

I want to thank those who came to the table willing to share their thoughts and to work together with us.

With the passage of H.R. 4, we will be taking an important step toward ensuring the FAA and our aviation industry does not suffer through another long series of extensions.

Unfortunately, it seems like just about every year Congress is voting to keep the government open, while the FAA and nearly 4,000 of the FAA's incredible employees, who are my constituents working at the Technical Center in Egg Harbor Township, which is at the Atlantic City Airport, are forced to make preparations in case they have to shut down.

Now, just so everybody understands, when we do an extension, we generally don't act on it until the last minute. These dedicated employees, these engineers in these laboratories that only exist at this Tech Center, are forced to stop their work and prepare for a shutdown. This costs a tremendous amount of dollars each time we do this. Hopefully, with the passage of this bill, we will be able to avoid that.

H.R. 4 also provides the long-term authorization of the FAA, which will allow us to avoid the shutdowns and these threats of shutdowns. This means that important safety projects will be

able to move forward without the inefficient starts and stops and they come without any hesitation, as we have seen in the past.

Most importantly, FAA employees, including, again, dedicated employees of my Tech Center—now, just keep in mind, this is the premier facility in the Nation for safety, security, research, and development. As I mentioned before, these laboratories don't exist anywhere else. Many of these engineers' expertise doesn't exist anywhere else. This will enable them to help keep the United States premier in the world.

Mr. LARSEN referenced our position in the world. We don't want that challenged. We want this bill to be able to allow us as an economic driver. When you start looking at the numbers of what aviation means to the economy of the United States, you get an understanding of how critically important this is.

□ 1300

We have worked closely with a number of constituency groups, and I think we have included their provisions in this bill.

I want to point out that some of these battles take a while. And very diligently and very forcefully, the flight attendants have made their case for the 10-hour rest period. As mentioned by Mr. DEFAZIO, this is something that we don't want flight attendants being fatigued no more than we want pilots being fatigued.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SHUSTER for including this in the bill.

Mr. Chair, as we move forward, I want to particularly thank RICK LARSEN, who has been a great partner. For those who may not be aware, RICK and I have been together first through the Coast Guard and Maritime Subcommittee and now through the Aviation Subcommittee. I think the relationship that we have and what we have been able to do is a model that can and should be worked for the rest of Congress. It is one that I cherish and value. And, Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. LARSEN again very much.

Mr. Chair, I also want to thank PETER DEFAZIO for being a good partner and thank BILL SHUSTER for helping me become Aviation chair 6 years ago, putting his faith in me. I think we have had a great partnership. Mr. SHUSTER has been a great leader in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I value our relationship. I value our work together.

Mr. Chair, I urge everyone to support this bill. I think it is going to move America forward.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO, as well as Chairman LOBIONDO, for their work on this bill.

I know Mr. LOBIONDO is leaving Congress this year, and we may get a better Democrat or a better Republican in that seat, but we will not get a better Representative for this Congress in that seat than FRANK LOBIONDO.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I come to the floor as a cosponsor of H.R. 4. It is legislation that is long overdue in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of the FAA and our aviation industry. It includes a number of priorities that I fought for which are critical to my State of Nevada.

First, the legislation extends the authorization of the Nevada UAS test range to ensure completion of its critical work in coordination with the FAA and NASA on low-altitude air traffic management systems, commonly referred to as UTM.

It also includes my amendment with Congressman WEBSTER from Florida to ensure that the Nation's largest airports, including McCarran in Las Vegas, participate in a streamlined approval process for passenger facility charge projects so we can modernize our crumbling airport infrastructure.

In addition, it includes, as you have heard, a number of critical provisions that enhance safety, protect consumers, and keep our aerospace industry number one in the world.

As the new ranking member of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee, I am also pleased that the language of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act are included in this bill.

Last year's back-to-back-to-back massive hurricanes, followed by mudslides and devastating wildfires, demonstrate the growing challenges we face as we continue to grapple with global climate change. Lives were lost, individuals and animals were injured, and property damages were just outstanding. Many are still trying to get their lives back to normal. So it would be irresponsible and unacceptable for us to follow the Flat Earth Society's notion that this doesn't really exist. It indeed is a threat to our health and safety.

The act takes concrete steps towards making our communities safer. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. For every $1 you spend on premitigation, you save $6 in future disaster costs.

The DRRA addresses this by providing stable funding for the Emergency Management Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and also additional funding for wildfire suppression.

In addition, it requires that communities build back to the latest model building codes. Since the Federal Government is paying for a minimum of 75 percent of major disaster costs, it is necessary for us to protect our investment by requiring stronger, smarter, and more resilient rebuilding.

Mr. Chair, I hope that the bill moves forward without any poison pills, because we need this legislation. It is a good bill, and I support it.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, which includes provisions of my bill, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act.

Unfortunately, this is the second time my bill has been considered on the House floor, because our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol refuse to take up these critical reforms.

I find the failure to move in the Senate puzzling, especially given that many of those individuals represent States struggling to recover from recent disasters. In fact, in 2017, 8 percent of the United States population was affected by at least one disaster. This statistic highlights the importance of investing in mitigation infrastructure before tragedy strikes, which is exactly what my bill would do.

Studies have repeatedly shown that for every $1 invested upfront, we can save $4 to $8 in avoidant recovery costs.

My bill would allow us to realize those savings by transforming how we approach disaster spending. It would provide FEMA with the tools to help our communities plan for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from disasters. Both Republicans and Democrats in this Chamber already recognize the critical need for these reforms.

The Disaster Recovery Reform Act passed out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by voice vote, and in December passed on the House floor.

It is my hope that, this time, our colleagues in the Senate would stop playing politics with peoples' lives and will act quickly to send this bill to the President's desk.

I know just how important disaster assistance is, because in 2011, my own district was devastated by flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. I visited with families and employers affected by this tragedy, and it made be realize we need to do something to help communities build better and smarter before disaster strikes. My bill will do just that.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SHUSTER and my House colleagues for their continued commitment to making resiliency a priority.

Mr. Chair, I also thank the chairman for including language I offered with my friend from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) in a manager's amendment. Our amendment would create a new grant program for airport infrastructure investment. I believe it is critical we invest in our airports, which are some of the largest economic drivers in the country.

We have an obligation to ensure that this entire system, including everything from large hubs to regional airports, is maintained and improved to better serve the American people.

While I was disappointed that our original committee-adopted amendment to increase funding levels for the

Airport Improvement Program was not included in the final bill, I am hopeful that this grant will give airports a new infrastructure tool in their toolbox.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage of H.R. 4.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PALMER). The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 15½ minutes. The gentleman from Washington has 14 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my bipartisan amendment to H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, which would address the underrepresentation of women in aviation careers.

Women make up 50 percent of the national workforce, but are significantly underrepresented in the aviation industry, making up only 2 percent of airline mechanics, 18 percent of flight dispatchers, and 6 percent of pilots.

To address these shortfalls, I introduced the Promoting Women in the Aviation Workforce Act with my colleagues, Congresswomen WALORSKI, WALTERS, and BUSTOS, and our bill was recently reported unanimously out of committee.

This bipartisan amendment will incorporate our bill into this legislation, directing the FAA to create and facilitate an advisory board to develop strategies that the administration can take to help more women pursue and succeed in aviation careers.

We need only look to the extraordinary skill of Southwest pilot and Navy fighter pilot veteran Tammie Jo Shults, who just, 1 week ago, heroically saved the lives of 143 passengers and her crew on Southwest flight 1380, or Ronnie Bradley from my district. Here is Ronnie at age 19, who signed up in 1942 to become one of the first female marines. She served as an airline mechanic; now still only 2 percent. We celebrated her life at 95 2 weeks ago in my district.

We need more Tammie Jos and more Ronnies.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation.

I commend as well the excellent legislation updating our FEMA rules for disaster resiliency and relief.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this legislation and urge the Senate to adopt it quickly.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. SHUSTER, for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I support the FAA Leadership in Groundbreaking High-Tech Research and Development Act, or FLIGHT R&D Act, incorporated in H.R. 4 as Title VII of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Title VII's FLIGHT R&D Act will ensure America remains a world leader in aviation innovation. By making prioritized and strategic investments today, our Nation will continue to push the boundaries of aerospace technology, maintain a safe and secure aviation transportation system, and foster a healthy and growing aviation economy.

Mr. Chair, I thank Science Committee member STEVE KNIGHT for introducing this important legislation and Chairman SHUSTER for including it in his bill.

The safety of the flying public is of paramount importance. That is why Title VII's FLIGHT R&D Act prioritizes research and development to improve aviation safety.

Title VII authorizes increased funding for aviation safety research and development. Improving aviation safety is the fundamental mission of the FAA's research and development agenda.

Title VII establishes an FAA associate administrator for research and development to manage and oversee all FAA research and development programs and activities. These will include the R&D provisions in this bill regarding unmanned aircraft systems, cybersecurity, the national aerospace system, aviation fuel, air traffic surveillance, remote and computer piloting, and spectrum use.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support Title VII, the FLIGHT R&D Act, and urge my colleagues to support this fiscally responsible, commonsense initiative to ensure that America remains at the forefront of civil aviation, innovation, and safety.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington, D.C. (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his very special efforts for this reauthorization.

Perhaps our entire committee and subcommittee are due some self-congratulations for reaching a bipartisan agreement for a long-term reauthorization for the FAA, but the lion's share of the appreciation belongs to Chairman SHUSTER. I thank the chairman for his leadership, especially as he is retiring from the House, and I am grateful for the considerable efforts of Ranking Member DEFAZIO.

Mr. Chair, there was only one major disagreement, and that was, of course, on privatization of air traffic control operations.

This bill includes many areas that demonstrate the importance of bipartisanship. It is almost impossible to help Democrats and not Republicans, and vice versa, when it comes to matters affecting aviation.

I appreciate my own amendments in the bill addressing airplane noise, many of them embedded in the bill. And I am sure, given the complaints throughout the country, that my noise provisions, too, are bipartisan.

Mr. Chair, I ask that the House oppose the Cuellar amendment. This is a special destinations amendment for San Diego and San Antonio mainly to benefit the House Members from those districts so they can fly into Reagan National Airport nonstop rather than Dulles, which is nearby, and Baltimore-Washington, which is also very close to the District of Columbia.

□ 1315

The Congress has spent billions of dollars to expand Dulles, which is still very underutilized because it is a little further from D.C. than Reagan.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I yield the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. NORTON. The limit on slots to Reagan helps relieve enormous congestion there and ensures safety of one of the Nation's most crowded and critical airfields.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES), chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee of the full Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure, and the bleating voice on general aviation in Congress.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I proudly rise today to support the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. There are a lot of important policies in this bill that I worked on, but the main thing I am glad to see included is that we accomplished this bill as a long-term bill, a 5-year authorization.

Passing long-term bills is something that the chairman has remained committed to during his leadership on the committee and is a policy I strongly support. Unfortunately, we don't see enough of that in Congress that much anymore.

One of the big highlights of the bill is the long-overdue reforms to the FAA certification process, and the committee has developed bipartisan reforms that are going to streamline the FAA certification.

Mr. Chairman, I had previously worked on the precursor reforms to this process with the passage of the bill, the Small Airplane Revitalization Act, back in 2013, and I look forward to seeing the benefits of these reforms be applied more broadly to the aviation manufacturing community as certification reform provisions contained in the FAA bill go into effect.

Additionally, there are a lot of policies that we worked on, that I worked on, in the underlying bill. And just to run through those quickly: expansion of the State block grant authority from 10 to 20 States; allowing greater testing of replacement fuels for AvGas; restoring the ''all makes and models'' certificate to experimental category

aircraft; extending aircraft registration from 3 to 10 years, which I might point out, it currently takes the FAA at least a month to process paperwork to register or re-register an aircraft.

We also asked the FAA to resolve disputes between approved airshows and major sporting events that require flight restrictions.

We also worked on an important policy to prevent the local and State governments from targeting certain industries for discriminatory taxes, like the rental car industry.

And finally, we correct a poorly written guidance document which hurts folks who are pursuing aircraft construction projects. FAA wanted to restrict aircraft construction projects from individuals' hangars unless it was in the final stages by claiming it was not the ''aeronautical use'' of a hangar, which makes absolutely no sense and, clearly, this decision was not made with the understanding of how these projects work. This needs to be corrected.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I have been a pilot, a professional pilot for virtually my entire life, and I have been interacting with people in the aviation community for more than two decades now. I understand the issues that face the industry.

When we talk about FAA reauthorization, I think about ensuring all those who rely on our aviation system can continue flying safely, securely, and freely. America has always been a leader and pioneer when it comes to aviation since the days of the Wright Brothers, and I want to ensure that continues. To do so, we have to continue to look for opportunities to incorporate technology into our infrastructure network.

I look forward to further advancing these goals in other areas of transportation as the committee works on an infrastructure bill later this year.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, first, I want to acknowledge the hard work that my colleagues Congresswoman SPEIER and Congressman PANETTA have done, along with myself, to address airplane noise in our Bay Area congressional districts.

I am pleased to support Mr. PANETTA's amendment to H.R. 4, which requires the FAA to consider alternative metrics to the current average day-night sound level standard, including actual noise sampling. This will ensure that the FAA has an accurate measure of the noise in communities surrounding airports and allow them to take steps to mitigate it.

Since the FAA implemented NextGen in 2015, my Silicon Valley district constituents have been consistently subjected to a higher volume of noise complaints impacting their lives daily. I have never experienced anything like this in 25 years of representation. It is unprecedented. There is a 1,000 percent increase in noise complaints.

So this amendment is an important first step, and it is a first step in alleviating the constant noise, consistent noise over our congressional districts, and I am committed to working with the FAA and the many engaged, really, hundreds and hundreds of engaged constituents in my district until this issue is resolved.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT).

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Chairman SHUSTER and his staff should be recognized for their tireless work to bring all stakeholders together to modernize our aerospace system, streamline the process for bringing new aircraft technology to market, and lay the groundwork for safely integrating unmanned aircraft systems into the 21st century commerce.

This bill is important for the continued growth of the U.S. aircraft industry and for all passengers of today and the future, and for the continued legacy of aviation innovation in southern California. Their safety is underwritten in several portions of the bill, including several drawn from the FLIGHT R&D Act, a bill I introduced last year to prioritize research and development on several critical civil airspace challenges.

As reflected in this bill, the FAA must develop a streamlined, risk-based process for certifying the operation of new UASs.

The FAA has a key role in working with private sector partners to tackle sense-and-avoid technology challenge and enable safe testing of beyond-line-of-sight operations. Putting appropriate resources behind these technology priorities will ensure American innovations have the space to test, develop, and safely integrate UAS technology before foreign competitors capture these emerging industries.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman from California an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Chairman, this is a fiscally responsible bill, and was drafted to ensure taxpayer resources are wisely and efficiently used to meet public objectives for safety and economic growth and a better way to move around the country. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, this bill does a number of important things for our aviation industry, for safety, and for the traveling public, including providing stable funding and a clear regulatory framework. In my home State of Ohio, all these are critically important.

The partnership between the Federal Government and the airports is strengthened in this legislation. Stable funding for the Airport Improvement Program ensures that airports can continue to evolve, grow, and plan thoughtfully for the long term.

Ohio's airports provide nearly $14 billion of economic activity for the State. They support 75,000 direct and indirect jobs; they are partners with our Reserve and Guard military wings; and they are the front door to interstate and international commerce for our communities.

Ohio's airports employ long-term planning, using a variety of funding mechanisms to maximize the value of investments in facilities and infrastructure. This bill advances and supports that growth. I am pleased to see long-term certainty for the aviation industry through a 5-year reauthorization, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and pass H.R. 4.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM), the chairman of the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act builds on important emergency management reforms that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee produced in the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act.

Representing a neighboring district to the California wildfires last year, I have seen firsthand how these reforms streamline disaster assistance to survivors. California was able to utilize those reforms like alternative procedures for debris removal, updated individual assistance, declaration factors, changes to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and many others.

But there is still work to be done, and Congress recognized that by passing legislation that I authored in the SMART Rebuilding Act, to provide Federal cost share incentives to States. These measures encourage mitigation by establishing a National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund, and allow implementation of design codes as an eligible cost for FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

I want to clarify that the nationally recognizable design codes in this legislation are intended to include State and local participation and recognize the unique threats that our diverse country faces.

Another area which can be improved in California is the issue of inverse condemnation. This is a dangerous precedent which is threatening the ability of public and private utilities to survive in California. Every dollar invested in mitigation results in $4 in cost savings.

I support H.R. 4 and urge its passage.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I just have one more speaker, and then I am ready to close.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chairman, for 7 years, I have been working to provide American companies with the capability to conduct commercial space support activities. American companies would like to utilize space support vehicles to train crews and space flight participants for the rigors of space flight and research.

Last year, our office worked with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to draft language to address this issue. At the time, we agreed on language that the committee included in the manager's amendment to an older version of the FAA reauthorization. Since that time, a whole lot has changed in the commercial space industry.

Recently, I worked with the industry, in coordination with the FAA, to create a legislative solution to allow these companies to operate. My bill, H.R. 5346, was favorably supported from the Science, Space, and Technology Committee a month ago, and has the support of industry and the FAA.

We owe it to our Nation's commercial space industry to get this language right. I am sure you will agree with me that we cannot support the passage of outdated or problematic language, and I hope you will commit to working with me, going forward, to provide the industry with an effective legislative solution.

Mr. SHUSTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POSEY. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, this is an issue that I know the gentleman from Florida cares deeply about and has been a champion for his constituents in the commercial space industry. I do commit to the gentleman to work with him as we move to advance this bill forward.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close if the gentleman from Oregon is. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I encourage all Members to support this positive reauthorization of the FAA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the amendment offered by my friend Mr. CUELLAR and our colleagues from Texas.

This amendment amends the Slot and Perimeter rules at Washington National Airport.

It provides a special carve out for airports in two cities.

It upends the current regime which was carefully crafted by Congress to maintain operational stability between the three DC-area airports—National, Dulles, and BWI.

As a longtime representative of the area around Dulles and as someone who fought for an extension of Metro to Dulles, I have to admit I am offended by this effort which would do harm to commercial domestic passenger volume at Dulles—Northern Virginia's premier international airport.

Since Congress amended the Slot rule in 2000, passenger traffic at National has increased by 50 percent and traffic at Dulles has declined by 9 percent.

I ask my colleagues to oppose this amendment and refrain from inflicting harm on the area economies of their colleagues' districts.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

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

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Effective date.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Funding of FAA Programs

Sec. 101. Airport planning and development and noise compatibility planning and programs.
Sec. 102. Facilities and equipment.
Sec. 103. FAA operations.
Sec. 104. Adjustment to AIP program funding.
Sec. 105. Funding for aviation programs.

Subtitle B—Passenger Facility Charges

Sec. 111. Passenger facility charge modernization.
Sec. 112. Pilot program for passenger facility charge authorizations.

Subtitle C—Airport Improvement Program Modifications

Sec. 121. Clarification of airport obligation to provide FAA airport space.
Sec. 122. Mothers' rooms at airports.
Sec. 123. Extension of competitive access reports.
Sec. 124. Grant assurances.
Sec. 125. Government share of project costs.
Sec. 126. Updated veterans' preference.
Sec. 127. Special rule.
Sec. 128. Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.
Sec. 129. Nondiscrimination.
Sec. 130. State block grant program expansion.
Sec. 131. Midway Island Airport.
Sec. 132. Property conveyance releases.
Sec. 133. Minority and disadvantaged business participation.
Sec. 134. Contract tower program.
Sec. 135. Airport access roads in remote locations.
Sec. 136. Buy America requirements.

Subtitle D—Airport Noise and Environmental Streamlining

Sec. 151. Recycling plans for airports.
Sec. 152. Pilot program sunset.
Sec. 153. Extension of grant authority for compatible land use planning and projects by State and local governments.
Sec. 154. Updating airport noise exposure maps.
Sec. 155. Stage 3 aircraft study.
Sec. 156. Addressing community noise concerns.
Sec. 157. Study on potential health impacts of overflight noise.
Sec. 158. Environmental mitigation pilot program.
Sec. 159. Aircraft noise exposure.
Sec. 160. Community involvement in FAA NextGen projects located in metroplexes.
Sec. 161. Critical habitat on or near airport property.
Sec. 162. Clarification of reimbursable allowed costs of FAA memoranda of agreement.

TITLE II—FAA SAFETY CERTIFICATION REFORM

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 201. Definitions.
Sec. 202. Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

Subtitle B—Aircraft Certification Reform

Sec. 211. Aircraft certification performance objectives and metrics.
Sec. 212. Organization designation authorizations.
Sec. 213. ODA review.
Sec. 214. Type certification resolution process.
Sec. 215. Review of certification process for small general aviation airplanes.

Subtitle C—Flight Standards Reform

Sec. 231. Flight standards performance objectives and metrics.
Sec. 232. FAA task force on flight standards reform.
Sec. 233. Centralized safety guidance database.
Sec. 234. Regulatory Consistency Communications Board.

Subtitle D—Safety Workforce

Sec. 241. Safety workforce training strategy.
Sec. 242. Workforce review.

Subtitle E—International Aviation

Sec. 251. Promotion of United States aerospace standards, products, and services abroad.
Sec. 252. Bilateral exchanges of safety oversight responsibilities.
Sec. 253. FAA leadership abroad.
Sec. 254. Registration, certification, and related fees.

TITLE III—SAFETY

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 301. FAA technical training.
Sec. 302. Safety critical staffing.
Sec. 303. International efforts regarding tracking of civil aircraft.
Sec. 304. Aircraft data access and retrieval systems.
Sec. 305. Advanced cockpit displays.
Sec. 306. Marking of towers.
Sec. 307. Cabin evacuation.
Sec. 308. ODA staffing and oversight.
Sec. 309. Funding for additional safety needs.
Sec. 310. Funding for additional FAA licensing needs.
Sec. 311. Emergency medical equipment on passenger aircraft.
Sec. 312. HIMS program.
Sec. 313. Acceptance of voluntarily provided safety information.
Sec. 314. Flight attendant duty period limitations and rest requirements.
Sec. 315. Secondary cockpit barriers.
Sec. 316. Aviation maintenance industry technical workforce.
Sec. 317. Critical airfield markings.
Sec. 318. Regulatory Reform.

Subtitle B—Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Sec. 331. Definitions.
Sec. 332. Codification of existing law; additional provisions.
Sec. 333. Unmanned aircraft test ranges.
Sec. 334. Sense of Congress regarding unmanned aircraft safety.

Sec. 335. UAS privacy review.
Sec. 336. Public UAS operations by Tribal governments.
Sec. 337. Evaluation of aircraft registration for small unmanned aircraft.
Sec. 338. Study on roles of governments relating to low-altitude operation of small unmanned aircraft.
Sec. 339. Study on financing of unmanned aircraft services.
Sec. 340. Update of FAA comprehensive plan.
Sec. 341. Cooperation related to certain counter-UAS technology.

TITLE IV—AIR SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Subtitle A—Airline Customer Service Improvements

Sec. 401. Reliable air service in American Samoa.
Sec. 402. Cell phone voice communication ban.
Sec. 403. Advisory committee for aviation consumer protection.
Sec. 404. Improved notification of insecticide use.
Sec. 405. Advertisements and disclosure of fees for passenger air transportation.
Sec. 406. Involuntarily bumping passengers after aircraft boarded.
Sec. 407. Availability of consumer rights information.
Sec. 408. Consumer complaints hotline.
Sec. 409. Widespread disruptions.
Sec. 410. Involuntarily denied boarding compensation.
Sec. 411. Consumer information on actual flight times.
Sec. 412. Advisory committee for transparency in air ambulance industry.
Sec. 413. Air ambulance complaints.
Sec. 414. Passenger rights.

Subtitle B—Aviation Consumers With Disabilities

Sec. 441. Select subcommittee.
Sec. 442. Aviation consumers with disabilities study.
Sec. 443. Feasibility study on in-cabin wheelchair restraint systems.
Sec. 444. Access advisory committee recommendations.

Subtitle C—Small Community Air Service

Sec. 451. Essential air service authorization.
Sec. 452. Extension of final order establishing mileage adjustment eligibility.
Sec. 453. Study on essential air service reform.
Sec. 454. Small community air service.
Sec. 455. Air transportation to noneligible places.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 501. Review of FAA strategic cybersecurity plan.
Sec. 502. Consolidation and realignment of FAA services and facilities.
Sec. 503. FAA review and reform.
Sec. 504. Aviation fuel.
Sec. 505. Right to privacy when using air traffic control system.
Sec. 506. Air shows.
Sec. 507. Part 91 review, reform, and streamlining.
Sec. 508. Aircraft registration.
Sec. 509. Air transportation of lithium cells and batteries.
Sec. 510. Remote tower pilot program for rural and small communities.
Sec. 511. Ensuring FAA readiness to provide seamless oceanic operations.
Sec. 512. Sense of Congress regarding women in aviation.
Sec. 513. Obstruction evaluation aeronautical studies.
Sec. 514. Aircraft leasing.
Sec. 515. Report on obsolete test equipment.
Sec. 516. Pilots sharing flight expenses with passengers.
Sec. 517. Aviation rulemaking committee for part 135 pilot rest and duty rules.
Sec. 518. Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.
Sec. 519. Terminal Aerodrome Forecast.
Sec. 520. Federal Aviation Administration employees stationed on Guam.
Sec. 521. Technical corrections.
Sec. 522. Application of veterans' preference to Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system.
Sec. 523. Public aircraft eligible for logging flight times.
Sec. 524. Federal Aviation Administration workforce review.
Sec. 525. State taxation.
Sec. 526. Aviation and aerospace workforce of the future.
Sec. 527. Future aviation and aerospace workforce study.
Sec. 528. FAA leadership on civil supersonic aircraft.
Sec. 529. Oklahoma registry office.
Sec. 530. Foreign air transportation under United States-European Union Air Transport Agreement.
Sec. 531. Training on human trafficking for certain staff.
Sec. 532. Part 107 implementation improvements.
Sec. 533. Part 107 transparency and technology improvements.
Sec. 534. Prohibitions against smoking on passenger flights.
Sec. 535. Consumer protection requirements relating to large ticket agents.
Sec. 536. FAA data transparency.
Sec. 537. Agency procurement reporting requirements.
Sec. 538. Zero-emission vehicles and technology.
Sec. 539. Employee Assault Prevention and Response Plans.
Sec. 540. Study on training of customer-facing air carrier employees.
Sec. 541. Minimum dimensions for passenger seats.
Sec. 542. Study of ground transportation options.

TITLE VI—DISASTER RECOVERY REFORM ACT

Sec. 601. Applicability.
Sec. 602. State defined.
Sec. 603. Wildfire prevention.
Sec. 604. Additional activities.
Sec. 605. Eligibility for code implementation and enforcement.
Sec. 606. Program improvements.
Sec. 607. Prioritization of facilities.
Sec. 608. Guidance on evacuation routes.
Sec. 609. Duplication of benefits.
Sec. 610. State administration of assistance for direct temporary housing and permanent housing construction.
Sec. 611. Assistance to individuals and households.
Sec. 612. Multifamily lease and repair assistance.
Sec. 613. Private nonprofit facility.
Sec. 614. Management costs.
Sec. 615. Flexibility.
Sec. 616. Additional disaster assistance.
Sec. 617. National veterinary emergency teams.
Sec. 618. Dispute resolution pilot program.
Sec. 619. Unified Federal environmental and historic preservation review.
Sec. 620. Closeout incentives.
Sec. 621. Performance of services.
Sec. 622. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection.
Sec. 623. Agency accountability.
Sec. 624. Audit of contracts.
Sec. 625. Inspector general audit of FEMA contracts for tarps and plastic sheeting.
Sec. 626. Relief organizations.
Sec. 627. Guidance on inundated and submerged roads.
Sec. 628. Authorities.
Sec. 629. Recoupment of certain assistance prohibited.
Sec. 630. Statute of limitations.
Sec. 631. Technical assistance and recommendations.
Sec. 632. Guidance on hazard mitigation assistance.
Sec. 633. Local impact.
Sec. 634. Additional hazard mitigation activities.
Sec. 635. National public infrastructure predisaster hazard mitigation.
Sec. 636. Additional mitigation activities.

TITLE VII—FLIGHT R&D ACT

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 701. Short title.
Sec. 702. Definitions.
Sec. 703. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—FAA Research and Development Organization

Sec. 711. Associate Administrator for Research and Development.
Sec. 712. Research advisory committee.

Subtitle C—Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Sec. 721. Unmanned aircraft systems research and development roadmap.
Sec. 722. Probabilistic metrics for exemptions.
Sec. 723. Probabilistic assessment of risks.
Sec. 724. Unmanned aerial vehicle-manned aircraft collision research.
Sec. 725. Special rule for research and development.
Sec. 726. Beyond line-of-sight research and development.

Subtitle D—Cybersecurity

Sec. 731. Cyber Testbed.
Sec. 732. Cabin communications, entertainment, and information technology systems cybersecurity vulnerabilities.
Sec. 733. Cybersecurity threat modeling.
Sec. 734. National Institute of Standards and Technology cybersecurity standards.
Sec. 735. Cybersecurity research coordination.
Sec. 736. Cybersecurity research and development program.

Subtitle E—FAA Research and Development Activities

Sec. 741. Research plan for the certification of new technologies into the national airspace system.
Sec. 742. Aviation fuel research, development, and usage.
Sec. 743. Air traffic surveillance over oceans and other remote locations.
Sec. 744. Single-piloted commercial cargo aircraft.
Sec. 745. Electromagnetic spectrum research and development.

TITLE VIII—AVIATION REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 801. Expenditure authority from Airport and Airway Trust Fund.
Sec. 802. Extension of taxes funding Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Funding of FAA Programs

SEC. 101. AIRPORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND NOISE COMPATIBILITY PLANNING AND PROGRAMS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 48103(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 47504(c)'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''section 47504(c)—

''(1) $3,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

''(2) $3,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

''(3) $3,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

''(4) $3,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

''(5) $3,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

''(6) $3,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.''.

(b) OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''2018,'' and inserting ''2023,''.

SEC. 102. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.—Section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following:

''(1) $2,920,000,000 for fiscal year 2018.

''(2) $2,984,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.

''(3) $3,049,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

''(4) $3,118,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

''(5) $3,190,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

''(6) $3,263,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.''.

(b) SET ASIDES.—Section 48101(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', carried out using amounts appropriated under subsection (a),'' after ''air traffic control modernization project''.

SEC. 103. FAA OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (F) and inserting the following:

''(A) $10,231,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

''(B) $10,434,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

''(C) $10,639,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

''(D) $10,861,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

''(E) $11,095,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

''(F) $11,329,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.''.

(b) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS.—Section 106(k)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2012 through 2018,'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2018 through 2023,''.

SEC. 104. ADJUSTMENT TO AIP PROGRAM FUNDING.

Section 48112 of title 49, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 481 of such title, are repealed.

SEC. 105. FUNDING FOR AVIATION PROGRAMS.

Section 48114(a)(1)(A)(ii) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''in fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter'' and inserting ''in fiscal years 2014 through 2018''.

Subtitle B—Passenger Facility Charges

SEC. 111. PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE MODERNIZATION.

Section 40117(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''or $3'' and inserting ''$3, $4, or $4.50'';

(2) by repealing paragraph (4);

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking ''specified in paragraphs (1) and (4)'' and inserting ''specified in paragraph (1)''; and

(B) by striking ''imposed under paragraph (1) or (4)'' and inserting ''imposed under paragraph (1)''; and

(4) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(A) by striking ''specified in paragraphs (1), (4), and (6)'' and inserting ''specified in paragraphs (1) and (6)''; and

(B) by striking ''imposed under paragraph (1) or (4)'' and inserting ''imposed under paragraph (1)''.

SEC. 112. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 40117(l) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking ''AT NONHUB AIRPORTS''; and

(2) in paragraph (1) by striking ''nonhub''.

Subtitle C—Airport Improvement Program Modifications

SEC. 121. CLARIFICATION OF AIRPORT OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE FAA AIRPORT SPACE.

Section 44502 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) AIRPORT SPACE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may not require an airport owner, operator, or sponsor (as defined in section 47102) to provide building construction, maintenance, utilities, administrative support, or space on airport property to the Federal Aviation Administration without adequate compensation.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply in any case in which an airport owner, operator, or sponsor—

''(A) provides land or buildings without compensation to the Federal Aviation Administration for facilities used to carry out activities related to air traffic control or navigation pursuant to a grant assurance; or

''(B) provides goods or services to the Federal Aviation Administration without compensation or at below-market rates pursuant to a negotiated agreement between the owner, operator, or sponsor and the Administrator.''.

SEC. 122. MOTHERS' ROOMS AT AIRPORTS.

(a) LACTATION AREA DEFINED.—Section 47102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(29) 'lactation area' means a room or other location in a commercial service airport that—

''(A) provides a location for members of the public to express breast milk that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from the public;

''(B) has a door that can be locked;

''(C) includes a place to sit, a table or other flat surface, and an electrical outlet;

''(D) is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs; and

''(E) is not located in a restroom.''.

(b) PROJECT GRANT WRITTEN ASSURANCES FOR LARGE AND MEDIUM HUB AIRPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 47107(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (20) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (21) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(22) with respect to a medium or large hub airport, the airport owner or operator will maintain a lactation area in each passenger terminal building of the airport in the sterile area (as defined in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations) of the building.''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to a project grant application submitted for a fiscal year beginning on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—The requirement in the amendment made by paragraph (1) that a lactation area be located in the sterile area of a passenger terminal building shall not apply with respect to a project grant application for a period of time, determined by the Secretary of Transportation, if the Secretary determines that construction or maintenance activities make it impracticable or unsafe for the lactation area to be located in the sterile area of the building.

(c) TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT COSTS.—Section 47119(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LACTATION AREAS.—In addition to the projects described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may approve a project for terminal development for the construction or installation of a lactation area at a commercial service airport.''.

(d) PRE-EXISTING FACILITIES.—On application by an airport sponsor, the Secretary may determine that a lactation area in existence on the date of enactment of this Act complies with the requirement of section 47107(a)(22) of title 49, United States Code, as added by this section, notwithstanding the absence of one of the facilities or characteristics referred to in the definition of the term ''lactation area'' in section 47102 of such title, as added by this section.

SEC. 123. EXTENSION OF COMPETITIVE ACCESS REPORTS.

Section 47107(r)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2023''.

SEC. 124. GRANT ASSURANCES.

(a) CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT.—Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(u) CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The construction of a covered aircraft shall be treated as an aeronautical activity for purposes of—

''(A) determining an airport's compliance with a grant assurance made under this section or any other provision of law; and

''(B) the receipt of Federal financial assistance for airport development.

''(2) COVERED AIRCRAFT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered aircraft' means an aircraft—

''(A) used or intended to be used exclusively for recreational purposes; and

''(B) constructed or under construction by a private individual at a general aviation airport.''.

(b) COMMUNITY USE OF AIRPORT LAND.—Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(v) COMMUNITY USE OF AIRPORT LAND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(13), and subject to paragraph (2), the sponsor of a public-use airport shall not be considered to be in violation of this subtitle, or to be found in violation of a grant assurance made under this section, or under any other provision of law, as a condition for the receipt of Federal financial assistance for airport development, solely because the sponsor has entered into an agreement, including a revised agreement, with a local government providing for the use of airport property for an interim compatible recreational purpose at below fair market value.

''(2) RESTRICTIONS.—This subsection shall apply only—

''(A) to an agreement regarding airport property that was initially entered into before the publication of the Federal Aviation Administration's Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue, dated February 16, 1999;

''(B) if the agreement between the sponsor and the local government is subordinate to any existing or future agreements between the sponsor and the Secretary, including agreements related to a grant assurance under this section;

''(C) to airport property that was acquired under a Federal airport development grant program;

''(D) if the airport sponsor has provided a written statement to the Administrator that the property made available for a recreational purpose will not be needed for any aeronautical purpose during the next 10 years;

''(E) if the agreement includes a term of not more than 2 years to prepare the airport property for the interim compatible recreational purpose and not more than 10 years of use for that purpose;

''(F) if the recreational purpose will not impact the aeronautical use of the airport;

''(G) if the airport sponsor provides a certification that the sponsor is not responsible for preparation, start-up, operations, maintenance, or any other costs associated with the recreational purpose; and

''(H) if the recreational purpose is consistent with Federal land use compatibility criteria under section 47502.

''(3) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as permitting a diversion of airport revenue for the capital or operating costs associated with the community use of airport land.''.

SEC. 125. GOVERNMENT SHARE OF PROJECT COSTS.

Section 47109(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''primary airport having at least .25 percent of the total number of passenger boardings each year at all commercial service airports;'' and inserting ''medium or large hub airport;''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) 95 percent for a project that—

''(A) the Administrator determines is a successive phase of a multi-phase construction project for which the sponsor received a grant in fiscal year 2011; and

''(B) for which the United States Government's share of allowable project costs could otherwise be 90 percent under paragraph (2) or (3).''.

SEC. 126. UPDATED VETERANS' PREFERENCE.

Section 47112(c)(1)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''or Operation New Dawn for more'' and inserting ''Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, or any successor contingency operation to such operations for more''; and

(2) by striking ''or Operation New Dawn (whichever is later)'' and inserting ''Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, or any successor contingency operation to such operations (whichever is later)''.

SEC. 127. SPECIAL RULE.

Section 47114(d)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) During fiscal years 2018 through 2020—

''(i) an airport that accrued apportionment funds under subparagraph (A) in fiscal year 2013 that is listed as having an unclassified status under the most recent national plan of integrated airport systems shall continue to accrue apportionment funds under subparagraph (A) at the same amount the airport accrued apportionment funds in fiscal year 2013, subject to the conditions of this paragraph;

''(ii) notwithstanding the period of availability as described in section 47117(b), an amount apportioned to an airport under clause (i) shall be available to the airport only during the fiscal year in which the amount is apportioned; and

''(iii) notwithstanding the waiver permitted under section 47117(c)(2), an airport receiving apportionment funds under clause (i) may not waive its claim to any part of the apportioned funds in order to make the funds available for a grant for another public-use airport.

''(D) An airport that re-establishes its classified status shall be eligible to accrue apportionment funds pursuant to subparagraph (A) so long as such airport retains its classified status.''.

SEC. 128. MARSHALL ISLANDS, MICRONESIA, AND PALAU.

Section 47115 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (i);

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (i); and

(3) in subsection (i) (as so redesignated) by striking ''fiscal years 2012 through 2018'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2018 through 2023''.

SEC. 129. NONDISCRIMINATION.

Section 47123 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) INDIAN EMPLOYMENT.—

''(1) TRIBAL SPONSOR PREFERENCE.—Consistent with section 703(i) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–2(i)), nothing in this section shall preclude the preferential employment of Indians living on or near a reservation on a project or contract at—

''(A) an airport sponsored by an Indian tribal government; or

''(B) an airport located on an Indian reservation.

''(2) STATE PREFERENCE.—A State may implement a preference for employment of Indians on a project carried out under this subchapter near an Indian reservation.

''(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall cooperate with Indian tribal governments and the States to implement this subsection.

''(4) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Indian tribal government' has the same meaning given that term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).''.

SEC. 130. STATE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM EXPANSION.

Section 47128(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not more than 9 qualified States for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 and 10 qualified States for each fiscal year thereafter'' and inserting ''not more than 20 qualified States for each fiscal year''.

SEC. 131. MIDWAY ISLAND AIRPORT.

Section 186(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2518) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''fiscal years 2012 through 2018'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2018 through 2023''.

SEC. 132. PROPERTY CONVEYANCE RELEASES.

Section 817(a) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47125 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''or section 23'' and inserting '', section 23''; and

(2) by inserting '', or section 47125 of title 49, United States Code'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 133. MINORITY AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION.

Congress finds the following:

(1) While significant progress has occurred due to the establishment of the airport disadvantaged business enterprise program (49 U.S.C. 47107(e) and 47113), discrimination and related barriers continue to pose significant obstacles for minority- and women-owned businesses seeking to do business in airport-related markets across the Nation. These continuing barriers merit the continuation of the airport disadvantaged business enterprise program.

(2) Congress has received and reviewed testimony and documentation of race and gender discrimination from numerous sources, including congressional hearings and roundtables, scientific reports, reports issued by public and private agencies, news stories, reports of discrimination by organizations and individuals, and discrimination lawsuits. This testimony and documentation shows that race- and gender-neutral efforts alone are insufficient to address the problem.

(3) This testimony and documentation demonstrates that discrimination across the Nation poses a barrier to full and fair participation in airport-related businesses of women business owners and minority business owners in the racial groups detailed in parts 23 and 26 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, and has impacted firm development and many aspects of airport-related business in the public and private markets.

(4) This testimony and documentation provides a strong basis that there is a compelling need for the continuation of the airport disadvantaged business enterprise program and the airport concessions disadvantaged business enterprise program to address race and gender discrimination in airport-related business.

SEC. 134. CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM.

(a) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CONTRACT PROGRAM.—

(1) SPECIAL RULE.—Section 47124(b)(1)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''exceeds the benefit for a period of 18 months after such determination is made'' and inserting the following: ''exceeds the benefit—

''(i) for the 1-year period after such determination is made; or

''(ii) if an appeal of such determination is requested, for the 1-year period described in subsection (d)(4)(D)''.

(2) FUNDING OF COST-SHARE PROGRAM.—Section 47124(b)(3)(E) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(E) FUNDING.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to section 106(k)(1) may be used to carry out this paragraph.''.

(3) CONSTRUCTION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS.—

(A) GRANTS.—Section 47124(b)(4)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in each of clauses (i)(III) and (ii)(III) by inserting '', including remote air traffic control tower equipment certified by the Federal Aviation Administration'' after ''1996''.

(B) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 47124(b)(4)(B)(i)(I) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''pilot''.

(C) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 47124(b)(4) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (C).

(4) BENEFIT-TO-COST CALCULATION FOR PROGRAM APPLICANTS.—Section 47124(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) BENEFIT-TO-COST CALCULATION.—Not later than 90 days after receiving an application to the Contract Tower Program, the Secretary shall calculate a benefit-to-cost ratio (as described in subsection (d)) for the applicable air traffic control tower for purposes of selecting towers for participation in the Contract Tower Program.''.

(b) CRITERIA TO EVALUATE PARTICIPANTS.—Section 47124 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) CRITERIA TO EVALUATE PARTICIPANTS.—

''(1) TIMING OF EVALUATIONS.—

''(A) TOWERS PARTICIPATING IN COST-SHARE PROGRAM.—In the case of an air traffic control tower that is operated under the program established under subsection (b)(3), the

Secretary shall annually calculate a benefit-to-cost ratio with respect to the tower.

''(B) TOWERS PARTICIPATING IN CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM.—In the case of an air traffic control tower that is operated under the program established under subsection (a) and continued under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall not calculate a benefit-to-cost ratio after the date of enactment of this subsection with respect to the tower unless the Secretary determines that the annual aircraft traffic at the airport where the tower is located has decreased—

''(i) by more than 25 percent from the previous year; or

''(ii) by more than 55 percent cumulatively in the preceding 3-year period.

''(2) COSTS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In establishing a benefit-to-cost ratio under this section with respect to an air traffic control tower, the Secretary shall consider only the following costs:

''(A) The Federal Aviation Administration's actual cost of wages and benefits of personnel working at the tower.

''(B) The Federal Aviation Administration's actual telecommunications costs directly associated with the tower.

''(C) The Federal Aviation Administration's costs of purchasing and installing any air traffic control equipment that would not have been purchased or installed except as a result of the operation of the tower.

''(D) The Federal Aviation Administration's actual travel costs associated with maintaining air traffic control equipment that is owned by the Administration and would not be maintained except as a result of the operation of the tower.

''(E) Other actual costs of the Federal Aviation Administration directly associated with the tower that would not be incurred except as a result of the operation of the tower (excluding costs for non-contract tower related personnel and equipment, even if the personnel or equipment are located in the contract tower building).

''(3) OTHER CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED.—In establishing a benefit-to-cost ratio under this section with respect to an air traffic control tower, the Secretary shall add a 10 percentage point margin of error to the benefit-to-cost ratio determination to acknowledge and account for the direct and indirect economic and other benefits that are not included in the criteria the Secretary used in calculating that ratio.

''(4) REVIEW OF COST-BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS.—In issuing a benefit-to-cost ratio determination under this section with respect to an air traffic control tower located at an airport, the Secretary shall implement the following procedures:

''(A) The Secretary shall provide the airport (or the State or local government having jurisdiction over the airport) at least 90 days following the date of receipt of the determination to submit to the Secretary a request for an appeal of the determination, together with updated or additional data in support of the appeal.

''(B) Upon receipt of a request for an appeal submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

''(i) transmit to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration any updated or additional data submitted in support of the appeal; and

''(ii) provide the Administrator not more than 90 days to review the data and provide a response to the Secretary based on the review.

''(C) After receiving a response from the Administrator pursuant to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide the airport, State, or local government that requested the appeal at least 30 days to review the response; and

''(ii) withhold from taking further action in connection with the appeal during that 30-day period.

''(D) If, after completion of the appeal procedures with respect to the determination, the Secretary requires the tower to transition into the program established under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall not require a cost-share payment from the airport, State, or local government for 1 year following the last day of the 30-day period described in subparagraph (C).''.

SEC. 135. AIRPORT ACCESS ROADS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS.

Notwithstanding section 47102 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal years 2018 through 2021, the definition of the term ''terminal development'' under that section includes the development of an airport access road that—

(1) is located in a noncontiguous State;

(2) is not more than 3 miles in length;

(3) connects to the nearest public roadways of not more than the 2 closest census designated places; and

(4) is constructed for the purpose of connecting the census designated places with a planned or newly constructed airport.

SEC. 136. BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS.

(a) NOTICE OF WAIVERS.—If the Secretary of Transportation determines that it is necessary to waive the application of section 50101(a) of title 49, United States Code, based on a finding under section 50101(b) of that title, the Secretary, at least 10 days before the date on which the waiver takes effect, shall—

(1) make publicly available, in an easily identifiable location on the website of the Department of Transportation, a detailed written justification of the waiver determination; and

(2) provide an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the waiver determination.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on waivers issued under section 50101 of title 49, United States Code, during the fiscal year.

Subtitle D—Airport Noise and Environmental Streamlining

SEC. 151. RECYCLING PLANS FOR AIRPORTS.

Section 47106(a)(6) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''that includes the project'' before '', the master plan''.

SEC. 152. PILOT PROGRAM SUNSET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 47140 of title 49, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 47140a of title 49, United States Code, is redesignated as section 47140.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to sections 47140 and 47140a; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 47139 the following:

''47140. Increasing the energy efficiency of airport power sources.''.

SEC. 153. EXTENSION OF GRANT AUTHORITY FOR COMPATIBLE LAND USE PLANNING AND PROJECTS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

Section 47141(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2023''.

SEC. 154. UPDATING AIRPORT NOISE EXPOSURE MAPS.

Section 47503(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) REVISED MAPS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An airport operator that submitted a noise exposure map under subsection (a) shall submit a revised map to the Secretary if, in an area surrounding an airport, a change in the operation of the airport would establish a substantial new noncompatible use, or would significantly reduce noise over existing noncompatible uses, that is not reflected in either the existing conditions map or forecast map currently on file with the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(2) TIMING.—A submission under paragraph (1) shall be required only if the relevant change in the operation of the airport occurs during—

''(A) the forecast period of the applicable noise exposure map submitted by an airport operator under subsection (a); or

''(B) the implementation period of the airport operator's noise compatibility program.''.

SEC. 155. STAGE 3 AIRCRAFT STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a review of the potential benefits, costs, and other impacts that would result from a phaseout of covered stage 3 aircraft.

(b) CONTENTS.—The review shall include—

(1) a determination of the number, types, frequency of operations, and owners and operators of covered stage 3 aircraft;

(2) an analysis of the potential benefits, costs, and other impacts to air carriers, general aviation operators, airports, communities surrounding airports, and the general public associated with phasing out or reducing the operations of covered stage 3 aircraft, assuming such a phaseout or reduction is put into effect over a reasonable period of time;

(3) a determination of lessons learned from the phaseout of stage 2 aircraft that might be applicable to a phaseout or reduction in the operations of covered stage 3 aircraft, including comparisons between the benefits, costs, and other impacts associated with the phaseout of stage 2 aircraft and the potential benefits, costs, and other impacts determined under paragraph (2);

(4) a determination of the costs and logistical challenges associated with recertifying stage 3 aircraft capable of meeting stage 4 noise levels; and

(5) a determination of stakeholder views on the feasibility and desirability of phasing out covered stage 3 aircraft, including the views of—

(A) air carriers;

(B) airports;

(C) communities surrounding airports;

(D) aircraft and avionics manufacturers;

(E) operators of covered stage 3 aircraft other than air carriers; and

(F) such other stakeholders and aviation experts as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review.

(d) COVERED STAGE 3 AIRCRAFT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered stage 3 aircraft'' means a civil subsonic jet aircraft that is not capable of meeting the stage 4 noise levels in part 36 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 156. ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NOISE CONCERNS.

When proposing a new area navigation departure procedure, or amending an existing procedure that would direct aircraft between

the surface and 6,000 feet above ground level over noise sensitive areas, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall consider the feasibility of dispersal headings or other lateral track variations to address community noise concerns, if—

(1) the affected airport operator, in consultation with the affected community, submits a request to the Administrator for such a consideration;

(2) the airport operator's request would not, in the judgment of the Administrator, conflict with the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system; and

(3) the effect of a modified departure procedure would not significantly increase noise over noise sensitive areas, as determined by the Administrator.

SEC. 157. STUDY ON POTENTIAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF OVERFLIGHT NOISE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall enter into an agreement with an eligible institution of higher education to conduct a study on the health impacts of noise from aircraft flights on residents exposed to a range of noise levels from such flights.

(b) SCOPE OF STUDY.—The study shall—

(1) include an examination of the incremental health impacts attributable to noise exposure that result from aircraft flights, including sleep disturbance and elevated blood pressure;

(2) be focused on residents in the metropolitan area of—

(A) Boston;

(B) Chicago;

(C) the District of Columbia;

(D) New York;

(E) the Northern California Metroplex;

(F) Phoenix;

(G) the Southern California Metroplex; or

(H) such other area as may be identified by the Administrator;

(3) consider, in particular, the incremental health impacts on residents living partly or wholly underneath flight paths most frequently used by aircraft flying at an altitude lower than 10,000 feet, including during takeoff or landing; and

(4) include an assessment of the relationship between a perceived increase in aircraft noise, including as a result of a change in flight paths that increases the visibility of aircraft from a certain location, and an actual increase in aircraft noise, particularly in areas with high or variable levels of non-aircraft-related ambient noise.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—An institution of higher education is eligible to conduct the study if the institution—

(1) has—

(A) a school of public health that has participated in the Center of Excellence for Aircraft Noise and Aviation Emissions Mitigation of the Federal Aviation Administration; or

(B) a center for environmental health that receives funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences;

(2) is located in one of the areas identified in subsection (b);

(3) applies to the Administrator in a timely fashion;

(4) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Administrator that the institution is qualified to conduct the study;

(5) agrees to submit to the Administrator, not later than 3 years after entering into an agreement under subsection (a), the results of the study, including any source materials used; and

(6) meets such other requirements as the Administrator determines necessary.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the Administrator receives the results of the study, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results.

SEC. 158. ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall carry out a pilot program involving not more than 6 projects at public-use airports in accordance with this section.

(b) GRANTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary may make grants to sponsors of public-use airports from funds apportioned under section 47117(e)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts from a grant received by the sponsor of a public-use airport under the program shall be used for environmental mitigation projects that will measurably reduce or mitigate aviation impacts on noise, air quality, or water quality at the airport or within 5 miles of the airport.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, an environmental mitigation project approved under this section shall be treated as eligible for assistance under that chapter.

(e) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting from among applicants for participation in the program, the Secretary may give priority consideration to projects that—

(1) will achieve the greatest reductions in aircraft noise, airport emissions, or airport water quality impacts either on an absolute basis or on a per dollar of funds expended basis; and

(2) will be implemented by an eligible consortium.

(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out under the program shall be 50 percent.

(g) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—Not more than $2,500,000 may be made available by the Secretary in grants under the program for any single project.

(h) IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary may establish and publish information identifying best practices for reducing or mitigating aviation impacts on noise, air quality, and water quality at airports or in the vicinity of airports based on the projects carried out under the program.

(i) SUNSET.—The program shall terminate 5 years after the Secretary makes the first grant under the program.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUM.—The term ''eligible consortium'' means a consortium that is comprised of 2 or more of the following entities:

(A) Businesses incorporated in the United States.

(B) Public or private educational or research organizations located in the United States.

(C) Entities of State or local governments in the United States.

(D) Federal laboratories.

(2) ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROJECT.—The term ''environmental mitigation project'' means a project that—

(A) introduces new environmental mitigation techniques or technologies that have been proven in laboratory demonstrations;

(B) proposes methods for efficient adaptation or integration of new concepts into airport operations; and

(C) will demonstrate whether new techniques or technologies for environmental mitigation are—

(i) practical to implement at or near multiple public-use airports; and

(ii) capable of reducing noise, airport emissions, or water quality impacts in measurably significant amounts.

SEC. 159. AIRCRAFT NOISE EXPOSURE.

(a) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a review of the relationship between aircraft noise exposure and its effects on communities around airports.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the review.

(2) PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report shall contain such preliminary recommendations as the Administrator determines appropriate for revising the land use compatibility guidelines in part 150 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, based on the results of the review and in coordination with other agencies.

SEC. 160. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN FAA NEXTGEN PROJECTS LOCATED IN METROPLEXES.

(a) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT POLICY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall complete a review of the Federal Aviation Administration's community involvement practices for Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) projects located in metroplexes identified by the Administration. The review shall include, at a minimum, a determination of how and when to engage airports and communities in performance-based navigation proposals.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after completion of the review, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on—

(1) how the Administration will improve community involvement practices for NextGen projects located in metroplexes;

(2) how and when the Administration will engage airports and communities in performance-based navigation proposals; and

(3) lessons learned from NextGen projects and pilot programs and how those lessons learned are being integrated into community involvement practices for future NextGen projects located in metroplexes.

SEC. 161. CRITICAL HABITAT ON OR NEAR AIRPORT PROPERTY.

(a) FEDERAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Transportation, to the maximum extent practicable, shall work with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies to ensure that designations of critical habitat, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532), on or near airport property do not—

(1) result in conflicting statutory, regulatory, or Federal grant assurance requirements for airports or aircraft operators;

(2) interfere with the safe operation of aircraft; or

(3) occur on airport-owned lands that have become attractive habitat for a threatened or endangered species because such lands—

(A) have been prepared for future development;

(B) have been designated as noise buffer land; or

(C) are held by the airport to prevent encroachment of uses that are incompatible with airport operations.

(b) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—In a State where a State agency is authorized to designate land on or near airport property for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species in the State, the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall work

with the State in the same manner as the Secretary works with the heads of Federal agencies under subsection (a).

SEC. 162. CLARIFICATION OF REIMBURSABLE ALLOWED COSTS OF FAA MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT.

Section 47504(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) to an airport operator of a congested airport (as defined in section 47175) and a unit of local government referred to in paragraph (1)(B) to carry out a project to mitigate noise, if the project—

''(i) consists of—

''(I) replacement windows, doors, and the installation of through-the-wall air-conditioning units; or

''(II) a contribution of the equivalent costs to be used for reconstruction, if reconstruction is the preferred local solution;

''(ii) is located at a school near the airport; and

''(iii) is included in a memorandum of agreement entered into before September 30, 2002, even if the airport has not met the requirements of part 150 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and only if the financial limitations of the memorandum are applied.''.

TITLE II—FAA SAFETY CERTIFICATION REFORM

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) SAFETY OVERSIGHT AND CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee'' means the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee established under section 202.

(3) SYSTEMS SAFETY APPROACH.—The term ''systems safety approach'' means the application of specialized technical and managerial skills to the systematic, forward-looking identification and control of hazards throughout the lifecycle of a project, program, or activity.

SEC. 202. SAFETY OVERSIGHT AND CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish a Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ''Advisory Committee'').

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice to the Secretary on policy-level issues facing the aviation community that are related to FAA certification and safety oversight programs and activities, including, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Aircraft and flight standards certification processes, including efforts to streamline those processes.

(2) Implementation and oversight of safety management systems.

(3) Risk-based oversight efforts.

(4) Utilization of delegation and designation authorities.

(5) Regulatory interpretation standardization efforts.

(6) Training programs.

(7) Expediting the rulemaking process and giving priority to rules related to safety.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Advisory Committee shall carry out the following functions (as the functions relate to FAA certification and safety oversight programs and activities):

(1) Foster industry collaboration in an open and transparent manner.

(2) Consult with, and ensure participation by—

(A) the private sector, including representatives of—

(i) general aviation;

(ii) commercial aviation;

(iii) aviation labor;

(iv) aviation maintenance;

(v) aviation, aerospace, and avionics manufacturing;

(vi) unmanned aircraft systems operators and manufacturers; and

(vii) the commercial space transportation industry;

(B) members of the public; and

(C) other interested parties.

(3) Establish consensus national goals, strategic objectives, and priorities for the most efficient, streamlined, and cost-effective certification and oversight processes in order to maintain the safety of the aviation system and, at the same time, allow the FAA to meet future needs and ensure that aviation stakeholders remain competitive in the global marketplace.

(4) Provide policy guidance for the FAA's certification and safety oversight efforts.

(5) Provide ongoing policy reviews of the FAA's certification and safety oversight efforts.

(6) Make appropriate legislative, regulatory, and guidance recommendations for the air transportation system and the aviation safety regulatory environment.

(7) Establish performance objectives for the FAA and industry.

(8) Establish performance metrics and goals for the FAA and the regulated aviation industry to be tracked and reviewed as streamlining and certification reform and regulation standardization efforts progress.

(9) Provide a venue for tracking progress toward national goals and sustaining joint commitments.

(10) Develop recruiting, hiring, training, and continuing education objectives for FAA aviation safety engineers and aviation safety inspectors.

(11) Provide advice and recommendations to the FAA on how to prioritize safety rulemaking projects.

(12) Improve the development of FAA regulations by providing information, advice, and recommendations related to aviation issues.

(13) Facilitate the validation of United States products abroad.

(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(A) The Administrator of the FAA (or the Administrator's designee).

(B) Individuals appointed by the Secretary to represent the following interests:

(i) Aircraft and engine manufacturers.

(ii) Avionics and equipment manufacturers.

(iii) Labor organizations, including collective bargaining representatives of FAA aviation safety inspectors and aviation safety engineers.

(iv) General aviation operators.

(v) Air carriers.

(vi) Business aviation operators.

(vii) Unmanned aircraft systems manufacturers and operators.

(viii) Aviation safety management expertise.

(ix) Aviation maintenance.

(2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the members appointed under paragraph (1), the Advisory Committee shall be composed of nonvoting members appointed by the Secretary from among individuals representing FAA safety oversight program offices.

(B) DUTIES.—The nonvoting members shall—

(i) take part in deliberations of the Advisory Committee; and

(ii) provide input with respect to any final reports or recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

(C) LIMITATION.—The nonvoting members may not represent any stakeholder interest other than FAA safety oversight program offices.

(3) TERMS.—Each member and nonvoting member of the Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

(4) COMMITTEE CHARACTERISTICS.—The Advisory Committee shall have the following characteristics:

(A) An executive-level membership, with members who can represent and enter into commitments for their organizations.

(B) The ability to obtain necessary information from experts in the aviation and aerospace communities.

(C) A membership size that enables the Committee to have substantive discussions and reach consensus on issues in a timely manner.

(D) Appropriate expertise, including expertise in certification and risked-based safety oversight processes, operations, policy, technology, labor relations, training, and finance.

(5) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Public Law 104–65 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) may not be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit the appointment of any individual as a member of the Advisory Committee.

(e) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary from among those members of the Advisory Committee that are executive-level members of the aviation industry.

(2) TERM.—Each member appointed under paragraph (1) shall serve a term of 1 year as Chairperson.

(f) MEETINGS.—

(1) FREQUENCY.—The Advisory Committee shall meet at least twice each year at the call of the Chairperson.

(2) PUBLIC ATTENDANCE.—The meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be open to the public.

(g) SPECIAL COMMITTEES.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Advisory Committee may establish special committees composed of private sector representatives, members of the public, labor representatives, and other interested parties in complying with consultation and participation requirements under this section.

(2) RULEMAKING ADVICE.—A special committee established by the Advisory Committee may—

(A) provide rulemaking advice and recommendations to the Administrator with respect to aviation-related issues;

(B) afford the FAA additional opportunities to obtain firsthand information and insight from those parties that are most affected by existing and proposed regulations; and

(C) expedite the development, revision, or elimination of rules without circumventing public rulemaking processes and procedures.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—Public Law 92–463 shall not apply to a special committee established by the Advisory Committee.

(h) SUNSET.—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on the last day of the 6-year period beginning on the date of the initial appointment of the members of the Advisory Committee.

(i) TERMINATION OF AIR TRAFFIC PROCEDURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Air Traffic Procedures Advisory Committee established by the FAA shall terminate on the

date of the initial appointment of the members of the Advisory Committee.

Subtitle B—Aircraft Certification Reform

SEC. 211. AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND METRICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee is established under section 202, the Administrator of the FAA shall establish performance objectives and apply and track metrics for the FAA and the aviation industry relating to aircraft certification in accordance with this section.

(b) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall carry out this section in collaboration with the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

(c) PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall establish performance objectives for the FAA and the aviation industry to ensure that, with respect to aircraft certification, progress is made toward, at a minimum—

(1) eliminating certification delays and improving cycle times;

(2) increasing accountability for both FAA and industry entities;

(3) achieving full utilization of FAA delegation and designation authorities;

(4) fully implementing risk management principles and a systems safety approach;

(5) reducing duplication of effort;

(6) increasing transparency;

(7) establishing and providing training, including recurrent training, in auditing and a systems safety approach to certification oversight;

(8) improving the process for approving or accepting certification actions between the FAA and bilateral partners;

(9) maintaining and improving safety;

(10) streamlining the hiring process for—

(A) qualified systems safety engineers to support FAA efforts to implement a systems safety approach; and

(B) qualified systems engineers to guide the engineering of complex systems within the FAA; and

(11) maintaining the leadership of the United States in international aviation and aerospace.

(d) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall apply and track performance metrics for the FAA and the regulated aviation industry established by the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

(e) DATA GENERATION.—

(1) BASELINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee establishes initial performance metrics for the FAA and the regulated aviation industry under section 202, the Administrator shall generate initial data with respect to each of the metrics applied and tracked under this section.

(2) MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS.—The Administrator shall use the metrics applied and tracked under this section to generate data on an ongoing basis and to measure progress toward the achievement of national goals established by the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

(f) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall make data generated using the metrics applied and tracked under this section available to the public in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable format through the internet website of the FAA and other appropriate methods and shall ensure that the data is made available in a manner that—

(1) does not provide identifying information regarding an individual or entity; and

(2) protects proprietary information.

SEC. 212. ORGANIZATION DESIGNATION AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 44736. Organization designation authorizations

''(a) DELEGATIONS OF FUNCTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), when overseeing an ODA holder, the Administrator of the FAA shall—

''(A) require, based on an application submitted by the ODA holder and approved by the Administrator (or the Administrator's designee), a procedures manual that addresses all procedures and limitations regarding the functions to be performed by the ODA holder;

''(B) delegate fully to the ODA holder each of the functions to be performed as specified in the procedures manual, unless the Administrator determines, after the date of the delegation and as a result of an inspection or other investigation, that the public interest and safety of air commerce requires a limitation with respect to 1 or more of the functions; and

''(C) conduct regular oversight activities by inspecting the ODA holder's delegated functions and taking action based on validated inspection findings.

''(2) DUTIES OF ODA HOLDERS.—An ODA holder shall—

''(A) perform each function delegated to the ODA holder in accordance with the approved procedures manual for the delegation;

''(B) make the procedures manual available to each member of the appropriate ODA unit; and

''(C) cooperate fully with oversight activities conducted by the Administrator in connection with the delegation.

''(3) EXISTING ODA HOLDERS.—With regard to an ODA holder operating under a procedures manual approved by the Administrator before the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

''(A) at the request of the ODA holder and in an expeditious manner, approve revisions to the ODA holder's procedures manual;

''(B) delegate fully to the ODA holder each of the functions to be performed as specified in the procedures manual, unless the Administrator determines, after the date of the delegation and as a result of an inspection or other investigation, that the public interest and safety of air commerce requires a limitation with respect to one or more of the functions; and

''(C) conduct regular oversight activities by inspecting the ODA holder delegated functions and taking action based on validated inspection findings.

''(b) ODA OFFICE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the FAA shall identify, within the FAA Office of Aviation Safety, a centralized policy office to be known as the Organization Designation Authorization Office or the ODA Office.

''(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the ODA Office shall be to oversee and ensure the consistency of the FAA's audit functions under the ODA program across the FAA.

''(3) FUNCTIONS.—The ODA Office shall—

''(A) improve performance and ensure full utilization of the authorities delegated under the ODA program;

''(B) create a more consistent approach to audit priorities, procedures, and training under the ODA program;

''(C) review, in a timely fashion, a random sample of limitations on delegated authorities under the ODA program to determine if the limitations are appropriate;

''(D) ensure national consistency in the interpretation and application of the requirements of the ODA program, including any limitations, and in the performance of the ODA program; and

''(E) at the request of an ODA holder, review and approve new limitations to ODA functions.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) FAA.—The term 'FAA' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(2) ODA HOLDER.—The term 'ODA holder' means an entity authorized to perform functions pursuant to a delegation made by the Administrator of the FAA under section 44702(d).

''(3) ODA UNIT.—The term ''ODA unit'' means a group of 2 or more individuals who perform, under the supervision of an ODA holder, authorized functions under an ODA.

''(4) ORGANIZATION.—The term ''organization'' means a firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint-stock association, or governmental entity.

''(5) ORGANIZATION DESIGNATION AUTHORIZATION; ODA.—The term 'Organization Designation Authorization' or 'ODA' means an authorization by the FAA under section 44702(d) for an organization comprised of 1 or more ODA units to perform approved functions on behalf of the FAA.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''44736. Organization designation authorizations.''.

SEC. 213. ODA REVIEW.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPERT REVIEW PANEL.—

(1) EXPERT PANEL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the FAA shall convene a multidisciplinary expert review panel (in this section referred to as the ''Panel'').

(2) COMPOSITION OF PANEL.—

(A) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The Panel shall be composed of not more than 20 members appointed by the Administrator.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members appointed to the Panel shall—

(i) each have a minimum of 5 years of experience in processes and procedures under the ODA program; and

(ii) represent, at a minimum, ODA holders, aviation manufacturers, safety experts, and FAA labor organizations, including labor representatives of FAA aviation safety inspectors and aviation safety engineers.

(b) SURVEY.—The Panel shall conduct a survey of ODA holders and ODA program applicants to document and assess FAA certification and oversight activities, including use of the ODA program and the timeliness and efficiency of the certification process.

(c) ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Panel shall assess and make recommendations concerning—

(1) the FAA's processes and procedures under the ODA program and whether the processes and procedures function as intended;

(2) the best practices of and lessons learned by ODA holders and individuals who provide oversight of ODA holders;

(3) performance incentive policies related to the ODA program for FAA personnel;

(4) training activities related to the ODA program for FAA personnel and ODA holders;

(5) the impact, if any, that oversight of the ODA program has on FAA resources and the FAA's ability to process applications for certifications outside of the ODA program; and

(6) the results of the survey conducted under subsection (b).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date the Panel is convened under subsection (a), the Panel shall submit to the Administrator, the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings and recommendations of the Panel.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions contained in section 44736 of title 49, United States Code, as added by this Act, apply to this section.

(f) APPLICABLE LAW.—Public Law 92–463 shall not apply to the Panel.

(g) SUNSET.—The Panel shall terminate on the date of submission of the report under subsection (d), or on the date that is 1 year after the Panel is convened under subsection (a), whichever occurs first.

SEC. 214. TYPE CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44704(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) TYPE CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall establish an effective, timely, and milestone-based issue resolution process for type certification activities under this subsection.

''(B) PROCESS REQUIREMENTS.—The resolution process shall provide for—

''(i) resolution of technical issues at pre-established stages of the certification process, as agreed to by the Administrator and the type certificate applicant;

''(ii) automatic elevation to appropriate management personnel of the Federal Aviation Administration and the type certificate applicant of any major certification process milestone that is not completed or resolved within a specific period of time agreed to by the Administrator and the type certificate applicant; and

''(iii) resolution of a major certification process milestone elevated pursuant to clause (ii) within a specific period of time agreed to by the Administrator and the type certificate applicant.

''(C) MAJOR CERTIFICATION PROCESS MILESTONE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'major certification process milestone' means a milestone related to a type certification basis, type certification plan, type inspection authorization, issue paper, or other major type certification activity agreed to by the Administrator and the type certificate applicant.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 44704 of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the section heading by striking ''**airworthiness certificates,,**'' and inserting ''**airworthiness certificates,**''.

SEC. 215. REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR SMALL GENERAL AVIATION AIRPLANES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall initiate a review of the Federal Aviation Administration's implementation of the final rule titled ''Revision of Airworthiness Standards for Normal, Utility, Acrobatic, and Commuter Category Airplanes'' (81 Fed. Reg. 96572).

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the review, the Inspector General shall assess—

(1) how the rule puts into practice the Administration's efforts to implement performance and risk-based safety standards;

(2) whether the Administration's implementation of the rule has improved safety and reduced the regulatory cost burden for the Administration and the aviation industry; and

(3) if there are lessons learned from, and best practices developed as a result of, the rule that could be applied to airworthiness standards for other categories of aircraft.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of initiation of the review, the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review, including findings and recommendations.

Subtitle C—Flight Standards Reform

SEC. 231. FLIGHT STANDARDS PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND METRICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee is established under section 202, the Administrator of the FAA shall establish performance objectives and apply and track metrics for the FAA and the aviation industry relating to flight standards activities in accordance with this section.

(b) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall carry out this section in collaboration with the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

(c) PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall establish performance objectives for the FAA and the aviation industry to ensure that, with respect to flight standards activities, progress is made toward, at a minimum—

(1) eliminating delays with respect to such activities;

(2) increasing accountability for both FAA and industry entities;

(3) achieving full utilization of FAA delegation and designation authorities;

(4) fully implementing risk management principles and a systems safety approach;

(5) reducing duplication of effort;

(6) eliminating inconsistent regulatory interpretations and inconsistent enforcement activities;

(7) improving and providing greater opportunities for training, including recurrent training, in auditing and a systems safety approach to oversight;

(8) developing and allowing utilization of a single master source for guidance;

(9) providing and utilizing a streamlined appeal process for the resolution of regulatory interpretation questions;

(10) maintaining and improving safety; and

(11) increasing transparency.

(d) METRICS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall apply and track performance metrics for the FAA and the regulated aviation industry established by the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

(e) DATA GENERATION.—

(1) BASELINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee establishes initial performance metrics for the FAA and the regulated aviation industry under section 202, the Administrator shall generate initial data with respect to each of the metrics applied and tracked under this section.

(2) MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS.—The Administrator shall use the metrics applied and tracked under this section to generate data on an ongoing basis and to measure progress toward the achievement of national goals established by the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

(f) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall make data generated using the metrics applied and tracked under this section available to the public in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable format through the internet website of the FAA and other appropriate methods and shall ensure that the data is made available in a manner that—

(1) does not provide identifying information regarding an individual or entity; and

(2) protects proprietary information.

SEC. 232. FAA TASK FORCE ON FLIGHT STANDARDS REFORM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the FAA shall establish the FAA Task Force on Flight Standards Reform (in this section referred to as the ''Task Force'').

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The membership of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Administrator.

(2) NUMBER.—The Task Force shall be composed of not more than 20 members.

(3) REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS.—The membership of the Task Force shall include representatives, with knowledge of flight standards regulatory processes and requirements, of—

(A) air carriers;

(B) general aviation;

(C) business aviation;

(D) repair stations;

(E) unmanned aircraft systems operators;

(F) flight schools;

(G) labor unions, including those representing FAA aviation safety inspectors; and

(H) aviation safety experts.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall include, at a minimum, identifying best practices and providing recommendations, for current and anticipated budgetary environments, with respect to—

(1) simplifying and streamlining flight standards regulatory processes;

(2) reorganizing Flight Standards Services to establish an entity organized by function rather than geographic region, if appropriate;

(3) FAA aviation safety inspector training opportunities;

(4) FAA aviation safety inspector standards and performance; and

(5) achieving, across the FAA, consistent—

(A) regulatory interpretations; and

(B) application of oversight activities.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the best practices identified and recommendations provided by the Task Force under subsection (c); and

(2) any recommendations of the Task Force for additional regulatory action or cost-effective legislative action.

(e) APPLICABLE LAW.—Public Law 92–463 shall not apply to the Task Force.

(f) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the Task Force submits the report required under subsection (d); or

(2) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Task Force is established under subsection (a).

SEC. 233. CENTRALIZED SAFETY GUIDANCE DATABASE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the FAA shall establish a centralized safety guidance database that will—

(1) encompass all of the regulatory guidance documents of the FAA Office of Aviation Safety;

(2) contain, for each such guidance document, a link to the Code of Federal Regulations provision to which the document relates; and

(3) be publicly available in a manner that—

(A) does not provide identifying information regarding an individual or entity; and

(B) protects proprietary information.

(b) DATA ENTRY TIMING.—

(1) EXISTING DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall begin entering into the database established under subsection (a) all of the regulatory guidance documents of the Office of Aviation Safety that are in effect and were issued before the date on which the Administrator begins such entry process.

(2) NEW DOCUMENTS AND CHANGES.—On and after the date on which the Administrator begins the document entry process under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall ensure that all new regulatory guidance documents of the Office of Aviation Safety and any changes to existing documents are included in the database established under subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In establishing the database under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult and collaborate with appropriate stakeholders, including labor organizations (including those representing aviation workers and FAA aviation safety inspectors) and industry stakeholders.

(d) REGULATORY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''regulatory guidance documents'' means all forms of written information issued by the FAA that an individual or entity may use to interpret or apply FAA regulations and requirements, including information an individual or entity may use to determine acceptable means of compliance with such regulations and requirements.

SEC. 234. REGULATORY CONSISTENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the FAA shall establish a Regulatory Consistency Communications Board (in this section referred to as the ''Board'').

(b) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In establishing the Board, the Administrator shall consult and collaborate with appropriate stakeholders, including FAA labor organizations (including labor organizations representing FAA aviation safety inspectors) and industry stakeholders.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of FAA representatives, appointed by the Administrator, from—

(1) the Flight Standards Service;

(2) the Aircraft Certification Service; and

(3) the Office of the Chief Counsel.

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The Board shall carry out the following functions:

(1) Establish, at a minimum, processes by which—

(A) FAA personnel and regulated entities may submit anonymous regulatory interpretation questions without fear of retaliation; and

(B) FAA personnel may submit written questions, and receive written responses, as to whether a previous approval or regulatory interpretation issued by FAA personnel in another office or region is correct or incorrect.

(2) Meet on a regular basis to discuss and resolve questions submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) and the appropriate application of regulations and policy with respect to each question.

(3) Provide to an individual or entity that submitted a question pursuant to paragraph (1) a timely response to the question.

(4) Establish a process to make resolutions of common regulatory interpretation questions publicly available to FAA personnel and regulated entities without providing any identifying data of the individuals or entities that submitted the questions and in a manner that protects any proprietary information.

(5) Ensure the incorporation of resolutions of questions submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) into regulatory guidance documents.

(e) PERFORMANCE METRICS, TIMELINES, AND GOALS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee establishes performance metrics for the FAA and the regulated aviation industry under section 202, the Administrator, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, shall—

(1) establish performance metrics, timelines, and goals to measure the progress of the Board in resolving regulatory interpretation questions submitted pursuant to subsection (d)(1); and

(2) implement a process for tracking the progress of the Board in meeting the metrics, timelines, and goals established under paragraph (1).

Subtitle D—Safety Workforce

SEC. 241. SAFETY WORKFORCE TRAINING STRATEGY.

(a) SAFETY WORKFORCE TRAINING STRATEGY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the FAA shall establish a safety workforce training strategy that—

(1) allows employees participating in organization management teams or conducting ODA program audits to complete, in a timely fashion, appropriate training, including recurrent training, in auditing and a systems safety approach to oversight;

(2) seeks knowledge-sharing opportunities between the FAA and the aviation industry regarding new equipment and systems, best practices, and other areas of interest;

(3) functions within the current and anticipated budgetary environments; and

(4) includes milestones and metrics for meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of establishment of the strategy required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the strategy and progress in meeting any milestones and metrics included in the strategy.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ODA; ODA HOLDER.—The terms ''ODA'' and ''ODA holder'' have the meanings given those terms in section 44736 of title 49, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(2) ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT TEAM.—The term ''organization management team'' means a team consisting of FAA aviation safety engineers, flight test pilots, and aviation safety inspectors overseeing an ODA holder and its certification activity.

SEC. 242. WORKFORCE REVIEW.

(a) WORKFORCE REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review to assess the workforce and training needs of the FAA Office of Aviation Safety in the anticipated budgetary environment.

(b) CONTENTS.—The review required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of current aviation safety inspector and aviation safety engineer hiring, training, and recurrent training requirements;

(2) an analysis of the skills and qualifications required of aviation safety inspectors and aviation safety engineers for successful performance in the current and future projected aviation safety regulatory environment, including the need for a systems engineering discipline within the FAA to guide the engineering of complex systems, with an emphasis on auditing designated authorities;

(3) a review of current performance incentive policies of the FAA, as applied to the Office of Aviation Safety, including awards for performance;

(4) an analysis of ways the FAA can work with industry and labor, including labor groups representing FAA aviation safety inspectors and aviation safety engineers, to establish knowledge-sharing opportunities between the FAA and the aviation industry regarding new equipment and systems, best practices, and other areas of interest; and

(5) recommendations on the most effective qualifications, training programs (including e-learning training), and performance incentive approaches to address the needs of the future projected aviation safety regulatory system in the anticipated budgetary environment.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review required under subsection (a).

Subtitle E—International Aviation

SEC. 251. PROMOTION OF UNITED STATES AEROSPACE STANDARDS, PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES ABROAD.

Section 40104 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) PROMOTION OF UNITED STATES AEROSPACE STANDARDS, PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES ABROAD.—The Administrator shall take appropriate actions to—

''(1) promote United States aerospace safety standards abroad;

''(2) facilitate and vigorously defend approvals of United States aerospace products and services abroad;

''(3) with respect to bilateral partners, utilize bilateral safety agreements and other mechanisms to improve validation of United States type certificated aeronautical products and appliances and enhance mutual acceptance in order to eliminate redundancies and unnecessary costs; and

''(4) with respect to foreign safety authorities, streamline validation and coordination processes.''.

SEC. 252. BILATERAL EXCHANGES OF SAFETY OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 44701(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) FOREIGN AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES.—

''(A) ACCEPTANCE.—The Administrator may accept an airworthiness directive issued by an aeronautical safety authority of a foreign country, and leverage that authority's regulatory process, if—

''(i) the country is the state of design for the product that is the subject of the airworthiness directive;

''(ii) the United States has a bilateral safety agreement relating to aircraft certification with the country;

''(iii) as part of the bilateral safety agreement with the country, the Administrator has determined that such aeronautical safety authority has a certification system relating to safety that produces a level of safety equivalent to the level produced by the

system of the Federal Aviation Administration;

''(iv) the aeronautical safety authority of the country utilizes an open and transparent notice and comment process in the issuance of airworthiness directives; and

''(v) the airworthiness directive is necessary to provide for the safe operation of the aircraft subject to the directive.

''(B) ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Administrator may issue a Federal Aviation Administration airworthiness directive instead of accepting an airworthiness directive otherwise eligible for acceptance under such subparagraph, if the Administrator determines that such issuance is necessary for safety or operational reasons due to the complexity or unique features of the Federal Aviation Administration airworthiness directive or the United States aviation system.

''(C) ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF COMPLIANCE.—The Administrator may—

''(i) accept an alternative means of compliance, with respect to an airworthiness directive accepted under subparagraph (A), that was approved by the aeronautical safety authority of the foreign country that issued the airworthiness directive; or

''(ii) notwithstanding subparagraph (A), and at the request of any person affected by an airworthiness directive accepted under such subparagraph, approve an alternative means of compliance with respect to the airworthiness directive.

''(D) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not accept an airworthiness directive issued by an aeronautical safety authority of a foreign country if the airworthiness directive addresses matters other than those involving the safe operation of an aircraft.''.

SEC. 253. FAA LEADERSHIP ABROAD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To promote United States aerospace safety standards, reduce redundant regulatory activity, and facilitate acceptance of FAA design and production approvals abroad, the Administrator of the FAA shall—

(1) attain greater expertise in issues related to dispute resolution, intellectual property, and export control laws to better support FAA certification and other aerospace regulatory activities abroad;

(2) work with United States companies to more accurately track the amount of time it takes foreign authorities, including bilateral partners, to validate United States type certificated aeronautical products;

(3) provide assistance to United States companies that have experienced significantly long foreign validation wait times;

(4) work with foreign authorities, including bilateral partners, to collect and analyze data to determine the timeliness of the acceptance and validation of FAA design and production approvals by foreign authorities and the acceptance and validation of foreign-certified products by the FAA;

(5) establish appropriate benchmarks and metrics to measure the success of bilateral aviation safety agreements and to reduce the validation time for United States type certificated aeronautical products abroad; and

(6) work with foreign authorities, including bilateral partners, to improve the timeliness of the acceptance and validation of FAA design and production approvals by foreign authorities and the acceptance and validation of foreign-certified products by the FAA.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the FAA shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(1) describes the FAA's strategic plan for international engagement;

(2) describes the structure and responsibilities of all FAA offices that have international responsibilities, including the Aircraft Certification Office, and all the activities conducted by those offices related to certification and production;

(3) describes current and forecasted staffing and travel needs for the FAA's international engagement activities, including the needs of the Aircraft Certification Office in the current and forecasted budgetary environment;

(4) provides recommendations, if appropriate, to improve the existing structure and personnel and travel policies supporting the FAA's international engagement activities, including the activities of the Aviation Certification Office, to better support the growth of United States aerospace exports; and

(5) identifies cost-effective policy initiatives, regulatory initiatives, or legislative initiatives needed to improve and enhance the timely acceptance of United States aerospace products abroad.

(c) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.—The Administrator of the FAA, or the Administrator's designee, may authorize international travel for any FAA employee, without the approval of any other person or entity, if the Administrator determines that the travel is necessary—

(1) to promote United States aerospace safety standards; or

(2) to support expedited acceptance of FAA design and production approvals.

SEC. 254. REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, AND RELATED FEES.

Section 45305 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''Subject to subsection (b)'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (c)'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) CERTIFICATION SERVICES.—Subject to subsection (c), and notwithstanding section 45301(a), the Administrator may establish and collect a fee from a foreign government or entity for services related to certification, regardless of where the services are provided, if the fee—

''(1) is established and collected in a manner consistent with aviation safety agreements; and

''(2) does not exceed the estimated costs of the services.''.

TITLE III—SAFETY

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 301. FAA TECHNICAL TRAINING.

(a) E-LEARNING TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in collaboration with the exclusive bargaining representatives of covered FAA personnel, shall establish an e-learning training pilot program in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(b) CURRICULUM.—The pilot program shall—

(1) include a recurrent training curriculum for covered FAA personnel to ensure that the personnel receive instruction on the latest aviation technologies, processes, and procedures;

(2) focus on providing specialized technical training for covered FAA personnel, as determined necessary by the Administrator;

(3) include training courses on applicable regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(4) consider the efficacy of instructor-led online training.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate 1 year after the date of establishment of the pilot program.

(d) E-LEARNING TRAINING PROGRAM.—Upon termination of the pilot program, the Administrator shall establish an e-learning training program that incorporates lessons learned for covered FAA personnel as a result of the pilot program.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED FAA PERSONNEL.—The term ''covered FAA personnel'' means airway transportation systems specialists and aviation safety inspectors of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) E-LEARNING TRAINING.—The term ''e-learning training'' means learning utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom.

SEC. 302. SAFETY CRITICAL STAFFING.

(a) UPDATE OF FAA'S SAFETY CRITICAL STAFFING MODEL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall update the safety critical staffing model of the Administration to determine the number of aviation safety inspectors that will be needed to fulfill the safety oversight mission of the Administration.

(b) AUDIT BY DOT INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator has updated the safety critical staffing model under subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall conduct an audit of the staffing model.

(2) CONTENTS.—The audit shall include, at a minimum—

(A) a review of the assumptions and methodologies used in devising and implementing the staffing model to assess the adequacy of the staffing model in predicting the number of aviation safety inspectors needed—

(i) to properly fulfill the mission of the Administration; and

(ii) to meet the future growth of the aviation industry; and

(B) a determination on whether the staffing model takes into account the Administration's authority to fully utilize designees.

(3) REPORT ON AUDIT.—

(A) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of completion of the audit, the Inspector General shall submit to the Secretary a report on the results of the audit.

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of receipt of the report, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a copy of the report, together with, if appropriate, a description of any actions taken or to be taken to address the results of the audit.

SEC. 303. INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS REGARDING TRACKING OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall exercise leadership on creating a global approach to improving aircraft tracking by working with—

(1) foreign counterparts of the Administrator in the International Civil Aviation Organization and its subsidiary organizations;

(2) other international organizations and fora; and

(3) the private sector.

SEC. 304. AIRCRAFT DATA ACCESS AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate an assessment of

aircraft data access and retrieval systems for part 121 air carrier aircraft that are used in extended overwater operations to—

(1) determine if the systems provide improved access and retrieval of aircraft data and cockpit voice recordings in the event of an aircraft accident; and

(2) assess the cost effectiveness of each system assessed.

(b) SYSTEMS TO BE EXAMINED.—The systems to be examined under this section shall include, at a minimum—

(1) automatic deployable flight recorders;

(2) emergency locator transmitters; and

(3) satellite-based solutions.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of initiation of the assessment, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the assessment.

(d) PART 121 AIR CARRIER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''part 121 air carrier'' means an air carrier that holds a certificate issued under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 305. ADVANCED COCKPIT DISPLAYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a review of heads-up display systems, heads-down display systems employing synthetic vision systems, and enhanced vision systems (in this section referred to as ''HUD systems'', ''SVS'', and ''EVS'', respectively).

(b) CONTENTS.—The review shall—

(1) evaluate the impacts of single- and dual-installed HUD systems, SVS, and EVS on the safety and efficiency of aircraft operations within the national airspace system; and

(2) review a sufficient quantity of commercial aviation accidents or incidents in order to evaluate if HUD systems, SVS, and EVS would have produced a better outcome in that accident or incident.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the review, the Administrator shall consult with aviation manufacturers, representatives of pilot groups, aviation safety organizations, and any government agencies the Administrator considers appropriate.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of the review, the actions the Administrator plans to take with respect to the systems reviewed, and the associated timeline for such actions.

SEC. 306. MARKING OF TOWERS.

Section 2110 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C. 44718 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and inserting the following:

''(a) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 or the availability of the database developed by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration pursuant to subsection (c), whichever is later, all covered towers shall be either—

''(A) clearly marked consistent with applicable guidance in the advisory circular of the Federal Aviation Administration issued December 4, 2015 (AC 70/7460–IL); or

''(B) included in the database described in subsection (c).

''(2) METEOROLOGICAL EVALUATION TOWER.—A covered tower that is a meteorological evaluation tower shall be subject to the requirements of paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B).'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively;

(3) in subsection (b)(1)(A) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in clause (i)(I) by striking ''self-standing or'' and inserting ''a meteorological evaluation tower or tower''; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) in subclause (IV) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in subclause (V) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(VI) is located within the right-of-way of a rail carrier, including within the boundaries of a rail yard, and is used for a railroad purpose;

''(VII) is determined by the Administrator to pose no hazard to air navigation; or

''(VIII) has already mitigated any hazard to aviation safety in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration guidance or as otherwise approved by the Administrator.''; and

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) develop a database that contains the location and height of each covered tower that, pursuant to subsection (a), the owner or operator of such tower elects not to mark, except that meteorological evaluation towers shall be marked and contained in the database;'';

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) ensure that the tower information in the database is de-identified and that the information only includes the location and height of covered towers; and

''(6) make the database available for use not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.''.

SEC. 307. CABIN EVACUATION.

(a) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall review—

(1) evacuation certification of transport-category aircraft used in air transportation, with regard to—

(A) emergency conditions, including impacts into water;

(B) crew procedures used for evacuations under actual emergency conditions; and

(C) any relevant changes to passenger demographics and legal requirements (including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) that affect emergency evacuations; and

(2) recent accidents and incidents where passengers evacuated such aircraft.

(b) CONSULTATION; REVIEW OF DATA.—In conducting the review, the Administrator shall—

(1) consult with the National Transportation Safety Board, transport-category aircraft manufacturers, air carriers, and other relevant experts and Federal agencies, including groups representing passengers, airline crewmembers, maintenance employees, and emergency responders; and

(2) review relevant data with respect to evacuation certification of transport-category aircraft.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review and related recommendations, if any, including any recommendations for revisions to the assumptions and methods used for assessing evacuation certification of transport-category aircraft.

SEC. 308. ODA STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Administration's progress with respect to—

(1) determining what additional model inputs and labor distribution codes are needed to identify ODA oversight staffing needs;

(2) developing and implementing system-based evaluation criteria and risk-based tools to aid ODA team members in targeting their oversight activities;

(3) developing agreements and processes for sharing resources to ensure adequate oversight of ODA personnel performing certification and inspection work at supplier and company facilities; and

(4) ensuring full utilization of ODA authority.

(b) ODA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''ODA'' has the meaning given that term in section 44736 of title 49, United States Code, as added by this Act.

SEC. 309. FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY NEEDS.

Section 44704 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY NEEDS.—

''(1) ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICANT-PROVIDED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may accept funds from an applicant for a certificate under this section to hire additional staff or obtain the services of consultants and experts to facilitate the timely processing, review, and issuance of certificates under this section.

''(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed as permitting the Administrator to grant priority or afford any preference to an applicant providing funds under paragraph (1).

''(B) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Administrator shall implement such policies and procedures as may be required to ensure that the acceptance of funds under paragraph (1) does not prejudice the Administrator in the issuance of any certificate to an applicant.

''(3) RECEIPTS CREDITED AS OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, any funds accepted under this subsection—

''(A) shall be credited as offsetting collections to the account that finances the activities and services for which the funds are accepted;

''(B) shall be available for expenditure only to pay the costs of activities and services for which the funds are accepted; and

''(C) shall remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 310. FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL FAA LICENSING NEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 50924. Funding to facilitate FAA licensing

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation may accept funds from a person applying for a license or permit under

this chapter to hire additional staff or obtain the services of consultants and experts—

''(1) to facilitate the timely processing, review, and issuance of licenses or permits issued under this chapter;

''(2) to conduct environmental activities, studies, or reviews associated with such licenses or permits; or

''(3) to conduct additional activities associated with or necessitated by such licenses or permits, including pre-application consultation, hazard area determination, or on-site inspection.

''(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed as permitting the Secretary to grant priority or afford any preference to an applicant providing funds under subsection (a).

''(2) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall implement such policies and procedures as may be required to ensure that the acceptance of funds under subsection (a) does not prejudice the Secretary in the issuance of any license or permit to an applicant.

''(c) RECEIPTS CREDITED AS OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, any funds accepted under this section—

''(1) shall be credited as offsetting collections to the account that finances the activities and services for which the funds are accepted;

''(2) shall be available for expenditure only to pay the costs of activities and services for which the funds are accepted; and

''(3) shall remain available until expended.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''50924. Funding to facilitate FAA licensing.''.

SEC. 311. EMERGENCY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ON PASSENGER AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall evaluate and revise, as appropriate, regulations in part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, regarding emergency medical equipment, including the contents of first-aid kits, applicable to all certificate holders operating passenger aircraft under that part.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall consider whether the minimum contents of approved emergency medical kits, including approved first-aid kits, include appropriate medications and equipment to meet the emergency medical needs of children.

SEC. 312. HIMS PROGRAM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a human intervention motivation study (HIMS) program for flight crewmembers employed by commercial air carriers operating in United States airspace.

SEC. 313. ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED SAFETY INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a presumption that an individual's voluntary disclosure of an operational or maintenance issue related to aviation safety under an aviation safety action program meets the criteria for acceptance as a valid disclosure under such program.

(b) DISCLAIMER REQUIRED.—Any dissemination of a disclosure that was submitted and accepted under an aviation safety action program pursuant to the presumption under subsection (a), but that has not undergone review by an event review committee, shall be accompanied by a disclaimer stating that the disclosure—

(1) has not been reviewed by an event review committee tasked with reviewing such disclosures; and

(2) may subsequently be determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the aviation safety action program.

(c) REJECTION OF DISCLOSURE.—A disclosure described under subsection (a) shall be rejected from an aviation safety action program if, after a review of the disclosure, an event review committee tasked with reviewing such disclosures determines that the disclosure fails to meet the criteria for acceptance under such program.

(d) AVIATION SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''aviation safety action program'' means a program established in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 120–66B, issued November 15, 2002 (including any similar successor advisory circular), to allow an individual to voluntarily disclose operational or maintenance issues related to aviation safety.

SEC. 314. FLIGHT ATTENDANT DUTY PERIOD LIMITATIONS AND REST REQUIREMENTS.

(a) MODIFICATION OF FINAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall modify the final rule of the Federal Aviation Administration published in the Federal Register on August 19, 1994 (59 Fed. Reg. 42974; relating to flight attendant duty period limitations and rest requirements) in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

(2) CONTENTS.—The final rule, as modified under paragraph (1), shall ensure that—

(A) a flight attendant scheduled to a duty period of 14 hours or less is given a scheduled rest period of at least 10 consecutive hours; and

(B) the rest period is not reduced under any circumstances.

(b) FATIGUE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) SUBMISSION OF PLAN BY PART 121 AIR CARRIERS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each air carrier operating under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (in this section referred to as a ''part 121 air carrier''), shall submit to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for review and acceptance a fatigue risk management plan for the carrier's flight attendants.

(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—A fatigue risk management plan submitted by a part 121 air carrier under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Current flight time and duty period limitations.

(B) A rest scheme consistent with such limitations that enables the management of flight attendant fatigue, including annual training to increase awareness of—

(i) fatigue;

(ii) the effects of fatigue on flight attendants; and

(iii) fatigue countermeasures.

(C) Development and use of a methodology that continually assesses the effectiveness of implementation of the plan, including the ability of the plan—

(i) to improve alertness; and

(ii) to mitigate performance errors.

(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall review and accept or reject each fatigue risk management plan submitted under this subsection. If the Administrator rejects a plan, the Administrator shall provide suggested modifications for resubmission of the plan.

(4) PLAN UPDATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A part 121 air carrier shall update its fatigue risk management plan under paragraph (1) every 2 years and submit the update to the Administrator for review and acceptance.

(B) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of submission of a plan update under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall review and accept or reject the update. If the Administrator rejects an update, the Administrator shall provide suggested modifications for resubmission of the update.

(5) COMPLIANCE.—A part 121 air carrier shall comply with the fatigue risk management plan of the air carrier that is accepted by the Administrator under this subsection.

(6) CIVIL PENALTIES.—A violation of this subsection by a part 121 air carrier shall be treated as a violation of chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, for purposes of the application of civil penalties under chapter 463 of that title.

SEC. 315. SECONDARY COCKPIT BARRIERS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue an order requiring the installation of a secondary cockpit barrier on each aircraft that is manufactured for delivery to a passenger air carrier in the United States operating under the provisions of part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 316. AVIATION MAINTENANCE INDUSTRY TECHNICAL WORKFORCE.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on technical workers in the aviation maintenance industry.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) analyze the current Standard Occupational Classification system with regard to the aviation profession, particularly technical workers in the aviation maintenance industry;

(2) analyze how changes to the Federal employment classification of aviation maintenance industry workers might affect government data on unemployment rates and wages;

(3) analyze how changes to the Federal employment classification of aviation maintenance industry workers might affect projections for future aviation maintenance industry workforce needs and project technical worker shortfalls;

(4) analyze the impact of Federal regulation, including Federal Aviation Administration oversight of certification, testing, and education programs, on employment of technical workers in the aviation maintenance industry;

(5) develop recommendations on how Federal Aviation Administration regulations and policies could be improved to address aviation maintenance industry needs for technical workers; and

(6) develop recommendations for better coordinating actions by government, educational institutions, and businesses to support workforce growth in the aviation maintenance industry.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) AVIATION MAINTENANCE INDUSTRY.—The term ''aviation maintenance industry'' means repair stations certificated under part 145 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) TECHNICAL WORKER.—The term ''technical worker'' means an individual authorized under part 43 of title 14, Code of Federal

Regulations, to maintain, rebuild, alter, or perform preventive maintenance on an aircraft, airframe, aircraft engine, propeller, appliance, or component part or employed by an entity so authorized to perform such a function.

SEC. 317. CRITICAL AIRFIELD MARKINGS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue a request for proposal for a study that includes—

(1) an independent, third party study to assess the durability of Type III and Type I glass beads applied to critical markings over a 2-year period at not fewer than 2 primary airports in varying weather conditions to measure the retroreflectivity levels of such markings on a quarterly basis; and

(2) a study at 2 other airports carried out by applying Type III beads on half of the centerline and Type I beads to the other half and providing for assessments from pilots through surveys administered by a third party as to the visibility and performance of the Type III glass beads as compared to the Type I glass beads over a 1-year period.

SEC. 318. REGULATORY REFORM.

Section 106(p)(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or aerospace'' after ''aviation''.

Subtitle B—Unmanned Aircraft Systems

SEC. 331. DEFINITIONS.

Except as otherwise provided, the definitions contained in section 45501 of title 49, United States Code (as added by this Act), shall apply to this subtitle.

SEC. 332. CODIFICATION OF EXISTING LAW; ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 453 the following:

''CHAPTER 455—UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

''Sec.
''45501. Definitions.
''45502. Integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into national airspace system.
''45503. Risk-based permitting of unmanned aircraft systems.
''45504. Public unmanned aircraft systems.
''45505. Special rules for certain unmanned aircraft systems.
''45506. Certification of new air navigation facilities for unmanned aircraft and other aircraft.
''45507. Special rules for certain UTM and low-altitude CNS.
''45508. Operation of small unmanned aircraft.
''45509. Special rules for model aircraft.
''45510. Carriage of property for compensation or hire.
''45511. Micro UAS operations.

''§ 45501. Definitions

''In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

''(1) AERIAL DATA COLLECTION.—The term 'aerial data collection' means the gathering of data by a device aboard an unmanned aircraft during flight, including imagery, sensing, and measurement by such device.

''(2) ARCTIC.—The term 'Arctic' means the United States zone of the Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, and Bering Sea north of the Aleutian chain.

''(3) CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER; CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION.—The terms 'certificate of waiver' and 'certificate of authorization' mean a Federal Aviation Administration grant of approval for a specific flight operation.

''(4) CNS.—The term 'CNS' means a communication, navigation, or surveillance system or service.

''(5) MODEL AIRCRAFT.—the term 'model aircraft' means an unmanned aircraft that is—

''(A) capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere;

''(B) flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; and

''(C) flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

''(6) PERMANENT AREAS.—The term 'permanent areas' means areas on land or water that provide for launch, recovery, and operation of small unmanned aircraft.

''(7) PUBLIC UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term 'public unmanned aircraft system' means an unmanned aircraft system that meets the qualifications and conditions required for operation of a public aircraft (as defined in section 40102(a)).

''(8) SENSE-AND-AVOID CAPABILITY.—The term 'sense-and-avoid capability' means the capability of an unmanned aircraft to remain a safe distance from and to avoid collisions with other airborne aircraft.

''(9) SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.—The term 'small unmanned aircraft' means an unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds, including everything that is on board or otherwise attached to the aircraft.

''(10) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.—The term 'unmanned aircraft' means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.

''(11) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term 'unmanned aircraft system' means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.

''(12) UTM.—The term 'UTM' means an unmanned aircraft traffic management system or service.

''§ 45502. Integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into national airspace system

''(a) REQUIRED PLANNING FOR INTEGRATION.—

''(1) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—Not later than November 10, 2012, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with representatives of the aviation industry, Federal agencies that employ unmanned aircraft systems technology in the national airspace system, and the unmanned aircraft systems industry, shall develop a comprehensive plan to safely accelerate the integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system.

''(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall contain, at a minimum, recommendations or projections on—

''(A) the rulemaking to be conducted under subsection (b), with specific recommendations on how the rulemaking will—

''(i) define the acceptable standards for operation and certification of civil unmanned aircraft systems;

''(ii) ensure that any civil unmanned aircraft system includes a sense-and-avoid capability; and

''(iii) establish standards and requirements for the operator and pilot of a civil unmanned aircraft system, including standards and requirements for registration and licensing;

''(B) the best methods to enhance the technologies and subsystems necessary to achieve the safe and routine operation of civil unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system;

''(C) a phased-in approach to the integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system;

''(D) a timeline for the phased-in approach described under subparagraph (C);

''(E) creation of a safe airspace designation for cooperative manned and unmanned flight operations in the national airspace system;

''(F) establishment of a process to develop certification, flight standards, and air traffic requirements for civil unmanned aircraft systems at test ranges where such systems are subject to testing;

''(G) the best methods to ensure the safe operation of civil unmanned aircraft systems and public unmanned aircraft systems simultaneously in the national airspace system; and

''(H) incorporation of the plan into the annual NextGen Implementation Plan document (or any successor document) of the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(3) DEADLINE.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall provide for the safe integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system as soon as practicable, but not later than September 30, 2015.

''(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than February 14, 2013, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a copy of the plan required under paragraph (1).

''(5) ROADMAP.—Not later than February 14, 2013, the Secretary shall approve and make available in print and on the Administration's internet website a 5-year roadmap for the introduction of civil unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system, as coordinated by the Unmanned Aircraft Program Office of the Administration. The Secretary shall update, in coordination with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and relevant stakeholders, including those in industry and academia, the roadmap annually. The roadmap shall include, at a minimum—

''(A) cost estimates, planned schedules, and performance benchmarks, including specific tasks, milestones, and timelines, for unmanned aircraft systems integration into the national airspace system, including an identification of—

''(i) the role of the unmanned aircraft systems test ranges established under subsection (c) and the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence;

''(ii) performance objectives for unmanned aircraft systems that operate in the national airspace system; and

''(iii) research and development priorities for tools that could assist air traffic controllers as unmanned aircraft systems are integrated into the national airspace system, as appropriate;

''(B) a description of how the Administration plans to use research and development, including research and development conducted through NASA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management initiatives, to accommodate, integrate, and provide for the evolution of unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system;

''(C) an assessment of critical performance abilities necessary to integrate unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system, and how these performance abilities can be demonstrated; and

''(D) an update on the advancement of technologies needed to integrate unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system, including decisionmaking by adaptive systems, such as sense-and-avoid capabilities and cyber physical systems security.

''(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the plan required under subsection (a)(1) is submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(4), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register—

''(1) a final rule on small unmanned aircraft systems that will allow for civil operation of such systems in the national airspace system, to the extent the systems do not meet the requirements for expedited operational authorization under section 45508;

''(2) a notice of proposed rulemaking to implement the recommendations of the plan required under subsection (a)(1), with the final rule to be published not later than 16 months after the date of publication of the notice; and

''(3) an update to the Administration's most recent policy statement on unmanned aircraft systems, contained in Docket No. FAA–2006–25714.

''(c) EXPANDING USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN ARCTIC.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than August 12, 2012, the Secretary shall develop a plan and initiate a process to work with relevant Federal agencies and national and international communities to designate permanent areas in the Arctic where small unmanned aircraft may operate 24 hours per day for research and commercial purposes. The plan for operations in these permanent areas shall include the development of processes to facilitate the safe operation of unmanned aircraft beyond line of sight. Such areas shall enable over-water flights from the surface to at least 2,000 feet in altitude, with ingress and egress routes from selected coastal launch sites.

''(2) AGREEMENTS.—To implement the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary may enter into an agreement with relevant national and international communities.

''(3) AIRCRAFT APPROVAL.—Not later than 1 year after the entry into force of an agreement necessary to effectuate the purposes of this subsection, the Secretary shall work with relevant national and international communities to establish and implement a process, or may apply an applicable process already established, for approving the use of unmanned aircraft in the designated permanent areas in the Arctic without regard to whether an unmanned aircraft is used as a public aircraft, a civil aircraft, or a model aircraft.

''§ 45503. Risk-based permitting of unmanned aircraft systems

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish procedures for issuing permits under this section with respect to certain unmanned aircraft systems and operations thereof.

''(b) PERMITTING STANDARDS.—Upon the submission of an application in accordance with subsection (d), the Administrator shall issue a permit with respect to the proposed operation of an unmanned aircraft system if the Administrator determines that the unmanned aircraft system and the proposed operation achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to—

''(1) other unmanned aircraft systems and operations permitted under regulation, exemption, or other authority granted by the Administrator; or

''(2) any other aircraft operation approved by the Administrator with similar risk characteristics or profiles.

''(c) SAFETY CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION.—In determining whether a proposed operation meets the standards described in subsection (b), the Administrator shall consider the following safety criteria:

''(1) The kinetic energy of the unmanned aircraft system.

''(2) The location of the proposed operation, including the proximity to—

''(A) structures;

''(B) congested areas;

''(C) special-use airspace; and

''(D) persons on the ground.

''(3) The nature of the operation, including any proposed risk mitigation.

''(4) Any known hazard of the proposed operation and the severity and likelihood of such hazard.

''(5) Any known failure modes of the unmanned aircraft system, failure mode effects and criticality, and any mitigating features or capabilities.

''(6) The operational history of relevant technologies, if available.

''(7) Any history of civil penalties or certificate actions by the Administrator against the applicant seeking the permit.

''(8) Any other safety criteria the Administrator considers appropriate.

''(d) APPLICATION.—An application under this section shall include evidence that the unmanned aircraft system and the proposed operation thereof meet the standards described in subsection (b) based on the criteria described in subsection (c).

''(e) SCOPE OF PERMIT.—A permit issued under this section shall—

''(1) be valid for 5 years;

''(2) constitute approval of both the airworthiness of the unmanned aircraft system and the proposed operation of such system;

''(3) be renewable for additional 5-year periods; and

''(4) contain any terms necessary to ensure aviation safety.

''(f) NOTICE.—Not later than 120 days after the Administrator receives a complete application under subsection (d), the Administrator shall provide the applicant written notice of a decision to approve or disapprove of the application or to request a modification of the application that is necessary for approval of the application.

''(g) PERMITTING PROCESS.—The Administrator shall issue a permit under this section without regard to subsections (b) through (d) of section 553 of title 5 and chapter 35 of title 44 if the Administrator determines that the operation permitted will not occur near a congested area.

''(h) EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent consistent with aviation safety, the Administrator may exempt applicants under this section from paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 44711(a).

''(i) WITHDRAWAL.—The Administrator may, at any time, modify or withdraw a permit issued under this section.

''(j) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply to small unmanned aircraft systems and operations authorized by the final rule on small unmanned aircraft systems issued pursuant to section 45502(b)(1).

''(k) EXPEDITED REVIEW.—The Administrator shall review and act upon applications under this section on an expedited basis for unmanned aircraft systems and operations thereof to be used primarily in, or primarily in direct support of, emergency preparedness, emergency response, or disaster recovery efforts, including efforts in connection with natural disasters and severe weather events.

''§ 45504. Public unmanned aircraft systems

''(a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than November 10, 2012, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue guidance regarding the operation of public unmanned aircraft systems to—

''(1) expedite the issuance of a certificate of authorization process;

''(2) provide for a collaborative process with public agencies to allow for an incremental expansion of access to the national airspace system as technology matures and the necessary safety analysis and data become available, and until standards are completed and technology issues are resolved;

''(3) facilitate the capability of public agencies to develop and use test ranges, subject to operating restrictions required by the Federal Aviation Administration, to test and operate unmanned aircraft systems; and

''(4) provide guidance on a public entity's responsibility when operating an unmanned aircraft without a civil airworthiness certificate issued by the Administration.

''(b) STANDARDS FOR OPERATION AND CERTIFICATION.—Not later than December 31, 2015, the Administrator shall develop and implement operational and certification requirements for the operation of public unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system.

''(c) AGREEMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May 14, 2012, the Secretary shall enter into agreements with appropriate government agencies to simplify the process for issuing certificates of waiver or authorization with respect to applications seeking authorization to operate public unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The agreements shall—

''(A) with respect to an application described in paragraph (1)—

''(i) provide for an expedited review of the application;

''(ii) require a decision by the Administrator on approval or disapproval within 60 business days of the date of submission of the application; and

''(iii) allow for an expedited appeal if the application is disapproved;

''(B) allow for a one-time approval of similar operations carried out during a fixed period of time; and

''(C) allow a government public safety agency to operate unmanned aircraft weighing 4.4 pounds or less, if operated—

''(i) within the line of sight of the operator;

''(ii) less than 400 feet above the ground;

''(iii) during daylight conditions;

''(iv) within Class G airspace; and

''(v) outside of 5 statute miles from any airport, heliport, seaplane base, spaceport, or other location with aviation activities.

''§ 45505. Special rules for certain unmanned aircraft systems

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other requirement of this subtitle, and not later than August 12, 2012, the Secretary of Transportation shall determine if certain unmanned aircraft systems may operate safely in the national airspace system before completion of the plan and rulemaking required by section 45502 or the guidance required under section 45504.

''(b) ASSESSMENT OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—In making the determination under subsection (a), the Secretary shall determine, at a minimum—

''(1) which types of unmanned aircraft systems, if any, as a result of their size, weight, speed, operational capability, proximity to airports and populated areas, and operation within visual line of sight do not create a hazard to users of the national airspace system or the public or pose a threat to national security; and

''(2) whether a certificate of waiver, certificate of authorization, or airworthiness certification under section 44704 is required for the operation of unmanned aircraft systems identified under paragraph (1).

''(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFE OPERATION.—If the Secretary determines under this section that certain unmanned aircraft systems may operate safely in the national airspace system, the Secretary shall establish requirements for the safe operation of such aircraft systems in the national airspace system.

"§ 45506. Certification of new air navigation facilities for unmanned aircraft and other aircraft

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, and notwithstanding section 2208 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note), the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a rulemaking to establish procedures for issuing air navigation facility certificates pursuant to section 44702 to operators of—

''(1) UTM for unmanned aircraft operations that occur primarily or exclusively in airspace 400 feet above ground level and below; and

''(2) low-altitude CNS for aircraft operations that occur primarily or exclusively in airspace 400 feet above ground level and below.

''(b) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing a final rule pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator, at a minimum, shall provide for the following:

''(1) CERTIFICATION STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall issue an air navigation facility certificate under the final rule if the Administrator determines that a UTM or low-altitude CNS facilitates or improves the safety of unmanned aircraft or other aircraft operations that occur primarily or exclusively in airspace 400 feet above ground level and below, including operations conducted under a waiver issued pursuant to subpart D of part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(2) CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION.—In determining whether a UTM or low-altitude CNS meets the standard described in paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, as appropriate, consider—

''(A) protection of persons and property on the ground;

''(B) remote identification of aircraft;

''(C) collision avoidance with respect to obstacles and aircraft;

''(D) deconfliction of aircraft trajectories;

''(E) safe and reliable interoperability or noninterference with air traffic control and other systems operated in the national airspace system;

''(F) detection of noncooperative aircraft;

''(G) geographic and local factors;

''(H) aircraft equipage; and

''(I) qualifications, if any, necessary to operate the UTM or low-altitude CNS.

''(3) APPLICATION.—An application for an air navigation facility certificate under the final rule shall include evidence that the UTM or low-altitude CNS meets the standard described in paragraph (1) based on the criteria described in paragraph (2).

''(4) SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE.—The Administrator shall ensure that an air navigation facility certificate issued under the final rule—

''(A) constitutes approval of the UTM or low-altitude CNS for the duration of the term of the certificate;

''(B) constitutes authorization to operate the UTM or low-altitude CNS for the duration of the term of the certificate; and

''(C) contains such limitations and conditions as may be necessary to ensure aviation safety.

''(5) NOTICE.—Not later than 120 days after the Administrator receives a complete application under the final rule, the Administrator shall provide the applicant with a written approval, disapproval, or request to modify the application.

''(6) LOW RISK AREAS.—Under the final rule, the Administrator shall establish expedited procedures for approval of UTM or low-altitude CNS operated in—

''(A) airspace away from congested areas; or

''(B) other airspace above areas in which operations of unmanned aircraft pose very low risk.

''(7) EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent consistent with aviation safety, the Administrator may exempt applicants under the final rule from requirements under sections 44702, 44703, and 44711.

''(8) CERTIFICATE MODIFICATIONS AND REVOCATIONS.—A certificate issued under the final rule may, at any time, be modified or revoked by the Administrator.

''(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consult with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

"§ 45507. Special rules for certain UTM and low-altitude CNS

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other requirement of this chapter, and not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall determine if certain UTM and low-altitude CNS may operate safely in the national airspace system before completion of the rulemaking required by section 45506.

''(b) ASSESSMENT OF UTM AND LOW-ALTITUDE CNS.—In making the determination under subsection (a), the Secretary shall determine, at a minimum, which types of UTM and low-altitude CNS, if any, as a result of their operational capabilities, reliability, intended use, and areas of operation, and the characteristics of the aircraft involved, do not create a hazard to users of the national airspace system or the public.

''(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFE OPERATION.—If the Secretary determines that certain UTM and low-altitude CNS may operate safely in the national airspace system, the Secretary shall establish requirements for their safe operation in the national airspace system.

''(d) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall provide expedited procedures for reviewing and approving UTM or low-altitude CNS operated to monitor or control aircraft operated primarily or exclusively in airspace above—

''(1) croplands;

''(2) areas other than congested areas; and

''(3) other areas in which the operation of unmanned aircraft poses very low risk.

''(e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consult with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

"§ 45508. Operation of small unmanned aircraft

''(a) EXEMPTION AND CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN OPERATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a procedure for granting an exemption and issuing a certificate of waiver or authorization for the operation of a small unmanned aircraft system in United States airspace for the purposes described in section 45501(1).

''(b) OPERATION OF EXEMPTION AND CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION.—

''(1) EXEMPTION.—An exemption granted under this section shall—

''(A) exempt the operator of a small unmanned aircraft from the provisions of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, that are exempted in Exemption No. 11687, issued on May 26, 2015, Regulatory Docket Number FAA–2015–0117, or in a subsequent exemption; and

''(B) contain conditions and limitations described in paragraphs 3 through 31 of such Exemption No. 11687, or conditions and limitations of a subsequent exemption.

''(2) CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION.—A certificate of waiver or authorization issued under this section shall allow the operation of small unmanned aircraft according to—

''(A) the standard provisions and air traffic control special provisions of the certificate of waiver or authorization FAA Form 7711–1 (7–74); or

''(B) the standard and special provisions of a subsequent certificate of waiver or authorization.

''(c) NOTICE TO ADMINISTRATOR.—Before operating a small unmanned aircraft pursuant to a certificate of waiver or authorization granted under this section, the operator shall provide written notice to the Administrator, in a form and manner specified by the Administrator, that contains such information and assurances as the Administrator determines necessary in the interest of aviation safety and the efficiency of the national airspace system, including a certification that the operator has read, understands, and will comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the certificate of waiver or authorization.

''(d) WAIVER OF AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE.—Notwithstanding section 44711(a)(1), the holder of a certificate of waiver or authorization granted under this section may operate a small unmanned aircraft under the terms, conditions, and limitations of such certificate without an airworthiness certificate.

''(e) PROCEDURE.—The granting of an exemption or the issuance of a certificate of waiver or authorization, or any other action authorized by this section, shall be made without regard to—

''(1) section 553 of title 5; or

''(2) chapter 35 of title 44.

''(f) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

''(1) affect the issuance of a rule by or any other activity of the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator under any other provision of law; or

''(2) invalidate an exemption or certificate of waiver or authorization issued by the Administrator before the date of enactment of this section.

''(g) EFFECTIVE PERIODS.—An exemption or certificate of waiver or authorization issued under this section, or an amendment of such exemption or certificate, shall cease to be valid on the effective date of a final rule on small unmanned aircraft systems issued under section 45502(b)(1).

"§ 45509. Special rules for model aircraft

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the incorporation of unmanned aircraft systems into Federal Aviation Administration plans and policies, including this subtitle, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may not promulgate any rule or regulation regarding a model aircraft or an aircraft being developed as a model aircraft (other than the registration of certain model aircraft pursuant to section 44103), if—

''(1) the aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use;

''(2) the aircraft is operated in accordance with a community-based set of safety guidelines and within the programming of a community-based organization;

''(3) the aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds unless otherwise certified through a design, construction, inspection, flight test, and operational safety program administered by a community-based organization;

''(4) the aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft;

''(5) the aircraft is not operated over or within the property of a fixed site facility that operates amusement rides available for use by the general public or the property extending 500 lateral feet beyond the perimeter

of such facility unless the operation is authorized by the owner of the amusement facility; and

''(6) when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 5 miles of an airport should establish a mutually agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport)).

''(b) COMMERCIAL OPERATION FOR INSTRUCTIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.—A flight of an unmanned aircraft shall be treated as a flight of a model aircraft for purposes of subsection (a) (regardless of any compensation, reimbursement, or other consideration exchanged or incidental economic benefit gained in the course of planning, operating, or supervising the flight), if the flight is—

''(1) conducted for instructional or educational purposes; and

''(2) operated or supervised by a member of a community-based organization recognized pursuant to subsection (e).

''(c) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to pursue enforcement action against persons operating model aircraft who endanger the safety of the national airspace system.

''(d) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'community-based organization' means an entity that—

''(1) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(2) is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(3) the mission of which is demonstrably the furtherance of model aviation;

''(4) provides a comprehensive set of safety guidelines for all aspects of model aviation addressing the assembly and operation of model aircraft and that emphasize safe aeromodeling operations within the national airspace system and the protection and safety of individuals and property on the ground;

''(5) provides programming and support for any local charter organizations, affiliates, or clubs; and

''(6) provides assistance and support in the development and operation of locally designated model aircraft flying sites.

''(e) RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish, and make available to the public, a process for recognizing community-based organizations that meet the eligibility criteria under subsection (d).

''§ 45510. Carriage of property for compensation or hire

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule authorizing the carriage of property by operators of small unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire within the United States.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The final rule required under subsection (a) shall provide for the following:

''(1) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATE.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, at the direction of the Secretary, shall establish a small UAS air carrier certificate for persons that undertake directly, or by lease or other arrangement, the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems to carry property in air transportation, including commercial fleet operations with highly automated unmanned aircraft systems. The requirements to obtain a small UAS air carrier certificate shall—

''(A) account for the unique characteristics of highly automated small unmanned aircraft systems; and

''(B) include only those obligations necessary for the safe operation of small unmanned aircraft systems.

''(2) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—The Administrator, at the direction of the Secretary, shall establish a process for the issuance of a small UAS air carrier certificate described in paragraph (1) that is streamlined, simple, performance-based, and risk-based. Such certification process shall consider—

''(A) safety and the mitigation of operational risks from highly automated small unmanned aircraft systems to the safety of other aircraft, and persons and property on the ground;

''(B) the safety and reliability of highly automated small unmanned aircraft system design, including technological capabilities and operational limitations to mitigate such risks; and

''(C) the competencies and compliance programs of manufacturers, operators, and companies that both manufacture and operate small unmanned aircraft systems and components.

''(3) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CLASSIFICATION.—The Secretary shall develop a classification system for small unmanned aircraft systems air carriers to establish economic authority for the carriage of property by small unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire. Such classification shall only require—

''(A) registration with the Department of Transportation; and

''(B) a valid small UAS air carrier certificate as described in paragraph (1).

''§ 45511. Micro UAS operations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall charter an aviation rulemaking advisory committee to develop recommendations for regulations under which any person may operate a micro unmanned aircraft system, the aircraft component of which weighs 4.4 pounds or less, including payload, without the person operating the system being required to pass any airman certification requirement, including any requirements under section 44703, part 61 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other rule or regulation relating to airman certification.

''(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing recommendations for the operation of micro unmanned aircraft systems under subsection (a), the members of the aviation rulemaking advisory committee shall consider rules for operation of such systems—

''(1) at an altitude of less than 400 feet above ground level;

''(2) with an airspeed of not greater than 40 knots;

''(3) within the visual line of sight of the operator;

''(4) during the hours between sunrise and sunset;

''(5) by an operator who has passed an aeronautical knowledge and safety test administered by the Federal Aviation Administration online specifically for the operation of micro unmanned aircraft systems, with such test being of a length and difficulty that acknowledges the reduced operational complexity and low risk of micro unmanned aircraft systems;

''(6) not over unprotected persons uninvolved in its operation; and

''(7) at least 5 statute miles from the geographic center of a tower-controlled airport or airport denoted on a current Federal Aviation Administration-published aeronautical chart, except that a micro unmanned aircraft system may be operated closer than 5 statute miles to the airport if the operator—

''(A) provides prior notice to the airport operator; and

''(B) receives, for a tower-controlled airport, prior approval from the air traffic control facility located at the airport.

''(c) CONSULTATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing recommendations for recommended regulations under subsection (a), the aviation rulemaking advisory committee shall consult with—

''(A) unmanned aircraft systems stakeholders, including manufacturers of micro unmanned aircraft systems;

''(B) community-based aviation organizations;

''(C) the Center of Excellence for Unmanned Aircraft Systems; and

''(D) appropriate Federal agencies.

''(2) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to an aviation rulemaking advisory committee chartered under this section.

''(d) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the recommendations under subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue regulations incorporating recommendations of the aviation rulemaking advisory committee that provide for the operation of micro unmanned aircraft systems in the United States—

''(1) without an airman certificate; and

''(2) without an airworthiness certificate for the associated unmanned aircraft.

''(e) SCOPE OF REGULATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether a person may operate an unmanned aircraft system under 1 or more of the circumstances described under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b), the Administrator shall use a risk-based approach and consider, at a minimum, the physical and functional characteristics of the unmanned aircraft system.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may only issue regulations under this section for unmanned aircraft systems that the Administrator determines may be operated safely in the national airspace system pursuant to those regulations.

''(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

''(1) to prohibit a person from operating an unmanned aircraft system under a circumstance described under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b) if—

''(A) the circumstance is allowed by regulations issued under this section; and

''(B) the person operates the unmanned aircraft system in a manner prescribed by the regulations; or

''(2) to limit or affect in any way the Administrator's authority to conduct a rulemaking, make a determination, or carry out any activity related to unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft systems under any other provision of law.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REPEALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Sections 332(a), 332(b), 332(d), 333, 334, and 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) are repealed.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The items relating to sections 333, 334, and 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) in the table of contents contained in section 1(b) of that Act are repealed.

(2) PENALTIES.—Section 46301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting ''chapter 455,'' after ''chapter 451,''; and

(ii) in paragraph (5)(A)(i) by striking ''or chapter 451,'' and inserting ''chapter 451, chapter 455,'';

(B) in subsection (d)(2) by inserting ''chapter 455,'' after ''chapter 451,''; and

(C) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(i) by striking ''or chapter 451'' and inserting ''chapter 451, or chapter 455''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 453 the following:

''455. Unmanned aircraft systems ..... 45501''.

SEC. 333. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TEST RANGES.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 332(c)(1) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2019'' and inserting ''the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018''.

(b) SENSE-AND-AVOID AND BEYOND LINE OF SIGHT SYSTEMS AT TEST RANGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent consistent with aviation safety, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall permit and encourage flights of unmanned aircraft equipped with sense-and-avoid and beyond line of sight systems at the 6 test ranges designated under section 332(c) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

(2) WAIVERS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator may waive the requirements of section 44711 of title 49, United States Code, including related regulations, to the extent consistent with aviation safety.

(c) TEST RANGE DEFINED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ''test range'' means a defined geographic area where research and development are conducted as authorized by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any of the 6 test ranges established by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration under section 332(c) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subsection, and any public entity authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration as an unmanned aircraft system flight test center before January 1, 2009.

SEC. 334. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SAFETY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the unauthorized operation of unmanned aircraft near airports presents a serious hazard to aviation safety;

(2) a collision between an unmanned aircraft and a conventional aircraft in flight could jeopardize the safety of persons aboard the aircraft and on the ground;

(3) Federal aviation regulations, including sections 91.126 through 91.131 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, prohibit unauthorized operation of an aircraft in controlled airspace near an airport;

(4) Federal aviation regulations, including section 91.13 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, prohibit the operation of an aircraft in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of another;

(5) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration should pursue all available civil and administrative remedies available to the Administrator, including referrals to other government agencies for criminal investigations, with respect to persons who operate unmanned aircraft in an unauthorized manner;

(6) the Administrator should place particular priority on continuing measures, including partnerships with nongovernmental organizations, to educate the public about the dangers to the public safety of operating unmanned aircraft near airports without the appropriate approvals or authorizations; and

(7) manufacturers and retail sellers of small unmanned aircraft systems should take steps to educate consumers about the safe and lawful operation of such systems.

SEC. 335. UAS PRIVACY REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, appropriate State and local officials, and subject-matter experts and in consideration of relevant efforts led by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, shall carry out a review to identify any potential reduction of privacy specifically caused by the integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the review, the Secretary shall consult with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the Department of Commerce on its ongoing efforts responsive to the Presidential memorandum titled ''Promoting Economic Competitiveness While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties in Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems'' and dated February 15, 2015.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review required under subsection (a).

SEC. 336. PUBLIC UAS OPERATIONS BY TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

(a) PUBLIC UAS OPERATIONS BY TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 40102(a)(41) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) An unmanned aircraft that is owned and operated by, or exclusively leased for at least 90 continuous days by, an Indian Tribal government, as defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), except as provided in section 40125(b).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 40125(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''or (D)'' and inserting ''(D), or (F)''.

SEC. 337. EVALUATION OF AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION FOR SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

(a) METRICS.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall develop and track metrics to assess compliance with and effectiveness of the registration of small unmanned aircraft systems by the Federal Aviation Administration pursuant to the interim final rule issued on December 16, 2015, entitled ''Registration and Marking Requirements for Small Unmanned Aircraft'' (80 Fed. Reg. 78593) and any subsequent final rule, including metrics with respect to—

(1) the levels of compliance with the interim final rule and any subsequent final rule;

(2) the number of enforcement actions taken by the Administration for violations of or noncompliance with the interim final rule and any subsequent final rule, together with a description of the actions; and

(3) the effect of the interim final rule and any subsequent final rule on compliance with any fees associated with the use of small unmanned aircraft systems.

(b) EVALUATION.—The Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall evaluate—

(1) the Administration's progress in developing and tracking the metrics set forth in subsection (a); and

(2) the reliability, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Administration's registration program for small unmanned aircraft.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the evaluation required under subsection (b); and

(2) recommendations to the Administrator and Congress for improvements to the registration process for small unmanned aircraft.

SEC. 338. STUDY ON ROLES OF GOVERNMENTS RELATING TO LOW-ALTITUDE OPERATION OF SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall initiate a study on—

(1) the regulation and oversight of the low-altitude operations of small unmanned aircraft and small unmanned aircraft systems; and

(2) the appropriate roles and responsibilities of Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments in regulating and overseeing the operations of small unmanned aircraft in airspace 400 feet above ground level and below.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the study, the Inspector General shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the recommendations of Task Group 1 of the Drone Advisory Committee chartered by the Federal Aviation Administration on August 31, 2016;

(2) the legal and policy requirements necessary for the safe and financially viable development and growth of the unmanned aircraft industry;

(3) the interests of Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments affected by low-altitude operations of small unmanned aircraft;

(4) the existing authorities of Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments to protect the interests referenced in paragraph (3);

(5) the degree of regulatory consistency required for the safe and financially viable growth and development of the unmanned aircraft industry;

(6) the degree of local variance possible among regulations consistent with the safe and financially viable growth and development of the unmanned aircraft industry;

(7) the appropriate roles of State, local, and Tribal governments in regulating the operations of small unmanned aircraft within the lateral boundaries of their jurisdiction in the categories of airspace described in subsection (a)(2);

(8) the subjects and types of regulatory authority that should remain with the Federal Government;

(9) the infrastructure requirements necessary for monitoring the low-altitude operations of small unmanned aircraft and enforcing applicable laws;

(10) the number of small businesses involved in the various sectors of the unmanned aircraft industry and operating as primary users of small unmanned aircraft; and

(11) any best practices, lessons learned, or policies of jurisdictions outside the United States relating to local or regional regulation and oversight of small unmanned aircraft and other emergent technologies.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after initiating the study, the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 339. STUDY ON FINANCING OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a study on appropriate fee mechanisms to recover the costs of—

(1) the regulation and safety oversight of unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems; and

(2) the provision of air navigation services to unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the study, the Comptroller General shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the recommendations of Task Group 3 of the Drone Advisory Committee chartered by the Federal Aviation Administration on August 31, 2016;

(2) the total annual costs incurred by the Federal Aviation Administration for the regulation and safety oversight of activities related to unmanned aircraft;

(3) the annual costs attributable to various types, classes, and categories of unmanned aircraft activities;

(4) air traffic services provided to unmanned aircraft operating under instrument flight rules, excluding public aircraft;

(5) the number of full-time Federal Aviation Administration employees dedicated to unmanned aircraft programs;

(6) the use of privately operated UTM and other privately operated unmanned aircraft systems;

(7) the projected growth of unmanned aircraft operations for various applications and the estimated need for regulation, oversight, and other services;

(8) the number of small businesses involved in the various sectors of the unmanned aircraft industry and operating as primary users of unmanned aircraft; and

(9) any best practices or policies utilized by jurisdictions outside the United States relating to partial or total recovery of regulation and safety oversight costs related to unmanned aircraft and other emergent technologies.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after initiating the study, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing recommendations on appropriate fee mechanisms to recover the costs of regulating and providing air navigation services to unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems.

SEC. 340. UPDATE OF FAA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall update the comprehensive plan developed pursuant to section 332 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) to develop a concept of operations for the integration of unmanned aircraft into the national airspace system.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the update, the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the potential use of UTM and other technologies to ensure the safe and lawful operation of unmanned aircraft in the national airspace system;

(2) the appropriate roles, responsibilities, and authorities of government agencies and the private sector in identifying and reporting unlawful or harmful operations and operators of unmanned aircraft;

(3) the use of models, threat assessments, probabilities, and other methods to distinguish between lawful and unlawful operations of unmanned aircraft; and

(4) appropriate systems, training, intergovernmental processes, protocols, and procedures to mitigate risks and hazards posed by unlawful or harmful operations of unmanned aircraft systems.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the update in consultation with representatives of the aviation industry, Federal agencies that employ unmanned aircraft systems technology in the national airspace system, and the unmanned aircraft systems industry.

SEC. 341. COOPERATION RELATED TO CERTAIN COUNTER-UAS TECHNOLOGY.

In matters relating to the use of systems in the national airspace system intended to mitigate threats posed by errant or hostile unmanned aircraft system operations, the Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Secretary of Defense to streamline deployment of such systems by drawing upon the expertise and experience of the Department of Defense in acquiring and operating such systems consistent with the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system.

TITLE IV—AIR SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Subtitle A—Airline Customer Service Improvements

SEC. 401. RELIABLE AIR SERVICE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 40109(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) review the exemption at least every 30 days (or, in the case of an exemption that is necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a, at least every 180 days) to ensure that the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption still exist.''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) RENEWAL OF EXEMPTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may renew an exemption (including renewals) under this subsection for not more than 30 days.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may renew an exemption (including renewals) under this subsection that is necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a for not more than 180 days.

''(4) CONTINUATION OF EXEMPTIONS.—An exemption granted by the Secretary under this subsection may continue for not more than 5 days after the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption cease.''.

SEC. 402. CELL PHONE VOICE COMMUNICATION BAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 41725. Prohibition on certain cell phone voice communications

''(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall issue regulations—

''(1) to prohibit an individual on an aircraft from engaging in voice communications using a mobile communications device during a flight of that aircraft in scheduled passenger interstate or intrastate air transportation; and

''(2) that exempt from the prohibition described in paragraph (1) any—

''(A) member of the flight crew on duty on an aircraft;

''(B) flight attendant on duty on an aircraft; and

''(C) Federal law enforcement officer acting in an official capacity.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) FLIGHT.—The term 'flight' means, with respect to an aircraft, the period beginning when the aircraft takes off and ending when the aircraft lands.

''(2) MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'mobile communications device' means any portable wireless telecommunications equipment utilized for the transmission or reception of voice data.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The term 'mobile communications device' does not include a phone installed on an aircraft.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 41724 the following:

''41725. Prohibition on certain cell phone voice communications.''.

SEC. 403. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AVIATION CONSUMER PROTECTION.

Section 411 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 42301 prec. note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

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

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) independent distributors of travel;'';

(2) in subsection (g) by striking ''first 2 calendar years'' and inserting ''first 6 calendar years''; and

(3) in subsection (h) by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2023''.

SEC. 404. IMPROVED NOTIFICATION OF INSECTICIDE USE.

Section 42303(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—An air carrier, foreign air carrier, or ticket agent selling, in the United States, a ticket for a flight in foreign air transportation to a country listed on the internet website established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) disclose, on its own internet website or through other means, that the destination country may require the air carrier or foreign air carrier to treat an aircraft passenger cabin with insecticides prior to the flight or to apply an aerosol insecticide in an aircraft cabin used for such a flight when the cabin is occupied with passengers; and

''(2) refer the purchaser of the ticket to the internet website established under subsection (a) for additional information.''.

SEC. 405. ADVERTISEMENTS AND DISCLOSURE OF FEES FOR PASSENGER AIR TRANSPORTATION.

(a) FULL FARE ADVERTISING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 41712 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) FULL FARE ADVERTISING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be an unfair or deceptive practice under subsection (a) for a covered entity to state in an advertisement or solicitation for passenger air transportation the base airfare for the air transportation if the covered entity clearly and separately discloses—

''(A) the government-imposed fees and taxes associated with the air transportation; and

''(B) the total cost of the air transportation.

''(2) FORM OF DISCLOSURE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B) shall be disclosed in the advertisement or solicitation in a manner that clearly presents the information to the consumer.

''(B) INTERNET ADVERTISEMENTS AND SOLICITATIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), with respect to an advertisement or solicitation for passenger air transportation that appears on an internet website or a mobile application, the information described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B) may be disclosed through a link or pop-up, as such terms may be defined by the Secretary, that displays the information in a manner that is easily accessible and viewable by the consumer.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

''(A) BASE AIRFARE.—The term 'base airfare' means the cost of passenger air transportation, excluding government-imposed fees and taxes.

''(B) COVERED ENTITY.—The term 'covered entity' means an air carrier, including an indirect air carrier, foreign air carrier, ticket agent, or other person offering to sell tickets for passenger air transportation or a tour or tour component that must be purchased with air transportation.''.

(2) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by paragraph (1) may be construed to affect any obligation of a person that sells air transportation to disclose the total cost of the air transportation, including government-imposed fees and taxes, prior to purchase of the air transportation.

(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue final regulations to carry out the amendment made by paragraph (1).

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection, and the amendments made by this subsection, shall take effect on the earlier of—

(A) the effective date of regulations issued under paragraph (3); and

(B) the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) DISCLOSURE OF FEES.—Section 41712 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DISCLOSURE OF FEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be an unfair or deceptive practice under subsection (a) for any air carrier, foreign air carrier, or ticket agent to fail to include, in an internet fare quotation for a specific itinerary in air transportation selected by a consumer—

''(A) a clear and prominent statement that additional fees for checked baggage and carry-on baggage may apply; and

''(B) a prominent link that connects directly to a list of all such fees.

''(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to derogate or limit any responsibilities of an air carrier, foreign air carrier, or ticket agent under section 399.85 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor provision.''.

SEC. 406. INVOLUNTARILY BUMPING PASSENGERS AFTER AIRCRAFT BOARDED.

Section 41712 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) INVOLUNTARILY DENIED BOARDING AFTER AIRCRAFT BOARDED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be an unfair or deceptive practice under subsection (a) for an air carrier or foreign air carrier subject to part 250 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to involuntarily deplane a revenue passenger onboard an aircraft, if the revenue passenger—

''(A) is traveling on a confirmed reservation; and

''(B) checked-in for the relevant flight prior to the check-in deadline.

''(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit the authority of an air carrier, foreign air carrier, or airman to remove a passenger in accordance with—

''(A) section 91.3, 121.533(d), or 121.580 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor provision; or

''(B) any other applicable Federal, State, or local law.''.

SEC. 407. AVAILABILITY OF CONSUMER RIGHTS INFORMATION.

Section 42302(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''on the'' and inserting ''in a prominent place on the homepage of the primary'';

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) the air carrier's customer service plan.''.

SEC. 408. CONSUMER COMPLAINTS HOTLINE.

Section 42302 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.—The Secretary shall periodically evaluate the benefits of using mobile phone applications or other widely used technologies to provide new means for air passengers to communicate complaints in addition to the telephone number established under subsection (a) and shall provide such new means as the Secretary determines appropriate.''.

SEC. 409. WIDESPREAD DISRUPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 42304. Widespread disruptions

''(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—In the event of a widespread disruption, a covered air carrier shall immediately publish, via a prominent link on the air carrier's public internet website, a clear statement indicating whether, with respect to a passenger of the air carrier whose travel is interrupted as a result of the widespread disruption, the air carrier will—

''(1) provide for hotel accommodations;

''(2) arrange for ground transportation;

''(3) provide meal vouchers;

''(4) arrange for air transportation on another air carrier or foreign air carrier to the passenger's destination; and

''(5) provide for sleeping facilities inside the airport terminal.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) WIDESPREAD DISRUPTION.—The term 'widespread disruption' means, with respect to a covered air carrier, the interruption of all or the overwhelming majority of the air carrier's systemwide flight operations, including flight delays and cancellations, as the result of the failure of 1 or more computer systems or computer networks of the air carrier.

''(2) COVERED AIR CARRIER.—The term 'covered air carrier' means an air carrier that provides scheduled passenger air transportation by operating an aircraft that as originally designed has a passenger capacity of 30 or more seats.

''(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to modify, abridge, or repeal any obligation of an air carrier under section 42301.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''42304. Widespread disruptions.''.

SEC. 410. INVOLUNTARILY DENIED BOARDING COMPENSATION.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule to revise part 250 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to clarify that—

(1) there is not a maximum level of compensation an air carrier or foreign air carrier may pay to a passenger who is involuntarily denied boarding as the result of an oversold flight;

(2) the compensation levels set forth in that part are the minimum levels of compensation an air carrier or foreign air carrier must pay to a passenger who is involuntarily denied boarding as the result of an oversold flight; and

(3) an air carrier or foreign air carrier must proactively offer to pay compensation to a passenger who is voluntarily or involuntarily denied boarding on an oversold flight, rather than waiting until the passenger requests the compensation.

SEC. 411. CONSUMER INFORMATION ON ACTUAL FLIGHT TIMES.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of modifying regulations contained in section 234.11 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to ensure that—

(1) a reporting carrier (including its contractors), during the course of a reservation or ticketing discussion or other inquiry, discloses to a consumer upon reasonable request the projected period between the actual wheels-off and wheels-on times for a reportable flight; and

(2) a reporting carrier displays, on the public internet website of the carrier, information on the actual wheels-off and wheels-on times during the most recent calendar month for a reportable flight.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''reporting carrier'' and ''reportable flight'' have the meanings given those terms in section 234.2 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 412. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPARENCY IN AIR AMBULANCE INDUSTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish an advisory committee to make recommendations for a rulemaking—

(1) to require air ambulance operators to clearly disclose charges for air transportation services separately from charges for non-air transportation services within any invoice or bill; and

(2) to provide other consumer protections for customers of air ambulance operators.

(b) COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The advisory committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) The Secretary of Transportation.

(2) 1 representative, to be appointed by the Secretary, of each of the following:

(A) Each relevant Federal agency, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) Air ambulance operators.

(C) State insurance regulators.

(D) Health insurance providers.

(E) Consumer groups.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The advisory committee shall make recommendations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Cost-allocation methodologies needed to ensure that charges for air transportation services are separated from charges for non-air transportation services.

(2) Cost- or price-allocation methodologies to prevent commingling of charges for air transportation services and charges for non-air transportation services in bills and invoices.

(3) Formats for bills and invoices to ensure that customers and State insurance regulators can clearly distinguish between charges for air transportation services and charges for non-air transportation services.

(4) Data or industry references related to aircraft operating costs to be used in determining the proper allocation of charges for air transportation services and charges for non-air transportation services.

(5) Guidance materials to instruct States, political subdivisions of States, and political authorities of 2 or more States on referring to the Secretary allegations of unfair or deceptive practices or unfair methods of competition by air ambulance operators.

(6) Protections for customers of air ambulance operators, after consideration of the circumstances in which the services of air ambulance operators are used.

(7) Protections of proprietary cost data from inappropriate public disclosure.

(8) Such other matters as the Secretary determines necessary or appropriate.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the first meeting of the advisory committee, the advisory committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the recommendations made under subsection (c).

(e) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the report under subsection (d), the Secretary shall consider the recommendations of the advisory committee and issue a final rule—

(1) to require air ambulance operators to clearly disclose charges for air transportation services separately from charges for non-air transportation services within any invoice or bill; and

(2) to provide other consumer protections for customers of air ambulance operators.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) AIR AMBULANCE OPERATOR.—The term ''air ambulance operator'' means an air carrier operating pursuant to part 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, that provides medical, ambulance, or related services.

(2) NON-AIR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.—The term ''non-air transportation services'' means those services provided by air ambulance operators but not other air carriers operating pursuant to part 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(g) TERMINATION.—The advisory committee shall terminate on the date of submission of the report under subsection (d).

(h) NATURE OF AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES.—The non-air transportation services of air ambulance operators and prices thereof are neither services nor prices of an air carrier for purposes of section 41713 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 413. AIR AMBULANCE COMPLAINTS.

(a) CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.—Section 42302 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting ''(including transportation by air ambulance)'' after ''air transportation'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting '', and an air ambulance operator,'' after ''passenger seats''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or operator'' after ''Internet Web site of the carrier''; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''or operator'' after ''mailing address of the air carrier''; and

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) NOTICE TO PASSENGERS ON BOARDING OR BILLING DOCUMENTATION.—

''(1) AIR CARRIERS AND FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS.—An air carrier or foreign air carrier providing scheduled air transportation using any aircraft that as originally designed has a passenger capacity of 30 or more passenger seats shall include the hotline telephone number established under subsection (a) on—

''(A) prominently displayed signs of the carrier at the airport ticket counters in the United States where the air carrier operates; and

''(B) any electronic confirmation of the purchase of a passenger ticket for air transportation issued by the air carrier.

''(2) AIR AMBULANCE OPERATORS.—An air ambulance operator shall include the hotline telephone number established under subsection (a) on any invoice, bill, or other communication provided to a passenger or customer of the operator.''.

(b) UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION.—Section 41712(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''air ambulance customer,'' after ''foreign air carrier,'' the first place it appears; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: ''In this subsection, the term 'air carrier' includes an air ambulance operator and the term 'air transportation' includes any transportation provided by an air ambulance.''.

SEC. 414. PASSENGER RIGHTS.

(a) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall require each air carrier to submit for approval a 1-page document that accurately describes the rights of passengers in air transportation, including guidelines for the following:

(1) Compensation (regarding rebooking options, refunds, meals, and lodging) for flight delays of various lengths.

(2) Compensation (regarding rebooking options, refunds, meals, and lodging) for flight cancellations.

(3) Compensation for mishandled baggage, including delayed, damaged, pilfered, or lost baggage.

(4) Voluntary relinquishment of a ticketed seat due to overbooking or priority of other passengers.

(5) Involuntary denial of boarding and forced removal for whatever reason, including for safety and security reasons.

(b) APPROVAL OF GUIDELINES.—Not later than 90 days after each air carrier submits its guidelines for approval to the Secretary under subsection (a), the air carrier shall make available such 1-page document on its website.

Subtitle B—Aviation Consumers With Disabilities

SEC. 441. SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE.

Section 411 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 42301 prec. note), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE FOR AVIATION CONSUMERS WITH DISABILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a select subcommittee of the advisory committee to advise the Secretary and the advisory committee on issues related to the air travel needs of passengers with disabilities.

''(2) DUTIES.—The select subcommittee shall—

''(A) identify the disability-related access barriers encountered by passengers with disabilities;

''(B) determine the extent to which the programs and activities of the Department of Transportation are addressing the barriers identified under subparagraph (A);

''(C) recommend consumer protection improvements related to the air travel experience of passengers with disabilities;

''(D) advise the Secretary with regard to the implementation of section 41705 of title 49, United States Code; and

''(E) conduct such other activities as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out this subsection.

''(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) COMPOSITION.—The select subcommittee shall be composed of members appointed by the Secretary, including at least 1 individual representing each of the following:

''(i) National disability organizations.

''(ii) Air carriers and foreign air carriers with flights in air transportation.

''(iii) Airport operators.

''(iv) Contractor service providers.

''(B) INCLUSION.—A member of the select subcommittee may also be a member of the advisory committee.

''(4) REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of establishment of the select subcommittee, the select subcommittee shall submit to the advisory committee and the Secretary a report on the air travel needs of passengers with disabilities that includes—

''(i) an assessment of existing disability-related access barriers and any emerging disability-related access barriers that will likely be an issue in the next 5 years;

''(ii) an evaluation of the extent to which the programs and activities of the Department of Transportation are eliminating disability-related access barriers;

''(iii) a description of consumer protection improvements related to the air travel experience of passengers with disabilities; and

''(iv) any recommendations for legislation, regulations, or other actions that the select subcommittee considers appropriate.

''(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the report under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a copy of the report, including any additional findings or recommendations that the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall designate, from among the individuals appointed under paragraph (3), an individual to serve as chairperson of the select subcommittee.

''(6) VACANCIES AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Subsections (c) and (d) shall apply to the select subcommittee.

''(7) TERMINATION.—The select subcommittee established under this subsection shall terminate upon submission of the report required under paragraph (4)(A).''.

SEC. 442. AVIATION CONSUMERS WITH DISABILITIES STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that includes—

(1) a review of airport accessibility best practices for individuals with disabilities, including best practices that improve infrastructure facilities and communications

methods, including those related to wayfinding, amenities, and passenger care;

(2) a review of air carrier and airport training policies related to section 41705 of title 49, United States Code;

(3) a review of air carrier training policies related to properly assisting passengers with disabilities; and

(4) a review of accessibility best practices that exceed those recommended under Public Law 90–480 (popularly known as the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968; 42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–435; 100 Stat. 1080 et seq.), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Secretary of Transportation, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the study, including findings and recommendations.

SEC. 443. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON IN-CABIN WHEELCHAIR RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, aircraft manufacturers, and air carriers, shall conduct a study to determine—

(1) the feasibility of in-cabin wheelchair restraint systems; and

(2) if feasible, the ways in which individuals with significant disabilities using wheelchairs, including power wheelchairs, can be accommodated with in-cabin wheelchair restraint systems.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the initiation of the study under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the study.

SEC. 444. ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking addressing—

(1) accommodations for air travelers with disabilities with respect to in-flight entertainment;

(2) accessible lavatories on single-aisle aircraft; and

(3) service animals.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the notice of proposed rulemaking is issued, the Secretary shall publish a final rule based on such notice.

Subtitle C—Small Community Air Service

SEC. 451. ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE AUTHORIZATION.

Section 41742(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2011'' and all that follows before ''to carry out'' and inserting ''$153,000,000 for fiscal year 2018, $156,000,000 for fiscal year 2019, $159,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, $162,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, $165,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, and $168,000,000 for fiscal year 2023''.

SEC. 452. EXTENSION OF FINAL ORDER ESTABLISHING MILEAGE ADJUSTMENT ELIGIBILITY.

Section 409(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 41731 note) is amended by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2023''.

SEC. 453. STUDY ON ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE REFORM.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effects of section 6 of the Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2011, Part IV (Public Law 112–27), section 421 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–95), and other relevant Federal laws enacted after 2010, including the amendments made by those laws, on the Essential Air Service program.

(2) SCOPE.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall analyze, at a minimum—

(A) the impact of each relevant Federal law, including the amendments made by each law, on the Essential Air Service program;

(B) what actions communities and air carriers have taken to reduce ticket prices or increase enplanements as a result of each law;

(C) the issuance of waivers by the Secretary under section 41731(e) of title 49, United States Code;

(D) whether budgetary savings resulted from each law; and

(E) options for further reform of the Essential Air Service program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 454. SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 41743(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) SIZE.—On the date of submission of the relevant application under subsection (b), the airport serving the community or consortium—

''(A) is not larger than a small hub airport, as determined using the Department of Transportation's most recently published classification; and

''(B) has—

''(i) insufficient air carrier service; or

''(ii) unreasonably high air fares.'';

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''once,'' and inserting ''once in a 10-year period,''; and

(B) by inserting ''at any time'' after ''different project''; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) the assistance will be used to help restore scheduled passenger air service that has been terminated;''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 41743(e)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023 to carry out this section, of which $4,800,000 per fiscal year shall be used to carry out the pilot program established under subsection (i). Such sums shall remain available until expended.''.

(c) REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 41743 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a regional air transportation pilot program to provide operating assistance to air carriers in order to provide air service to communities not receiving sufficient air carrier service.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants under the program to encourage and maintain air service at reasonable airfares between communities that have experienced, as determined by the Secretary, significant declines in air service.

''(3) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—In order to participate in the program, a State, local government, economic development authority, or other public entity shall submit to the Secretary an application, in a manner that the Secretary prescribes, that contains—

''(A) an identification of an air carrier that has provided a written agreement to provide the air service in partnership with the applicant;

''(B) assurances that the applicant will provide the non-Federal share and that the non-Federal share is not derived from airport revenue;

''(C) a proposed route structure serving not more than 8 communities; and

''(D) a timeline for commencing the air service to the communities within the proposed route structure.

''(4) CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may approve up to 3 applications each fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds, if the Secretary determines that—

''(A) the proposal of the applicant can reasonably be expected to encourage and improve levels of air service between the relevant communities;

''(B) the applicant has adequate financial resources to ensure the commitment to the communities;

''(C) the airports serving the communities are nonhub, small hub, or medium hub airports, as determined using the Department of Transportation's most recently published classifications; and

''(D) the air carrier commits to serving the communities for at least 2 years.

''(5) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall prioritize applications that—

''(A) would initiate new or reestablish air service in communities where air fares are higher than the average air fares for all communities;

''(B) are more likely to result in self-sustaining air service at the end of the program;

''(C) request a Federal share lower than 50 percent; and

''(D) propose to use grant funds in a timely fashion.

''(6) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of operating assistance provided under the program may not exceed 50 percent.

''(7) SUNSET.—This subsection shall cease to be effective on October 1, 2023.''.

SEC. 455. AIR TRANSPORTATION TO NON-ELIGIBLE PLACES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 41731(a)(1)(A)(ii) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century,'' and inserting ''FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–190),''.

(b) PROGRAM SUNSET.—Section 41736 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) SUNSET.—

''(1) PROPOSALS.—No proposal under subsection (a) may be accepted by the Secretary after the date of enactment of this subsection.

''(2) PROGRAM.—The Secretary may not provide any compensation under this section after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection.''.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. REVIEW OF FAA STRATEGIC CYBERSECURITY PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a review of the comprehensive and strategic framework of principles and policies (referred to in this section as the ''framework'') developed pursuant to section 2111 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C. 44903 note).

(b) CONTENTS.—In undertaking the review under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

(1) assess the degree to which the framework identifies and addresses known cybersecurity risks associated with the aviation system;

(2) review existing short- and long-term objectives for addressing cybersecurity risks to the national airspace system; and

(3) assess the Administration's level of engagement and coordination with aviation stakeholders and other appropriate agencies, organizations, or groups with which the Administration consults to carry out the framework.

(c) UPDATES.—Upon completion of the review under subsection (a), the Administrator shall modify the framework, as appropriate, to address any deficiencies identified by the review.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after initiating the review required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review, including a description of any modifications made to the framework.

SEC. 502. CONSOLIDATION AND REALIGNMENT OF FAA SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

Section 804(a) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44501 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking ''The purpose of the report shall be—'' and all that follows through ''(B) to reduce'' and inserting ''The purpose of the report shall be to reduce''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) INPUT.—The report shall be prepared by the Administrator (or the Administrator's designee) with the participation of—

''(A) representatives of labor organizations representing air traffic control system employees of the FAA; and

''(B) industry stakeholders.''.

SEC. 503. FAA REVIEW AND REFORM.

(a) AGENCY REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a detailed analysis of any actions taken to address the findings and recommendations included in the report required under section 812(d) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 106 note), including—

(1) consolidating, phasing-out, or eliminating duplicative positions, programs, roles, or offices;

(2) eliminating or streamlining wasteful practices;

(3) eliminating or phasing-out redundant, obsolete, or unnecessary functions;

(4) reforming and streamlining inefficient processes so that the activities of the Administration are completed in an expedited and efficient manner; and

(5) reforming or eliminating ineffectual or outdated policies.

(b) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall undertake and complete a thorough review of each program, office, and organization within the Administration to identify—

(1) duplicative positions, programs, roles, or offices;

(2) wasteful practices;

(3) redundant, obsolete, or unnecessary functions;

(4) inefficient processes; and

(5) ineffectual or outdated policies.

(c) ACTIONS TO STREAMLINE AND REFORM FAA.—Not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the review under subsection (b), the Administrator shall undertake such actions as may be necessary to address the findings of the Administrator under such subsection.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of completion of the review under subsection (b), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the actions taken by the Administrator pursuant to subsection (c), including any recommendations for legislative or administrative actions.

SEC. 504. AVIATION FUEL.

(a) USE OF UNLEADED AVIATION GASOLINE.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall allow the use of an unleaded aviation gasoline in an aircraft as a replacement for a leaded gasoline if the Administrator—

(1) determines that an unleaded aviation gasoline qualifies as a replacement for an approved leaded gasoline;

(2) identifies the aircraft and engines that are eligible to use the qualified replacement unleaded gasoline; and

(3) adopts a process (other than the traditional means of certification) to allow eligible aircraft and engines to operate using qualified replacement unleaded gasoline in a manner that ensures safety.

(b) TIMING.—The Administrator shall adopt the process described in subsection (a)(3) not later than 180 days after the later of—

(1) the date of completion of the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative of the Administration; or

(2) the date of publication of an American Society for Testing and Materials Production Specification for an unleaded aviation gasoline.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative of the Administration and the American Society for Testing and Materials should work to find an appropriate unleaded aviation gasoline by January 1, 2024.

SEC. 505. RIGHT TO PRIVACY WHEN USING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall, upon request of a private aircraft owner or operator, block the registration number of the aircraft of the owner or operator from any public dissemination or display, except in data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of the owner or operator.

SEC. 506. AIR SHOWS.

On an annual basis, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall work with representatives of Administration-approved air shows, the general aviation community, and stadiums and other large outdoor events and venues to identify and resolve, to the maximum extent practicable, scheduling conflicts between Administration-approved air shows and large outdoor events and venues where—

(1) flight restrictions will be imposed pursuant to section 521 of title V of division F of Public Law 108–199 (118 Stat. 343); or

(2) any other restriction will be imposed pursuant to Federal Aviation Administration Flight Data Center Notice to Airmen 4/3621 (or any successor notice to airmen).

SEC. 507. PART 91 REVIEW, REFORM, AND STREAMLINING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a task force comprised of representatives of the general aviation industry who regularly perform part 91 operations, labor unions (including those representing FAA aviation safety inspectors and FAA aviation safety engineers), manufacturers, and the Government to—

(1) conduct an assessment of the FAA oversight and authorization processes and requirements for aircraft under part 91; and

(2) make recommendations to streamline the applicable authorization and approval processes, improve safety, and reduce regulatory cost burdens and delays for the FAA and aircraft owners and operators who operate pursuant to part 91.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the assessment and making recommendations under subsection (a), the task force shall consider—

(1) process reforms and improvements to allow the FAA to review and approve applications in a fair and timely fashion;

(2) the appropriateness of requiring an authorization for each experimental aircraft rather than using a broader all makes and models approach;

(3) ways to improve the timely response to letters of authorization applications for aircraft owners and operators who operate pursuant to part 91, including setting deadlines and granting temporary or automatic authorizations if deadlines are missed by the FAA;

(4) methods for enhancing the effective use of delegation systems;

(5) methods for training the FAA's field office employees in risk-based and safety management system oversight; and

(6) such other matters related to streamlining part 91 authorization and approval processes as the task force considers appropriate.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the task force's assessment.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include an explanation of how the Administrator will—

(A) implement the recommendations of the task force;

(B) measure progress in implementing the recommendations; and

(C) measure the effectiveness of the implemented recommendations.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall implement the recommendations made under this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) PART 91.—The term ''part 91'' means part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(f) APPLICABLE LAW.—Public Law 92–463 shall not apply to the task force.

(g) SUNSET.—The task force shall terminate on the day the Administrator submits the report required under subsection (c).

SEC. 508. AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a rulemaking to increase the duration of aircraft registrations for noncommercial general aviation aircraft to 10 years.

SEC. 509. AIR TRANSPORTATION OF LITHIUM CELLS AND BATTERIES.

(a) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH SAFETY REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with appropriate Federal agencies, shall carry out cooperative efforts to ensure that shippers who offer lithium ion and lithium metal batteries for air transport to or from the United States comply with U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations and ICAO Technical Instructions.

(2) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.—The cooperative efforts the Secretary shall carry out pursuant to paragraph (1) include the following:

(A) Encouraging training programs at locations outside the United States from which substantial cargo shipments of lithium ion or lithium metal batteries originate for manufacturers, freight forwarders, and other shippers and potential shippers of lithium ion and lithium metal batteries.

(B) Working with Federal, regional, and international transportation agencies to ensure enforcement of U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations and ICAO Technical Instructions with respect to shippers who offer noncompliant shipments of lithium ion and lithium metal batteries.

(C) Sharing information, as appropriate, with Federal, regional, and international transportation agencies regarding noncompliant shipments.

(D) Pursuing a joint effort with the international aviation community to develop a process to obtain assurances that appropriate enforcement actions are taken to reduce the likelihood of noncompliant shipments, especially with respect to jurisdictions in which enforcement activities historically have been limited.

(E) Providing information in brochures and on the internet in appropriate foreign languages and dialects that describes the actions required to comply with U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations and ICAO Technical Instructions.

(F) Developing joint efforts with the international aviation community to promote a better understanding of the requirements of and methods of compliance with U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations and ICAO Technical Instructions.

(3) REPORTING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on compliance with the policy set forth in subsection (e) and the cooperative efforts carried out, or planned to be carried out, under this subsection.

(b) LITHIUM BATTERY AIR SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish, in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), a lithium ion and lithium metal battery air safety advisory committee (in this subsection referred to as the ''Committee'').

(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

(A) facilitate communication between manufacturers of lithium ion and lithium metal cells and batteries, manufacturers of products incorporating both large and small lithium ion and lithium metal batteries, air carriers, and the Federal Government regarding the safe air transportation of lithium ion and lithium metal cells and batteries and the effectiveness and economic and social impacts of the regulation of such transportation;

(B) provide the Secretary, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration with timely information about new lithium ion and lithium metal battery technology and transportation safety practices and methodologies;

(C) provide a forum for the Secretary to provide information on and to discuss the activities of the Department of Transportation relating to lithium ion and lithium metal battery transportation safety, the policies underlying the activities, and positions to be advocated in international forums;

(D) provide a forum for the Secretary to provide information and receive advice on—

(i) activities carried out throughout the world to communicate and enforce relevant United States regulations and the ICAO Technical Instructions; and

(ii) the effectiveness of the activities;

(E) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary with respect to lithium ion and lithium metal battery air transportation safety, including how best to implement activities to increase awareness of relevant requirements and their importance to travelers and shippers; and

(F) review methods to decrease the risk posed by air shipment of undeclared hazardous materials and efforts to educate those who prepare and offer hazardous materials for shipment via air transport.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(A) Individuals appointed by the Secretary to represent—

(i) large volume manufacturers of lithium ion and lithium metal cells and batteries;

(ii) domestic manufacturers of lithium ion and lithium metal batteries or battery packs;

(iii) manufacturers of consumer products powered by lithium ion and lithium metal batteries;

(iv) manufacturers of vehicles powered by lithium ion and lithium metal batteries;

(v) marketers of products powered by lithium ion and lithium metal batteries;

(vi) cargo air service providers based in the United States;

(vii) passenger air service providers based in the United States;

(viii) pilots and employees of air service providers described in clauses (vi) and (vii);

(ix) shippers of lithium ion and lithium metal batteries for air transportation;

(x) manufacturers of battery-powered medical devices or batteries used in medical devices; and

(xi) employees of the Department of Transportation, including employees of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

(B) Representatives of such other Government departments and agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(C) Any other individuals the Secretary determines are appropriate to comply with Federal law.

(4) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the Committee, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(i) describes and evaluates the steps being taken in the private sector and by international regulatory authorities to implement and enforce requirements relating to the safe transportation by air of bulk shipments of lithium ion cells and batteries; and

(ii) identifies any areas of enforcement or regulatory requirements for which there is consensus that greater attention is needed.

(B) INDEPENDENT STATEMENTS.—Each member of the Committee shall be provided an opportunity to submit an independent statement of views with the report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(5) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall meet at the direction of the Secretary and at least twice a year.

(B) PREPARATION FOR ICAO MEETINGS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee in connection with and in advance of each meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization, or any of its panels or working groups, addressing the safety of air transportation of lithium ion and lithium metal batteries to brief Committee members on positions to be taken by the United States at such meeting and provide Committee members a meaningful opportunity to comment.

(6) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 6 years after the date on which the Committee is established.

(7) TERMINATION OF FUTURE OF AVIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Future of Aviation Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date on which the lithium ion battery air safety advisory committee is established.

(c) MEDICAL DEVICE BATTERIES.—

(1) LIMITED EXCEPTIONS TO RESTRICTIONS ON AIR TRANSPORTATION OF MEDICAL DEVICE BATTERIES.—The Secretary shall issue limited exceptions to the restrictions on transportation of lithium ion and lithium metal batteries to allow the shipment on a passenger aircraft of not more than 2 replacement batteries specifically used for a medical device if—

(A) the intended destination of the batteries is not serviced daily by cargo aircraft if a battery is required for medically necessary care; and

(B) with regard to a shipper of lithium ion or lithium metal batteries for medical devices that cannot comply with a charge limitation in place at the time, each battery is—

(i) individually packed in an inner packaging that completely encloses the battery;

(ii) placed in a rigid outer packaging; and

(iii) protected to prevent a short circuit.

(2) MEDICAL DEVICE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''medical device'' means an instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, or in vitro reagent, including any component, part, or accessory thereof, which is intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions, or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, in a person.

(3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as expanding or restricting any authority of the Secretary under section 828 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44701 note).

(d) PACKAGING IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with interested stakeholders, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an evaluation of current practices for the packaging of

lithium ion batteries and cells for air transportation, including recommendations, if any, to improve the packaging of such batteries and cells for air transportation in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

(e) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION.—It shall be the policy of the Department of Transportation to support the participation of industry in all panels and working groups of the Dangerous Goods Panel of the International Civil Aviation Organization and any other international test or standard setting organization that considers proposals on the safety or transportation of lithium ion and lithium metal batteries in which the United States participates.

(f) HARMONIZATION WITH ICAO TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS.—Pursuant to section 828 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44701 note), not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conform United States regulations on the air transport of lithium cells and batteries with the lithium cells and batteries requirements in the 2015–2016 edition of the ICAO Technical Instructions (including all addenda), including the revised standards adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization that became effective on April 1, 2016.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ICAO TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS.—The term ''ICAO Technical Instructions'' has the meaning given that term in section 828(c) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44701 note).

(2) U.S. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS.—The term ''U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations'' means the regulations in parts 100 through 177 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (including amendments adopted after the date of enactment of this Act).

SEC. 510. REMOTE TOWER PILOT PROGRAM FOR RURAL AND SMALL COMMUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish a pilot program under which, upon approval of an application submitted by an operator of a public-use airport, the Secretary shall install and operate at the airport a remote air traffic control tower in order to assess the operational benefits of remote air traffic control towers.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—The operator of an airport seeking to participate in the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary for approval an application that is in such form and contains such information as the Secretary may require.

(c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

(1) SELECTION OF AIRPORTS.—From among the applications submitted under subsection (b), the Secretary, after consultation with representatives of labor organizations representing operators and employees of the air traffic control system, shall select for participation in the pilot program 7 airports as follows:

(A) 1 nonhub, primary airport.

(B) 3 nonprimary airports without existing air traffic control towers.

(C) 2 airports with air traffic control towers participating in a program established under section 47124 of title 49, United States Code.

(D) 1 airport selected at the discretion of the Secretary.

(2) PRIORITY SELECTION.—In selecting from among the applications submitted under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that can best demonstrate the capabilities and potential of remote air traffic control towers, including applicants proposing to operate multiple remote air traffic control towers from a single facility.

(3) AUTHORITY TO REALLOCATE AIRPORT SELECTION.—If the Secretary receives an insufficient number of applications, the Secretary may reallocate the distribution of airport sites described in paragraph (1).

(d) SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT PANEL.—

(1) SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT PANEL MEETING.—Prior to the operational use of a remote air traffic control tower, the Secretary shall convene a safety risk management panel for the tower to address any safety issues with respect to the tower.

(2) SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT PANEL BEST PRACTICES.—The safety risk management panels shall be created and utilized in a manner similar to that of safety risk management panels previously established for remote air traffic control towers, taking into account—

(A) best practices that have been developed; and

(B) operational data from remote air traffic control towers located in the United States.

(e) AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—The pilot program shall be eligible for airport improvement funding under chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code.

(f) POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 30 days after the date that the first remote air traffic control tower is commissioned, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a repeatable process by which future certified remote air traffic control tower systems may be commissioned at additional airports.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(A) AIR NAVIGATION FACILITY.—The term ''air navigation facility'' has the meaning given that term in section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

(B) REMOTE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER.—The term ''remote air traffic control tower'' means a remotely operated air navigation facility, including all necessary system components, that provides the functions and capabilities of an air traffic control tower.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms ''nonhub airport'', ''primary airport'', and ''public-use airport'' have the meanings given such terms in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code.

(h) SUNSET.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 511. ENSURING FAA READINESS TO PROVIDE SEAMLESS OCEANIC OPERATIONS.

Not later than September 30, 2018, the Secretary of Transportation shall make a final investment decision for the implementation of a reduced oceanic separation capability that, by March 31, 2019, shall be operational and in use providing capabilities at least equivalent to that offered in neighboring airspace, and such service shall be provided in the same manner as terrestrial surveillance is provided.

SEC. 512. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING WOMEN IN AVIATION.

It is the sense of Congress that the aviation industry should explore all opportunities, including pilot training, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, and mentorship programs, to encourage and support female students and aviators to pursue a career in aviation.

SEC. 513. OBSTRUCTION EVALUATION AERONAUTICAL STUDIES.

The Secretary of Transportation may implement the policy set forth in the notice of proposed policy titled ''Proposal to Consider the Impact of One Engine Inoperative Procedures in Obstruction Evaluation Aeronautical Studies'' published by the Department of Transportation on April 28, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 23300), only if the policy is adopted pursuant to a notice and comment rulemaking and, for purposes of Executive Order 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review), is treated as a significant regulatory action within the scope of section 3(f)(1) of such Order.

SEC. 514. AIRCRAFT LEASING.

Section 44112(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''on land or water''; and

(2) by inserting ''operational'' before ''control''.

SEC. 515. REPORT ON OBSOLETE TEST EQUIPMENT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the National Test Equipment Program of the Federal Aviation Administration (in this section referred to as the ''Program'').

(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(1) a list of all known outstanding requests for test equipment, cataloged by type and location, under the Program;

(2) a description of the current method under the Program of ensuring calibrated equipment is in place for utilization;

(3) a plan by the Administrator for appropriate inventory of such equipment;

(4) the Administrator's recommendations for increasing multifunctionality in future test equipment and all known and foreseeable manufacturer technological advances; and

(5) a plan to replace, as appropriate, obsolete test equipment throughout the service areas.

SEC. 516. PILOTS SHARING FLIGHT EXPENSES WITH PASSENGERS.

(a) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall make publicly available, in a clear and concise format, advisory guidance that describes how a pilot may share flight expenses with passengers in a manner consistent with Federal law, including regulations.

(2) EXAMPLES INCLUDED.—The guidance shall include examples of—

(A) flights for which pilots and passengers may share expenses;

(B) flights for which pilots and passengers may not share expenses;

(C) the methods of communication that pilots and passengers may use to arrange flights for which expenses are shared; and

(D) the methods of communication that pilots and passengers may not use to arrange flights for which expenses are shared.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which guidance is made publicly available under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report analyzing Federal policy with respect to pilots sharing flight expenses with passengers.

(2) EVALUATIONS INCLUDED.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of—

(A) the rationale for such Federal policy;

(B) safety and other concerns related to pilots sharing flight expenses with passengers; and

(C) benefits related to pilots sharing flight expenses with passengers.

SEC. 517. AVIATION RULEMAKING COMMITTEE FOR PART 135 PILOT REST AND DUTY RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall convene an aviation rulemaking committee to review, and develop findings and recommendations regarding, pilot rest and duty rules under part 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) DUTIES.—The Administrator shall—

(1) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report based on the findings of the aviation rulemaking committee; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), issue a notice of proposed rulemaking based on any consensus recommendations reached by the aviation rulemaking committee.

(c) COMPOSITION.—The aviation rulemaking committee shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator, including—

(1) representatives of industry;

(2) representatives of aviation labor organizations, including collective bargaining units representing pilots who are covered by part 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and subpart K of part 91 of such title; and

(3) aviation safety experts with specific knowledge of flight crewmember education and training requirements under part 135 of such title.

(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Administrator shall direct the aviation rulemaking committee to consider—

(1) recommendations of prior part 135 rulemaking committees;

(2) accommodations necessary for small businesses;

(3) scientific data derived from aviation-related fatigue and sleep research;

(4) data gathered from aviation safety reporting programs;

(5) the need to accommodate the diversity of operations conducted under part 135; and

(6) other items, as appropriate.

SEC. 518. METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (in this section referred to as ''MWAA''), which operates Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport by lease with the Department of Transportation, has routinely performed poorly on audits conducted by the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation;

(2) the responsible stewardship of taxpayer-owned assets by MWAA is of great concern to Congress;

(3) a March 20, 2015, audit conducted by the Inspector General titled ''MWAA's Office of Audit Does Not Have an Adequate Quality Assurance and Improvement Program'' (Report No. ZA–2015–035) found that MWAA's quality assurance and improvement program did not conform with the standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors; and

(4) the Inspector General's audit made 7 recommendations to strengthen MWAA governance, its Office of Audit, and its quality assurance and improvement program.

(b) IMPLEMENTING AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) STUDY.—The Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall conduct a study on MWAA's progress in implementing the recommendations of the audit referred to in subsection (a).

(2) REPORT.—The Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the study, including the Inspector General's findings, conclusions, and recommendations for strengthening and improving MWAA's Office of Audit.

SEC. 519. TERMINAL AERODROME FORECAST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall permit a covered air carrier to operate to or from a location in a noncontiguous State without a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast or Meteorological Aerodrome Report if—

(1) such location is determined to be under visual meteorological conditions;

(2) a current Area Forecast, supplemented by other local weather observations or reports, is available; and

(3) an alternate airport that has an available Terminal Aerodrome Forecast and weather report is specified.

(b) PROCEDURES.—A covered air carrier shall—

(1) have approved procedures for dispatch or release and enroute weather evaluation; and

(2) operate under instrument flight rules enroute to the destination.

(c) COVERED AIR CARRIER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered air carrier'' means an air carrier operating in a noncontiguous State under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 520. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES STATIONED ON GUAM.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of Defense should seek an agreement that would enable Federal Aviation Administration employees stationed on Guam to have access to Department of Defense hospitals, commissaries, and exchanges on Guam;

(2) access to these facilities is important to ensure the health and well-being of Federal Aviation Administration employees and their families; and

(3) in exchange for this access, the Federal Aviation Administration should make payments to cover the applicable administrative costs incurred by the Department of Defense in carrying out the agreement.

SEC. 521. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) AIRPORT CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS AT CONGESTED AIRPORTS.—Section 40104(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 47176'' and inserting ''section 47175''.

(b) PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES.—Section 40117(a)(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''charge or charge'' and inserting ''charge''.

(c) OVERFLIGHTS OF NATIONAL PARKS.—Section 40128(a)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''under part 91 of the title 14,'' and inserting ''under part 91 of title 14,''.

(d) PLANS TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF FAMILIES OF PASSENGERS INVOLVED IN FOREIGN AIR CARRIER ACCIDENTS.—Section 41313(c)(16) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''An assurance that the foreign air carrier'' and inserting ''An assurance that''.

(e) OPERATIONS OF CARRIERS.—The analysis for chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 41718 and inserting the following:

''41718. Special rules for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.''.

(f) SCHEDULES FOR CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION OF MAIL.—Section 41902(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 41906'' and inserting ''section 41905''.

(g) WEIGHING MAIL.—Section 41907 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and -administrative'' and inserting ''and administrative''.

(h) STRUCTURES INTERFERING WITH AIR COMMERCE OR NATIONAL SECURITY.—Section 44718(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''air navigation facilities and equipment'' and inserting ''air or space navigation facilities and equipment''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (v) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause (vii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

''(vi) the impact on launch and reentry for launch and reentry vehicles arriving or departing from a launch site or reentry site licensed by the Secretary of Transportation; and''.

(i) FEES INVOLVING AIRCRAFT NOT PROVIDING AIR TRANSPORTATION.—Section 45302 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''44703(f)(2)'' each place it appears and inserting ''44703(g)(2)''.

(j) CHAPTER 465.—The analysis for chapter 465 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the following:

''46503. Repealed.''.

(k) SOLICITATION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS.—Section 47171(l) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''4371'' and inserting ''4321''.

(l) ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPENSATION FOR SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED COSTS.—Section 426 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) (49 U.S.C. 41737 note) by striking ''Secretary'' and inserting ''Secretary of Transportation''; and

(2) in subsection (c) (49 U.S.C. 41731 note) by striking ''the Secretary may waive'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Transportation may waive''.

(m) AIRCRAFT DEPARTURE QUEUE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 507(a) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44505 note) is amended by striking ''section 48101(a)'' and inserting ''section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code,''.

SEC. 522. APPLICATION OF VETERANS' PREFERENCE TO FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

Section 40122(g)(2)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''3304(f),'' before ''3308-3320''; and

(2) by inserting ''3330a, 3330b, 3330c, and 3330d,'' before ''relating''.

SEC. 523. PUBLIC AIRCRAFT ELIGIBLE FOR LOGGING FLIGHT TIMES.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue regulations modifying section 61.51(j)(4) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, so as to include aircraft under the direct operational control of forestry and fire protection agencies as public aircraft eligible for logging flight times.

SEC. 524. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION WORKFORCE REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review to assess the workforce and training needs of the Federal Aviation Administration (in this section referred to as the ''FAA'') in the anticipated budgetary environment.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the review, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) identify the long-term workforce and training needs of the FAA workforce;

(2) assess the impact of automation, digitalization, and artificial intelligence on the FAA workforce;

(3) analyze the skills and qualifications required of the FAA workforce for successful performance in the current and future projected aviation environment;

(4) review current performance incentive policies of the FAA, including awards for performance;

(5) analyze ways in which the FAA can work with industry and labor, including labor groups representing the FAA workforce, to establish knowledge-sharing opportunities between the FAA and the aviation industry regarding new equipment and systems, best practices, and other areas of interest; and

(6) develop recommendations on the most effective qualifications, training programs (including e-learning training), and performance incentive approaches to address the needs of the future projected aviation regulatory system in the anticipated budgetary environment.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review.

SEC. 525. STATE TAXATION.

Section 40116(d)(2)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(v) except as otherwise provided under section 47133, levy or collect a tax, fee, or charge, first taking effect after the date of enactment of this clause, upon any business located at a commercial service airport or operating as a permittee of such an airport that is not generally imposed on sales or services by that State, political subdivision, or authority unless wholly utilized for airport or aeronautical purposes.''.

SEC. 526. AVIATION AND AEROSPACE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in 2016, United States air carriers carried a record high number of passengers on domestic flights, 719 million passengers;

(2) the United States aerospace and defense industry employed 1.7 million workers in 2015, or roughly 2 percent of the Nation's total employment base;

(3) the average salary of an employee in the aerospace and defense industry is 44 percent above the national average;

(4) in 2015, the aerospace and defense industry contributed nearly $202.4 billion in value added to the United States economy;

(5) an effective aviation industry relies on individuals with unique skill sets, many of which can be directly obtained through career and technical education opportunities; and

(6) industry and the Federal Government have taken some actions to attract qualified individuals to careers in aviation and aerospace and to retain qualified individuals in such careers.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) public and private education institutions should make available to students and parents information on approved programs of study and career pathways, including career exploration, work-based learning opportunities, dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities, and guidance and advisement resources;

(2) public and private education institutions should partner with aviation and aerospace companies to promote career paths available within the industry and share information on the unique benefits and opportunities the career paths offer;

(3) aviation companies, including air carriers, manufacturers, commercial space companies, unmanned aircraft system companies, and repair stations, should create opportunities, through apprenticeships or other mechanisms, to attract young people to aviation and aerospace careers and to enable individuals to gain the critical skills needed to thrive in such professions; and

(4) the Federal Government should consider the needs of men and women interested in pursuing careers in the aviation and aerospace industry, the long-term personnel needs of the aviation and aerospace industry, and the role of aviation in the United States economy in the creation and administration of educational and financial aid programs.

SEC. 527. FUTURE AVIATION AND AEROSPACE WORKFORCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study—

(1) to identify the factors influencing the supply of individuals pursuing a career in the aviation or aerospace industry; and

(2) to identify best practices or programs to incentivize, recruit, and retain young people in aviation and aerospace professions.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Comptroller General shall conduct the study in consultation with—

(1) appropriate Federal agencies; and

(2) the aviation and aerospace industry, institutions of higher education, and labor stakeholders.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study and related recommendations.

SEC. 528. FAA LEADERSHIP ON CIVIL SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall exercise leadership in the creation of Federal and international policies, regulations, and standards relating to the certification and safe and efficient operation of civil supersonic aircraft.

(b) EXERCISE OF LEADERSHIP.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

(1) consider the needs of the aerospace industry and other stakeholders when creating policies, regulations, and standards that enable the safe commercial deployment of civil supersonic aircraft technology and the safe and efficient operation of civil supersonic aircraft; and

(2) obtain the input of aerospace industry stakeholders regarding—

(A) the appropriate regulatory framework and timeline for permitting the safe and efficient operation of civil supersonic aircraft within United States airspace, including updating or modifying existing regulations on such operation;

(B) issues related to standards and regulations for the type certification and safe operation of civil supersonic aircraft, including noise certification, including—

(i) the operational differences between subsonic aircraft and supersonic aircraft;

(ii) costs and benefits associated with landing and takeoff noise requirements for civil supersonic aircraft, including impacts on aircraft emissions;

(iii) public and economic benefits of the operation of civil supersonic aircraft and associated aerospace industry activity; and

(iv) challenges relating to ensuring that standards and regulations aimed at relieving and protecting the public health and welfare from aircraft noise and sonic booms are economically reasonable, technologically practicable, and appropriate for civil supersonic aircraft; and

(C) other issues identified by the Administrator or the aerospace industry that must be addressed to enable the safe commercial deployment and safe and efficient operation of civil supersonic aircraft.

(c) INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP.—The Administrator, in the appropriate international forums, shall take actions that—

(1) demonstrate global leadership under subsection (a);

(2) address the needs of the aerospace industry identified under subsection (b); and

(3) protect the public health and welfare.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the Administrator's actions to exercise leadership in the creation of Federal and international policies, regulations, and standards relating to the certification and safe and efficient operation of civil supersonic aircraft;

(2) planned, proposed, and anticipated actions to update or modify existing policies and regulations related to civil supersonic aircraft, including those identified as a result of industry consultation and feedback; and

(3) a timeline for any actions to be taken to update or modify existing policies and regulations related to civil supersonic aircraft.

SEC. 529. OKLAHOMA REGISTRY OFFICE.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall consider the aircraft registry office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as excepted during a Government shutdown or emergency (as it provides excepted services) to ensure that it remains open during any Government shutdown or emergency.

SEC. 530. FOREIGN AIR TRANSPORTATION UNDER UNITED STATES-EUROPEAN UNION AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT.

(a) CERTAIN FOREIGN AIR TRANSPORTATION PERMITS.—The Secretary of Transportation may not issue a permit under section 41302 of title 49, United States Code, or an exemption under section 40109 of such title, authorizing a person to provide foreign air transportation as a foreign air carrier under the United States-European Union Air Transport Agreement of April 2007 (as amended) in a proceeding in which the applicability of Article 17 bis of such Agreement has been raised by an interested person, unless the Secretary—

(1) finds that issuing the permit or exemption would be consistent with the intent set forth in Article 17 bis of the Agreement, that opportunities created by the Agreement do not undermine labor standards or the labor-related rights and principles contained in the laws of the respective parties to the Agreement; and

(2) imposes on the permit or exemption such conditions as may be necessary to ensure that the person complies with the intent of Article 17 bis.

(b) PUBLIC INTEREST TEST.—Section 41302(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''under an agreement with the United States Government; or'' and inserting ''; and''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''the foreign air transportation'' and inserting ''after considering the totality of the circumstances, including the factors set forth

in section 40101(a), the foreign air transportation''.

(c) PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) POLICY.—Section 40101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(17) preventing entry into United States markets by flag of convenience carriers.''.

(2) INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION.—Section 40101(e)(9) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) erosion of labor standards associated with flag of convenience carriers.''.

(3) FLAG OF CONVENIENCE CARRIER DEFINED.—Section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(48) 'flag of convenience carrier' means a foreign air carrier that is established in a country other than the home country of its majority owner or owners in order to avoid regulations of the home country.''.

SEC. 531. TRAINING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR CERTAIN STAFF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 44737. Training on human trafficking for certain staff

''In addition to other training requirements, each air carrier shall provide training—

''(1) to ticket counter agents, gate agents, and other air carrier workers whose jobs require regular interaction with passengers; and

''(2) on recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''44737. Training on human trafficking for certain staff.''.

SEC. 532. PART 107 IMPLEMENTATION IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall publish a direct final rule—

(1) revising section 107.205 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, by striking the second sentence of subsections (a) and (c); and

(2) revising section 107.25 of such title by striking ''and is not transporting another person's property for compensation or hire''.

(b) DETERMINATION OF WAIVER.—In determining whether to grant a waiver under part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to authorize transportation of another's property for compensation or hire beyond the visual line of sight of the remote pilot, from a moving vehicle, or over people, the Administrator shall consider the technological capabilities of the unmanned aircraft system, the qualifications of the remote pilot, and the operational environment.

SEC. 533. PART 107 TRANSPARENCY AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall publish on the Federal Aviation Administration website a representative sample of the safety justifications, offered by applicants for small unmanned aircraft system waivers and airspace authorizations, that have been approved by the Administration for each regulation waived or class of airspace authorized, except that any published justification shall not reveal proprietary or commercially sensitive information.

(b) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the online waiver and certificates of authorization processes—

(1) to provide real time confirmation that an application filed online has been received by the Administration; and

(2) to provide an applicant with an opportunity to review the status of the applicant's application.

SEC. 534. PROHIBITIONS AGAINST SMOKING ON PASSENGER FLIGHTS.

Section 41706 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES.—

''(1) INCLUSION.—The use of an electronic cigarette shall be treated as smoking for purposes of this section.

''(2) ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'electronic cigarette' means a device that delivers nicotine to a user of the device in the form of a vapor that is inhaled to simulate the experience of smoking.''.

SEC. 535. CONSUMER PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO LARGE TICKET AGENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule to require large ticket agents to adopt minimum customer service standards.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the final rule shall be to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, there is a consistent level of consumer protection regardless of where consumers purchase air fares and related air transportation services.

(c) STANDARDS.—In issuing the final rule, the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, establishing standards for—

(1) providing prompt refunds when ticket refunds are due, including fees for optional services that consumers purchased but were not able to use due to a flight cancellation or oversale situation;

(2) providing an option to hold a reservation at the quoted fare without payment, or to cancel without penalty, for 24 hours;

(3) disclosing cancellation policies, seating configurations, and lavatory availability with respect to flights;

(4) notifying customers in a timely manner of itinerary changes; and

(5) responding promptly to customer complaints.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following shall apply:

(1) TICKET AGENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term ''ticket agent'' has the meaning given that term in section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''ticket agent'' includes a person who acts as an intermediary involved in the sale of air transportation directly or indirectly to consumers, including by operating an electronic airline information system, if the person—

(i) holds the person out as a source of information about, or reservations for, the air transportation industry; and

(ii) receives compensation in any way related to the sale of air transportation.

(2) LARGE TICKET AGENT.—The term ''large ticket agent'' means a ticket agent with annual revenues of $100,000,000 or more.

SEC. 536. FAA DATA TRANSPARENCY.

Section 45303 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) DATA TRANSPARENCY.—

''(1) AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES INITIAL DATA REPORT.—

''(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer of the Air Traffic Organization shall, based upon the most recently available full fiscal year data, complete the following calculations for each segment of air traffic services users:

''(i) The total costs allocable to the use of air traffic services for that segment during such fiscal year.

''(ii) The total revenues received from that segment during such fiscal year.

''(B) VALIDATION OF MODEL.—

''(i) REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.—Not later than 3 months after completion of the initial report required under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall review and determine the validity of the model used by the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer to complete the calculations required under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) VALIDATION PROCESS.—In the event that the Inspector General determines that the model used by the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer to complete the calculations required by subparagraph (A) is not valid—

''(I) the Inspector General shall provide the Administrator and Chief Operating Officer recommendations on how to revise the model;

''(II) the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer shall complete the calculations required by subparagraph (A) utilizing the revised model and resubmit the revised initial report required under subparagraph (A) to the Inspector General; and

''(III) not later than 3 months after completion of the revised initial report required under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall review and determine the validity of the revised model used by the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer to complete the calculations required by subparagraph (A).

''(iii) ACCESS TO DATA.—The Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer shall provide the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation with unfettered access to all data produced by the cost accounting system operated and maintained pursuant to subsection (e).

''(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after completion of the review and receiving a determination that the model used is valid under subparagraph (B), the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report describing the results of the calculations completed under subparagraph (A).

''(D) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 60 days after submission of the report required under subparagraph (C), the Administrator and Chief Operating Officer shall publish the initial report, including any revision thereto if required as a result of the validation process for the model.

''(2) AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES BIENNIAL DATA REPORTING.—

''(A) BIENNIAL DATA REPORTING.—Not later than March 31, 2019, and biennially thereafter for 8 years, the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer shall, using the validated model, complete the following calculations for each segment of air traffic services users for the most recent full fiscal year:

''(i) The total costs allocable to the use of the air traffic services for that segment.

''(ii) The total revenues received from that segment.

''(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15 days after completing the calculations under subparagraph (A), the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer shall complete and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report containing the results of such calculations.

''(C) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 60 days after completing the calculations pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer shall publish the results of such calculations.

''(3) SEGMENTS OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES USERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, each of the following shall constitute a separate segment of air traffic services users:

''(i) Passenger air carriers conducting operations under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(ii) All-cargo air carriers conducting operations under part 121 of such title.

''(iii) Operators covered by part 125 of such title.

''(iv) Air carriers and operators of piston-engine aircraft operating under part 135 of such title.

''(v) Air carriers and operators of turbine-engine aircraft operating under part 135 of such title.

''(vi) Foreign air carriers providing passenger air transportation.

''(vii) Foreign air carriers providing all-cargo air transportation.

''(viii) Operators of turbine-engine aircraft operating under part 91 of such title, excluding those operating under subpart (K) of such part.

''(ix) Operators of piston-engine aircraft operating under part 91 of such title, excluding those operating under subpart (K) of such part.

''(x) Operators covered by subpart (K) of part 91 of such title.

''(xi) Operators covered by part 133 of such title.

''(xii) Operators covered by part 136 of such title.

''(xiii) Operators covered by part 137 of such title.

''(xiv) Operators of public aircraft that qualify under section 40125.

''(xv) Operators of aircraft that neither take off from, nor land in, the United States.

''(B) ADDITIONAL SEGMENTS.—The Secretary may identify and include additional segments of air traffic users under paragraph (A) as revenue and air traffic services cost data becomes available for that additional segment of air traffic services users.

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES.—The term 'air traffic services' means services—

''(i) used for the monitoring, directing, control, and guidance of aircraft or flows of aircraft and for the safe conduct of flight, including communications, navigation, and surveillance services and provision of aeronautical information; and

''(ii) provided directly, or contracted for, by the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(B) AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES USER.—The term 'air traffic services user' means any individual or entity using air traffic services provided directly, or contracted for, by the Federal Aviation Administration within United States airspace or international airspace delegated to the United States.''.

SEC. 537. AGENCY PROCUREMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 40110(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PURCHASE OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.—

''(A) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress on the dollar amount of the acquisitions made by the agency from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States in such fiscal year.

''(B) CONTENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall separately indicate—

''(i) the dollar value of any articles, materials, or supplies purchased that were manufactured outside of the United States; and

''(ii) a summary of the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States versus funds spent on goods manufactured outside of the United States.

''(C) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall make the report under subparagraph (A) publicly available on the agency's website not later than 30 days after submission to Congress.''.

SEC. 538. ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES AND TECHNOLOGY.

(a) PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE ELIGIBILITY.—Section 40117(a)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) A project for—

''(i) converting or retrofitting vehicles and ground support equipment into eligible zero-emission vehicles and equipment (as defined in section 47102); or

''(ii) acquiring, by purchase or lease, eligible zero-emission vehicles and equipment (as defined in section 47102).''.

(b) AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT DEFINED.—Section 47102(3) of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(P) converting or retrofitting vehicles and ground support equipment into eligible zero-emission vehicles and equipment or acquiring, by purchase or lease, eligible zero-emission vehicles and equipment.

''(Q) constructing or modifying airport facilities to install a microgrid in order to provide increased resilience to severe weather, terrorism, and other causes of grid failures.''.

(2) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—Section 47102 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(30) 'eligible zero-emission vehicle and equipment' means a zero-emission vehicle, equipment related to such a vehicle, and ground support equipment that includes zero-emission technology that is—

''(A) used exclusively at a commercial service airport; or

''(B) used exclusively to transport people or materials to and from a commercial service airport.

''(31) 'microgrid' means a localized grouping of electricity sources and loads that normally operates connected to and synchronous with the traditional centralized electrical grid, but can disconnect and function autonomously as physical or economic conditions dictate.

''(32) 'zero-emission vehicle' means a zero-emission vehicle as defined in section 88.102–94 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or a vehicle that produces zero exhaust emissions of any criteria pollutant (or precursor pollutant) under any possible operational modes and conditions.''.

(3) SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT CATEGORIES.—Section 47117(e)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''for airport development described in section 47102(3)(P),'' after ''under section 47141,''.

(c) ZERO-EMISSION PROGRAM.—Chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking section 47136;

(2) by redesignating section 47136a as section 47136; and

(3) in section 47136, as so redesignated, by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may establish a pilot program under which the sponsors of not less than 10 public-use airports may use funds made available under this chapter or section 48103 for use at such airports to carry out—

''(1) activities associated with the acquisition, by purchase or lease, and operation of zero-emission vehicles, including removable power sources for such vehicles; and

''(2) the construction or modification of infrastructure to facilitate the delivery of fuel and services necessary for the use of such vehicles.

''(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A public-use airport is eligible for participation in the program if the vehicles or ground support equipment are—

''(1) used exclusively at the airport; or

''(2) used exclusively to transport people or materials to and from the airport.'';

(4) in section 47136, as so redesignated, by striking subsections (d) and (e) and inserting the following:

''(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out under the program shall be the Federal share specified in section 47109.

''(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The sponsor of a public-use airport may use not more than 10 percent of the amounts made available to the sponsor under the program in any fiscal year for—

''(A) technical assistance; and

''(B) project management support to assist the airport with the solicitation, acquisition, and deployment of zero-emission vehicles, related equipment, and supporting infrastructure.

''(2) PROVIDERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—To receive the technical assistance or project management support described in paragraph (1), participants in the program may use—

''(A) a nonprofit organization selected by the Secretary; or

''(B) a university transportation center receiving grants under section 5505 in the region of the airport.'';

(5) in section 47136, as so redesignated, in subsection (f) by striking ''section 47136'' and inserting ''the inherently low emission airport vehicle pilot program''; and

(6) in section 47136, as so redesignated, by adding at the end the following:

''(g) ALLOWABLE PROJECT COST.—The allowable project cost for the acquisition of a zero-emission vehicle shall be the total cost of purchasing or leasing the vehicle, including the cost of technical assistance or project management support described in subsection (e).

''(h) FLEXIBLE PROCUREMENT.—A sponsor of a public-use airport may use funds made available under the program to acquire, by

purchase or lease, a zero-emission vehicle and a removable power source in separate transactions, including transactions by which the airport purchases the vehicle and leases the removable power source.

''(i) TESTING REQUIRED.—A sponsor of a public-use airport may not use funds made available under the program to acquire a zero-emission vehicle unless that make, model, or type of vehicle has been tested by a Federal vehicle testing facility acceptable to the Secretary.

''(j) REMOVABLE POWER SOURCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'removable power source' means a power source that is separately installed in, and removable from, a zero-emission vehicle and may include a battery, a fuel cell, an ultra-capacitor, or other advanced power source used in a zero-emission vehicle.''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 47136 and 47136a and inserting the following:

''47136. Zero-emission airport vehicles and infrastructure.''.

SEC. 539. EMPLOYEE ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each air carrier operating under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (in this section referred to as a ''part 121 air carrier''), shall submit to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for review and acceptance an Employee Assault Prevention and Response Plan related to the customer service agents of the air carrier and that is developed in consultation with the labor union representing such agents.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—An Employee Assault Prevention and Response Plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Reporting protocols for air carrier customer service agents who have been the victim of a verbal or physical assault.

(2) Protocols for the immediate notification of law enforcement after an incident of verbal or physical assault committed against an air carrier customer service agent.

(3) Protocols for informing Federal law enforcement with respect to violations of section 46503 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) Protocols for ensuring that a passenger involved in a violent incident with a customer service agent of an air carrier is not allowed to move through airport security or board an aircraft until appropriate law enforcement has had an opportunity to assess the incident and take appropriate action.

(5) Protocols for air carriers to inform passengers of Federal laws protecting Federal, airport, and air carrier employees who have security duties within an airport.

(c) EMPLOYEE TRAINING.—A part 121 air carrier shall conduct initial and recurrent training for all employees, including management, of the air carrier with respect to the plan required under subsection (a), which shall include training on de-escalating hostile situations, written protocols on dealing with hostile situations, and the reporting of relevant incidents.

SEC. 540. STUDY ON TRAINING OF CUSTOMER-FACING AIR CARRIER EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study on the training received by customer-facing employees of air carriers.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall include—

(1) an analysis of the training received by customer-facing employees with respect to the management of disputes on aircraft; and

(2) an examination of how institutions of higher learning, in coordination with air carriers, customer-facing employees and their representatives, consumer advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders, could—

(A) review such training and related practices;

(B) produce recommendations; and

(C) if determined appropriate, provide supplemental training.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 541. MINIMUM DIMENSIONS FOR PASSENGER SEATS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing notice and an opportunity for comment, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue regulations that establish minimum dimensions for passenger seats on aircraft operated by air carriers in interstate air transportation or intrastate air transportation, including minimums for seat pitch, width, and length, and that are necessary for the safety and health of passengers.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions contained in section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code, apply to this section.

SEC. 542. STUDY OF GROUND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that examines the ground transportation options at the Nation's 10 busiest airports in order to—

(1) understand the impact of new and emerging transportation options for travelers to get into and out of airports;

(2) determine whether it is appropriate to use airport improvement funds and revenues from passenger facility charges to address traffic congestion and passenger travel times between urban commercial centers and airports; and

(3) review guidelines and requirements for airport improvement funds and passenger facility charges to determine under what conditions such funds may be used to address traffic congestion in urban commercial centers for travel to airports.

TITLE VI—DISASTER RECOVERY REFORM ACT

SEC. 601. APPLICABILITY.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, the amendments in this title to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) apply to each major disaster and emergency declared by the President on or after August 1, 2017, under such Act.

SEC. 602. STATE DEFINED.

In this title, the term ''State'' has the meaning given that term in section 102(4) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(4)).

SEC. 603. WILDFIRE PREVENTION.

(a) MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.—Whether or not a major disaster is declared, the President may provide hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with section 404 in any area affected by a fire for which assistance was provided under this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 404(a) (42 U.S.C. 5170c(a)) (as amended by section 636(a) of this Act)—

(A) by inserting before the first period '', or any area affected by a fire for which assistance was provided under section 420''; and

(B) in the third sentence by inserting ''or event under section 420'' after ''major disaster'' each place it appears; and

(2) in section 322(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 5165(e)(1)), by inserting ''or event under section 420'' after ''major disaster'' each place it appears.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing a summary of any projects carried out, and any funding provided to those projects, under subsection (d) of section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187) (as amended by this section).

SEC. 604. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) USE OF ASSISTANCE.—Recipients of hazard mitigation assistance provided under this section and section 203 may use the assistance to conduct activities to help reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering in any area affected by a wildfire or windstorm, including—

''(1) reseeding ground cover with quick-growing or native species;

''(2) mulching with straw or chipped wood;

''(3) constructing straw, rock, or log dams in small tributaries to prevent flooding;

''(4) placing logs and other erosion barriers to catch sediment on hill slopes;

''(5) installing debris traps to modify road and trail drainage mechanisms;

''(6) modifying or removing culverts to allow drainage to flow freely;

''(7) adding drainage dips and constructing emergency spillways to keep roads and bridges from washing out during floods;

''(8) planting grass to prevent the spread of noxious weeds;

''(9) installing warning signs;

''(10) establishing defensible space measures;

''(11) reducing hazardous fuels; and

''(12) windstorm damage, including replacing or installing electrical transmission or distribution utility pole structures with poles that are resilient to extreme wind and combined ice and wind loadings for the basic wind speeds and ice conditions associated with the relevant location.''.

SEC. 605. ELIGIBILITY FOR CODE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

Section 406(a)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) base and overtime wages for extra hires to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of adopted building codes for a period of not more than 180 days after the major disaster is declared.''.

SEC. 606. PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 406(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''90 percent of''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''75 percent of''.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—Section 428(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5189f) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''Participation in''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) NO CONDITIONS.—The President may not condition the provision of Federal assistance under this Act on the election by a State, Tribal, or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility to participate in the alternative procedures adopted under this section.''.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Section 428(e)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5189f(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) once certified by a professionally licensed engineer and accepted by the Administrator, the estimates on which grants made pursuant to this section are based shall be presumed to be reasonable and eligible costs, as long as there is no evidence of fraud.''.

SEC. 607. PRIORITIZATION OF FACILITIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall provide guidance and training on an annual basis to State, Tribal, and local governments, first responders, and utility companies on—

(1) the need to prioritize assistance to hospitals, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities to ensure that such health care facilities remain functioning or return to functioning as soon as practicable during power outages caused by natural hazards, including severe weather events; and

(2) how hospitals, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities should adequately prepare for power outages during a major disaster or emergency.

SEC. 608. GUIDANCE ON EVACUATION ROUTES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, shall develop and issue guidance for State, local, and Tribal governments regarding the identification of evacuation routes.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall revise existing guidance or issue new guidance as appropriate for State, local, and Tribal governments regarding the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of evacuation routes.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION.—In developing the guidance under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall consider—

(A) whether evacuation routes have resisted impacts and recovered quickly from disasters, regardless of cause;

(B) the need to evacuate special needs populations, including—

(i) individuals with a physical or mental disability;

(ii) individuals in schools, daycare centers, mobile home parks, prisons, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and detention centers;

(iii) individuals with limited-English proficiency;

(iv) the elderly; and

(v) individuals who are tourists, seasonal workers, or homeless;

(C) the sharing of information and other public communications with evacuees during evacuations;

(D) the sheltering of evacuees, including the care, protection, and sheltering of animals;

(E) the return of evacuees to their homes; and

(F) such other items the Administrator considers appropriate.

(2) DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR.—In revising or issuing guidance under (a)(2), the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration shall consider—

(A) methods that assist evacuation routes to—

(i) withstand likely risks to viability, including flammability and hydrostatic forces;

(ii) improve durability, strength (including the ability to withstand tensile stresses and compressive stresses), and sustainability; and

(iii) provide for long-term cost savings;

(B) the ability of evacuation routes to effectively manage contraflow operations;

(C) for evacuation routes on public lands, the viewpoints of the applicable Federal land management agency regarding emergency operations, sustainability, and resource protection; and

(D) such other items the Administrator considers appropriate.

SEC. 609. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) WAIVER OF GENERAL PROHIBITION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the general prohibition provided in subsection (a) upon request of a Governor on behalf of the State or on behalf of a person, business concern, or any other entity suffering losses as a result of a major disaster or emergency, if the President finds such waiver is in the public interest and will not result in waste, fraud, or abuse. In making this decision, the President may consider the following:

''(i) The recommendations of the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency made in consultation with the Federal agency or agencies administering the duplicative program.

''(ii) If a waiver is granted, the assistance to be funded is cost effective.

''(iii) Equity and good conscience.

''(iv) Other matters of public policy considered appropriate by the President.

''(B) GRANT OR DENIAL OF WAIVER.—A request under subparagraph (A) shall be granted or denied not later than 45 days after submission of such request.

''(C) PROHIBITION ON DETERMINATION THAT LOAN IS A DUPLICATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), in carrying out subparagraph (A), the President may not determine that a loan is a duplication of assistance, provided that all Federal assistance is used toward a loss suffered as a result of the major disaster or emergency.''.

(b) FUNDING OF A FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.—

(1) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Notwithstanding section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155) and its implementing regulations, assistance provided pursuant to section 404 of such Act may be used to fund activities authorized for construction within the scope of a federally authorized water resources development project of the Army Corps of Engineers if such activities are also eligible activities under such section.

(2) FEDERAL FUNDING.—All Federal funding provided under section 404 pursuant to this section shall be applied toward the Federal share of such project.

(3) NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—All non-Federal matching funds required under section 404 pursuant to this section shall be applied toward the non-Federal share of such project.

(4) TOTAL FEDERAL SHARE.—Funding provided under section 404 pursuant to this section may not exceed the total Federal share for such project.

(5) NO EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall—

(A) affect the cost-share requirement of a hazard mitigation measure under section 404;

(B) affect the eligibility criteria for a hazard mitigation measure under section 404;

(C) affect the cost share requirements of a federally authorized water resources development project; and

(D) affect the responsibilities of a non-Federal interest with respect to the project, including those related to the provision of lands, easements, rights-of-way, dredge material disposal areas, and necessary relocations.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to each disaster and emergency declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) after January 1, 2016.

SEC. 610. STATE ADMINISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR DIRECT TEMPORARY HOUSING AND PERMANENT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION.

Section 408(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the paragraph heading and inserting ''STATE- OR TRIBAL-ADMINISTERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—'';

(2) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking ''financial''; and

(B) by striking ''subsection (e)'' and inserting ''subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e) if the President and the State or Tribal government comply, as determined by the Administrator, with paragraph (3)'';

(3) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) by striking ''financial''; and

(B) by striking ''subsection (e)'' and inserting ''subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e)''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) APPLICATION.—A State or Tribal government desiring to provide assistance under subsection (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e) shall submit to the President an application for a grant to provide financial assistance under the program.

''(B) CRITERIA.—The President, in consultation and coordination with State, Tribal, and local governments, shall establish criteria for the approval of applications submitted under subparagraph (A). The criteria shall include, at a minimum—

''(i) the demonstrated ability of the State or Tribal government to manage the program under this section;

''(ii) there being in effect a plan approved by the President as to how the State or Tribal government will comply with applicable Federal laws and regulations and how the State or Tribal government will provide assistance under its plan;

''(iii) a requirement that the State, Tribal, or local government comply with rules and regulations established pursuant to subsection (j); and

''(iv) a requirement that the President, or the designee of the President, comply with subsection (i).

''(C) QUALITY ASSURANCE.—Before approving an application submitted under this section, the President, or the designee of the President, shall institute adequate policies, procedures, and internal controls to prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and program mismanagement for this program and for programs under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e). The President shall monitor and conduct quality assurance activities on a State or Tribal government's implementation of programs under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e). If, after approving an application of a State or Tribal government submitted under this section, the President determines that the State or Tribal government is not administering the program established by this section in a manner satisfactory to the President, the President shall withdraw the approval.

''(D) AUDITS.—The Office of the inspector general shall provide for periodic audits of the programs administered by States and Tribal governments under this subsection.

''(E) APPLICABLE LAWS.—All Federal laws applicable to the management, administration, or contracting of the programs by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under this section shall be applicable to the management, administration, or contracting by a non-Federal entity under this section.

''(F) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the State or Tribal government's role to provide assistance under this section. The report shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness of the State or Tribal government's role to provide assistance under this section, including—

''(i) whether the State or Tribal government's role helped to improve the general speed of disaster recovery;

''(ii) whether the State or Tribal government providing assistance under this section had the capacity to administer this section; and

''(iii) recommendations for changes to improve the program if the State or Tribal government's role to administer the programs should be continued.

''(G) PROHIBITION.—The President may not condition the provision of Federal assistance under this Act by a State or Tribal government requesting a grant under this section.

''(H) MISCELLANEOUS.—

''(i) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The Administrator may waive notice and comment rulemaking, if the Administrator determines doing so is necessary to expeditiously implement this section, and may carry out this section as a pilot program until such regulations are promulgated.

''(ii) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall issue final regulations to implement this subsection as amended by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act.

''(iii) WAIVER AND EXPIRATION.—The authority under clause (i) and any pilot program implemented pursuant to such clause shall expire 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph or upon issuance of final regulations pursuant to clause (ii), whichever occurs sooner.''.

SEC. 611. ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS.

Section 408(h) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', excluding financial assistance to rent alternate housing accommodations under subsection (c)(1)(A)(i) and financial assistance to address other needs under subsection (e)'' after ''disaster'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—The maximum financial assistance any individual or household may receive under subsection (e) shall be equivalent to the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect to a single major disaster.'';

(4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1) and (2)''; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(4) EXCLUSION OF NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—

''(A) The maximum amount of assistance established under paragraph (1) shall exclude expenses to repair or replace damaged accessibility-related improvements under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (c) for individuals with disabilities.

''(B) The maximum amount of assistance established under paragraph (2) shall exclude expenses to repair or replace accessibility-related personal property under subsection (e)(2) for individuals with disabilities.''.

SEC. 612. MULTIFAMILY LEASE AND REPAIR ASSISTANCE.

(a) LEASE AND REPAIR OF RENTAL UNITS FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING.—Section 408(c)(1)(B)(ii)(II) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(1)(B)(ii)(II)) is amended to read as follows:

''(II) IMPROVEMENTS OR REPAIRS.—Under the terms of any lease agreement for property entered into under this subsection, the value of the improvements or repairs shall be deducted from the value of the lease agreement.''.

(b) RENTAL PROPERTIES IMPACTED.—Section 408(c)(1)(B)(ii)(I)(aa) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(1)(B)(ii)(I)(aa)) is amended to read as follows:

''(aa) enter into lease agreements with owners of multifamily rental property impacted by a major disaster or located in areas covered by a major disaster declaration to house individuals and households eligible for assistance under this section; and''.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security shall assess the use of the authority provided under section 408(c)(1)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(1)(B)), including the adequacy of any benefit-cost analysis done to justify the use of this alternative, and submit a report on the results of that review to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 613. PRIVATE NONPROFIT FACILITY.

Section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) is amended in paragraph (11)(B) by inserting ''food banks,'' after ''shelter workshops,''.

SEC. 614. MANAGEMENT COSTS.

Section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''any administrative expense, and any other expense not directly chargeable to'' and inserting ''direct administrative cost, and any other administrative expense associated with''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding'';

(B) by striking ''establish'' and inserting the following: ''implement''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT COSTS.—The Administrator shall provide the following percentage rates, in addition to the eligible project costs, to cover direct and indirect costs of administering the following programs:

''(A) HAZARD MITIGATION.—A grantee under section 404 may be reimbursed not more than 15 percent of the total amount of the grant award under such section of which not more than 10 percent may be used by the grantee and 5 percent by the subgrantee for such costs.

''(B) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.—A grantee under sections 403, 406, 407, and 502 may be reimbursed not more than 12 percent of the total award amount under such sections, of which not more than 7 percent may be used by the grantee and 5 percent by the subgrantee for such costs.''.

SEC. 615. FLEXIBILITY.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered assistance'' means assistance provided—

(1) under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174); and

(2) in relation to a major disaster or emergency declared by the President under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 42 U.S.C. 5191) on or after October 28, 2012.

(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding section 3716(e) of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

(1) subject to paragraph (2), may waive a debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household if—

(A) the covered assistance was distributed based on an error by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(B) there was no fault on behalf of the debtor; and

(C) the collection of the debt would be against equity and good conscience; and

(2) may not waive a debt under paragraph (1) if the debt involves fraud, the presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation by the debtor or any party having an interest in the claim.

(c) MONITORING OF COVERED ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED BASED ON ERROR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security shall monitor the distribution of covered assistance to individuals and households to determine the percentage of such assistance distributed based on an error.

(2) REMOVAL OF WAIVER AUTHORITY BASED ON EXCESSIVE ERROR RATE.—If the inspector general determines, with respect to any 12-month period, that the amount of covered assistance distributed based on an error by the Federal Emergency Management Agency exceeds 4 percent of the total amount of covered assistance distributed—

(A) the inspector general shall notify the Administrator and publish the determination in the Federal Register; and

(B) with respect to any major disaster or emergency declared by the President under section 401 or section 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 42

U.S.C. 5191) after the date on which the determination is published under subparagraph (A), the authority of the Administrator to waive debt under subsection (b) shall no longer be effective.

SEC. 616. ADDITIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) DISASTER MITIGATION.—Section 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DISASTER MITIGATION.—In providing assistance pursuant to subsection (c)(2), if appropriate and as applicable, the Secretary may encourage hazard mitigation in assistance provided pursuant to such subsection.''.

(b) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT GRANTS.—Section 661(d) of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 761(d)) is amended by striking ''for fiscal year 2008'' and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022''.

(c) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS PROGRAM.—Section 662(f) of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 762(f)) is amended by striking ''the program'' and all that follows through ''2012'' and inserting ''the program, for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022''.

(d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 403(a)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b(a)(3)) is amended by striking the second subparagraph (J).

SEC. 617. NATIONAL VETERINARY EMERGENCY TEAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may establish one or more national veterinary emergency teams at accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A national veterinary emergency team shall—

(1) deploy with a team of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System to assist with—

(A) veterinary care of canine search teams;

(B) locating and treating companion animals, service animals, livestock, and other animals; and

(C) surveillance and treatment of zoonotic diseases;

(2) recruit, train, and certify veterinary professionals, including veterinary students, in accordance with an established set of plans and standard operating guidelines to carry out the duties associated with planning for and responding to emergencies as described in paragraph (1);

(3) assist State, Tribal, and local governments and nonprofit organizations in developing emergency management and evacuation plans that account for the care and rescue of animals and in improving local readiness for providing veterinary medical response during a disaster; and

(4) coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, State, Tribal, and local governments (including departments of animal and human health), veterinary and health care professionals, and volunteers.

SEC. 618. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 1105(c) of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 (42 U.S.C. 5189a note) is amended by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2022''.

SEC. 619. UNIFIED FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall review the Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation review process established pursuant to section 429 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189g), and submit a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that includes the following:

(1) An analysis of whether and how the unified process has expedited the interagency review process to ensure compliance with the environmental and historic requirements under Federal law relating to disaster recovery projects.

(2) A survey and analysis of categorical exclusions used by other Federal agencies that may be applicable to any activity related to a Presidentially declared major disaster or emergency under such Act.

(3) Recommendations on any further actions, including any legislative proposals, needed to expedite and streamline the review process.

(b) REGULATIONS.—After completing the review, survey, and analyses under subsection (a), but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing notice and opportunity for public comment, the Administrator shall issue regulations to implement any regulatory recommendations, including any categorical exclusions identified under subsection (a), to the extent that the categorical exclusions meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion under section 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, and section II of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01.

SEC. 620. CLOSEOUT INCENTIVES.

(a) FACILITATING CLOSEOUT.—Section 705 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5205) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) FACILITATING CLOSEOUT.—

''(1) INCENTIVES.—The Administrator may develop incentives and penalties that encourage State, Tribal, or local governments to close out expenditures and activities on a timely basis related to disaster or emergency assistance.

''(2) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—The Agency shall, consistent with applicable regulations and required procedures, meet its responsibilities to improve closeout practices and reduce the time to close disaster program awards.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall issue regulations to implement this section.

SEC. 621. PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES.

Section 306 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5149) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency is authorized to appoint temporary personnel, after serving continuously for 3 years, to positions in the Agency in the same manner that competitive service employees with competitive status are considered for transfer, reassignment, or promotion to such positions. An individual appointed under this subsection shall become a career-conditional employee, unless the employee has already completed the service requirements for career tenure.''.

SEC. 622. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

(1) in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other appropriate agencies, conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees;

(2) in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other appropriate agencies, develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public; and

(3) submit the plans to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 623. AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 430. AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY.

''(a) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.—Not later than 5 days after an award of a public assistance grant is made under section 406 that is in excess of $1,000,000, the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's website the specifics of each such grant award, including—

''(1) identifying the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region;

''(2) the disaster or emergency declaration number;

''(3) the State, county, and applicant name;

''(4) if the applicant is a private nonprofit organization;

''(5) the damage category code;

''(6) the amount of the Federal share obligated; and

''(7) the date of the award.

''(b) MISSION ASSIGNMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 days after the issuance of a mission assignment or mission assignment task order, the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's website any mission assignment or mission assignment task order to another Federal department or agency regarding a major disaster in excess of $1,000,000, including—

''(A) the name of the impacted State or Tribe;

''(B) the disaster declaration for such State or Tribe;

''(C) the assigned agency;

''(D) the assistance requested;

''(E) a description of the disaster;

''(F) the total cost estimate;

''(G) the amount obligated;

''(H) the State or Tribal cost share, if applicable;

''(I) the authority under which the mission assignment or mission assignment task order was directed; and

''(J) if applicable, the date a State or Tribe requested the mission assignment.

''(2) RECORDING CHANGES.—Not later than 10 days after the last day of each month until a mission assignment or mission assignment task order described in paragraph (1) is completed and closed out, the Administrator shall update any changes to the total cost estimate and the amount obligated.

''(c) DISASTER RELIEF MONTHLY REPORT.—Not later than 10 days after the first day of each month, the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's website reports, including a specific description of the methodology and the source data used in developing such reports, including—

''(1) an estimate of the amounts for the fiscal year covered by the President's most recent budget pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, including—

''(A) the unobligated balance of funds to be carried over from the prior fiscal year to the budget year;

''(B) the unobligated balance of funds to be carried over from the budget year to the budget year plus 1;

''(C) the amount of obligations for non-catastrophic events for the budget year;

''(D) the amount of obligations for the budget year for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State;

''(E) the total amount that has been previously obligated or will be required for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State for all prior years, the current fiscal year, the budget year, and each fiscal year thereafter;

''(F) the amount of previously obligated funds that will be recovered for the budget year;

''(G) the amount that will be required for obligations for emergencies, as described in section 102(1), major disasters, as described in section 102(2), fire management assistance grants, as described in section 420, surge activities, and disaster readiness and support activities; and

''(H) the amount required for activities not covered under section 251(b)(2)(D)(iii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)(iii)); and

''(2) an estimate or actual amounts, if available, of the following for the current fiscal year shall be submitted not later than the fifth day of each month, published by the Administrator on the Agency's website not later than the fifth day of each month:

''(A) A summary of the amount of appropriations made available by source, the transfers executed, the previously allocated funds recovered, and the commitments, allocations, and obligations made.

''(B) A table of disaster relief activity delineated by month, including—

''(i) the beginning and ending balances;

''(ii) the total obligations to include amounts obligated for fire assistance, emergencies, surge, and disaster support activities;

''(iii) the obligations for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State; and

''(iv) the amount of previously obligated funds that are recovered.

''(C) A summary of allocations, obligations, and expenditures for catastrophic events delineated by event.

''(D) The cost of the following categories of spending:

''(i) Public assistance.

''(ii) Individual assistance.

''(iii) Mitigation.

''(iv) Administrative.

''(v) Operations.

''(vi) Any other relevant category (including emergency measures and disaster resources) delineated by disaster.

''(E) The date on which funds appropriated will be exhausted.

''(d) CONTRACTS.—

''(1) INFORMATION.—Not later than 10 days after the first day of each month, the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's website the specifics of each contract in excess of $1,000,000 that the Agency enters into, including—

''(A) the name of the party;

''(B) the date the contract was awarded;

''(C) the amount and scope of the contract;

''(D) if the contract was awarded through competitive bidding process;

''(E) if no competitive bidding process was used, the reason why competitive bidding was not used; and

''(F) the authority used to bypass the competitive bidding process.

The information shall be delineated by disaster, if applicable, and specify the damage category code, if applicable.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 10 days after the last day of the fiscal year, the Administrator shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of Congress summarizing the following information for the preceding fiscal year:

''(A) The number of contracts awarded without competitive bidding.

''(B) The reasons why a competitive bidding process was not used.

''(C) The total amount of contracts awarded with no competitive bidding.

''(D) The damage category codes, if applicable, for contracts awarded without competitive bidding.''.

SEC. 624. AUDIT OF CONTRACTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall not reimburse a State, Tribe, or local government or the owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility for any activities made pursuant to a contract entered into after August 1, 2017, that prohibits the Administrator or the Comptroller General of the United States from auditing or otherwise reviewing all aspects relating to the contract.

SEC. 625. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT OF FEMA CONTRACTS FOR TARPS AND PLASTIC SHEETING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security shall initiate an audit of the contracts awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this section referred to as ''FEMA'') for tarps and plastic sheeting for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands in response to Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the audit under subsection (a), the inspector general shall review—

(1) the contracting process used by FEMA to evaluate offerors and award the relevant contracts to contractors;

(2) FEMA's assessment of the past performance of the contractors, including any historical information showing that the contractors had supported large-scale delivery quantities in the past;

(3) FEMA's assessment of the capacity of the contractors to carry out the relevant contracts, including with respect to inventory, production, and financial capabilities;

(4) how FEMA ensured that the contractors met the terms of the relevant contracts; and

(5) whether the failure of the contractors to meet the terms of the relevant contracts and FEMA's subsequent cancellation of the relevant contracts affected the provision of tarps and plastic sheeting to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of initiation of the audit under subsection (a), the inspector general shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the results of the audit, including findings and recommendations.

SEC. 626. RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 309 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5152) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''and other relief or'' and inserting ''long-term recovery groups, domestic hunger relief, and other relief, or''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''and other relief or'' and inserting ''long-term recovery groups, domestic hunger relief, and other relief, or''.

SEC. 627. GUIDANCE ON INUNDATED AND SUBMERGED ROADS.

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, shall develop and issue guidance for State, local, and Tribal governments regarding repair, restoration, and replacement of inundated and submerged roads damaged or destroyed by a major disaster, and for associated expenses incurred by the Government, with respect to roads eligible for assistance under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172).

SEC. 628. AUTHORITIES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the non-federally funded actions of private parties and State, local, or Tribal governments, on State, local, Tribal, and private land, and the effects of those actions, shall not be attributed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's actions under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4002 et seq.), the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (subtitle A of title II of division F of Public Law 112–141; 126 Stat. 916), and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–89; 128 Stat. 1020) for the purposes of section 7 (16 U.S.C. 1536) and section 9 (16 U.S.C. 1538) of the Endangered Species Act. Actions taken under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, that may influence private actions do not create a Federal nexus for the purpose of applying the requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536).

SEC. 629. RECOUPMENT OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3716(e) of title 31, United States Code, and unless there is evidence of civil or criminal fraud, the Federal Emergency Management Agency may not take any action to recoup covered assistance from the recipient of such assistance if the receipt of such assistance occurred on a date that is more than 3 years before the date on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency first provides to the recipient written notification of an intent to recoup.

(b) COVERED ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered assistance'' means assistance provided—

(1) under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174); and

(2) in relation to a major disaster or emergency declared by the President under section 401 or 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 42 U.S.C. 5191) on or after January 1, 2012.

SEC. 630. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 705 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5205) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking ''Except'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding section 3716(e) of title 31, United States Code, and except''; and

(B) by striking ''report for the disaster or emergency'' and inserting ''report for project completion as certified by the grantee''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking ''report for the disaster or emergency'' and inserting ''report for project completion as certified by the grantee''; and

(B) in paragraph (3) by inserting ''for project completion as certified by the grantee'' after ''final expenditure report''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to disaster or emergency assistance provided to a State or local government on or after January 1, 2004—

(A) no administrative action may be taken to recover a payment of such assistance after the date of enactment of this Act if the action is prohibited under section 705(a)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5205(a)(1)), as amended by subsection (a); and

(B) any administrative action to recover a payment of such assistance that is pending on such date of enactment shall be terminated if the action is prohibited under section 705(a)(1) of that Act, as amended by subsection (a).

(2) LIMITATION.—This section, including the amendments made by this section, may not be construed to invalidate or otherwise affect any administration action completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 631. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall provide technical assistance to a common interest community that provides essential services of a governmental nature on actions that a common interest community may take in order to be eligible to receive reimbursement from a grantee that receives funds from the Agency for certain activities performed after an event that results in a disaster declaration.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a legislative proposal on how to provide eligibility for disaster assistance with respect to common areas of condominiums and housing cooperatives.

SEC. 632. GUIDANCE ON HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue guidance regarding the acquisition of property for open space as a mitigation measure under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) that includes—

(1) a process by which the State hazard mitigation officer appointed for such an acquisition shall, not later than 60 days after the applicant for assistance enters into an agreement with the Administrator regarding the acquisition, provide written notification to each affected unit of local government for such acquisition that includes—

(A) the location of the acquisition;

(B) the State-local assistance agreement for the hazard mitigation grant program;

(C) a description of the acquisition; and

(D) a copy of the deed restriction; and

(2) recommendations for entering into and implementing a memorandum of understanding between units of local government and covered entities that includes provisions to allow an affected unit of local government notified under paragraph (1) to—

(A) use and maintain the open space created by such a project, consistent with section 404 (including related regulations, standards, and guidance) and consistent with all adjoining property, subject to the notification of the adjoining property, so long as the cost of the maintenance is borne by the local government; and

(B) maintain the open space pursuant to standards exceeding any local government standards defined in the agreement with the Administrator described under paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following definitions apply:

(1) AFFECTED UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ''affected unit of local government'' means any entity covered by the definition of local government in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), that has jurisdiction over the property subject to the acquisition described in subsection (a).

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means—

(A) the grantee or subgrantee receiving assistance for an open space project described in subsection (a);

(B) the State in which such project is located; and

(C) the applicable Regional Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SEC. 633. LOCAL IMPACT.

In making recommendations to the President regarding a major disaster declaration, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall give greater weight and consideration to severe local impact or recent multiple disasters. Further, the Administrator shall make corresponding adjustments to the Agency's policies and regulations regarding such consideration. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the changes made to regulations and policies and the number of declarations that have been declared based on the new criteria.

SEC. 634. ADDITIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.

Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) USE OF ASSISTANCE.—Recipients of hazard mitigation assistance provided under this section and section 203 may use the assistance to conduct activities to help reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering in any area affected by earthquake hazards, including—

''(1) improvements to regional seismic networks in support of building a capability for earthquake early warning;

''(2) improvements to geodetic networks in support of building a capability for earthquake early warning; and

''(3) improvements to seismometers, Global Positioning System receivers, and associated infrastructure in support of building a capability for earthquake early warning.''.

SEC. 635. NATIONAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

(a) PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by inserting ''Public Infrastructure'' after ''the National'';

(2) in subsection (e)(1)(B)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of clause (ii);

(B) by striking the period at the end of clause (iii) and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) to establish and carry out enforcement activities to implement the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs and establish minimum acceptable criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures and facilities that may be eligible for assistance under this Act for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the buildings' users against disasters.'';

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting ''for mitigation activities that are cost effective'' after ''competitive basis''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—The President may—

''(A) withdraw amounts of financial assistance made available to a State (including amounts made available to local governments of a State) under this subsection that remain unobligated by the end of the third fiscal year after the fiscal year for which the amounts were allocated; and

''(B) in the fiscal year following a fiscal year in which amounts were withdrawn under subparagraph (A), add the amounts to any other amounts available to be awarded on a competitive basis pursuant to paragraph (1).'';

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (9) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (12); and

(C) by adding after paragraph (9) the following:

''(10) the extent to which the State or local government has facilitated the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs and establish criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures and facilities that may be eligible for assistance under this Act for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the buildings' users against disasters;

''(11) the extent to which the assistance will fund activities that increase the level of resiliency; and'';

(5) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) NATIONAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PREDISASTER MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may set aside from the Disaster Relief Fund, with respect to each major disaster, an amount equal to 6 percent of the estimated aggregate amount of the grants to be made pursuant to sections 403, 406, 407, 408, 410, and 416 for the major disaster in order to provide technical and financial assistance under this section.

''(2) ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—Not later than 180 days after each major disaster declaration pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggregate amount of grants for purposes of paragraph (1) shall be determined by the President and such estimated amount need not be reduced, increased, or changed due to variations in estimates.

''(3) NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.—The amount set aside pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce the amounts otherwise made available for sections 403, 404, 406, 407, 408, 410, and 416 under this Act.''; and

(6) by striking subsections (j) and (m) and redesignating subsections (k), (l), and (n) as subsections (j), (k), and (l), respectively.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made to section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) by paragraphs (3) and (5) of subsection (a) shall apply to funds appropriated after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 636. ADDITIONAL MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.

(a) HAZARD MITIGATION CLARIFICATION.—Section 404(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(a)) is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''The President may contribute up to 75 percent of the cost of hazard mitigation measures which the President has determined are cost effective and which substantially reduce the risk of, or increase resilience to, future damage, hardship, loss, or

suffering in any area affected by a major disaster.''.

(b) ELIGIBLE COST.—Section 406(e)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(e)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting after ''section,'' the following: ''for disasters declared on or after August 1, 2017, or a disaster in which a cost estimate has not yet been finalized for a project,'';

(2) in clause (i), by striking ''and'';

(3) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking ''codes, specifications, and standards'' and inserting ''the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs and establish minimum acceptable criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures and facilities that may be eligible for assistance under this Act for the purposes of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of a facility's users against disasters'';

(B) by striking ''applicable at the time at which the disaster occurred''; and

(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) in a manner that allows the facility to meet the definition of resilient developed pursuant to this subsection.''.

(c) OTHER ELIGIBLE COST.—Section 406(e)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(e)(1)) is further amended by inserting at the end the following:

''(C) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Contributions for the eligible cost made under this section may be provided on an actual cost basis or on cost-estimation procedures.''.

(d) NEW RULES.—Section 406(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(e)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) NEW RULES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall issue a final rulemaking that defines the terms 'resilient' and 'resiliency' for purposes of this subsection.

''(B) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall issue interim guidance to implement this subsection. Such interim guidance shall expire 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph or upon issuance of final regulations pursuant to subparagraph (A), whichever occurs first.

''(C) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator issues the final rulemaking under this paragraph, the Administrator shall issue any necessary guidance related to the rulemaking.

''(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the regulations and guidance issued pursuant to this paragraph.''.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 205(d)(2) of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–390) is amended by inserting ''(B)'' after ''except that paragraph (1)''.

TITLE VII—FLIGHT R&D ACT

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''FAA Leadership in Groundbreaking High-Tech Research and Development Act'' or the ''FLIGHT R&D Act''.

SEC. 702. DEFINITIONS.

In this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(3) NASA.—The term ''NASA'' means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Transportation.

SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 48102(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1) by striking ''and, for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2015, under subsection (g)'';

(2) at the end of paragraph (9), by striking ''and''; and

(3) by striking paragraph (10) and inserting the following:

''(10) for fiscal year 2018, $181,000,000, including—

''(A) $128,500,000 for Safety Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) Fire Research and Safety;

''(ii) Propulsion and Fuel Systems;

''(iii) Advanced Materials/Structural Safety;

''(iv) Aircraft Icing/Digital System Safety;

''(v) Continued Airworthiness;

''(vi) Aircraft Catastrophic Failure Prevention Research;

''(vii) Flightdeck/Maintenance/System Integration Human Factors;

''(viii) System Safety Management;

''(ix) Air Traffic Control/Technical Operations Human Factors;

''(x) Aeromedical Research;

''(xi) Weather Program;

''(xii) Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research;

''(xiii) NextGen–Alternative Fuels for General Aviation;

''(xiv) Joint Planning and Development Office;

''(xv) Ocean and Other Remote Locations ATS Research Program;

''(xvi) Cybersecurity Research Program;

''(xvii) Cybersecurity Threat Modeling Program;

''(xviii) Single Piloted Commercial Cargo Aircraft Program; and

''(xix) UAV-Manned Aircraft Collision Research Program;

''(B) $26,000,000 for Economic Competitiveness Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) NextGen–Wake Turbulence;

''(ii) NextGen–Air Ground Integration Human Factors;

''(iii) Next Gen–Weather Technology in the Cockpit; and

''(iv) Commercial Space Transportation Safety;

''(C) $20,000,000 for Environmental Sustainability Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) Environment and Energy; and

''(ii) NextGen–Environmental Research–Aircraft Technologies, Fuels and Metrics; and

''(D) $6,500,000 for Mission Support programs, including—

''(i) System Planning and Resource Management; and

''(ii) William J. Hughes Technical Center Laboratory Facility;

''(11) for fiscal year 2019, $186,000,000, including—

''(A) $131,000,000 for Safety Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) Fire Research and Safety;

''(ii) Propulsion and Fuel Systems;

''(iii) Advanced Materials/Structural Safety;

''(iv) Aircraft Icing/Digital System Safety;

''(v) Continued Airworthiness;

''(vi) Aircraft Catastrophic Failure Prevention Research;

''(vii) Flightdeck/Maintenance/System Integration Human Factors;

''(viii) System Safety Management;

''(ix) Air Traffic Control/Technical Operations Human Factors;

''(x) Aeromedical Research;

''(xi) Weather Program;

''(xii) Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research;

''(xiii) NextGen–Alternative Fuels for General Aviation;

''(xiv) Joint Planning and Development Office;

''(xv) Ocean and Other Remote Locations ATS Research Program;

''(xvi) Cybersecurity Research Program;

''(xvii) Cybersecurity Threat Modeling Program;

''(xviii) Single Piloted Commercial Cargo Aircraft Program; and

''(xix) UAV-Manned Aircraft Collision Research Program;

''(B) $28,000,000 for Economic Competitiveness Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) NextGen–Wake Turbulence;

''(ii) NextGen–Air Ground Integration Human Factors;

''(iii) Next Gen–Weather Technology in the Cockpit; and

''(iv) Commercial Space Transportation Safety;

''(C) $20,000,000 for Environmental Sustainability Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) Environment and Energy; and

''(ii) NextGen–Environmental Research–Aircraft Technologies, Fuels and Metrics; and

''(D) $7,000,000 for Mission Support programs, including—

''(i) System Planning and Resource Management; and

''(ii) William J. Hughes Technical Center Laboratory Facility;

''(12) for fiscal year 2020, $190,000,000, including—

''(A) $133,500,000 for Safety Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) Fire Research and Safety;

''(ii) Propulsion and Fuel Systems;

''(iii) Advanced Materials/Structural Safety;

''(iv) Aircraft Icing/Digital System Safety;

''(v) Continued Airworthiness;

''(vi) Aircraft Catastrophic Failure Prevention Research;

''(vii) Flightdeck/Maintenance/System Integration Human Factors;

''(viii) System Safety Management;

''(ix) Air Traffic Control/Technical Operations Human Factors;

''(x) Aeromedical Research;

''(xi) Weather Program;

''(xii) Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research;

''(xiii) NextGen–Alternative Fuels for General Aviation;

''(xiv) Joint Planning and Development Office;

''(xv) Ocean and Other Remote Locations ATS Research Program;

''(xvi) Cybersecurity Research Program;

''(xvii) Cybersecurity Threat Modeling Program;

''(xviii) Single Piloted Commercial Cargo Aircraft Program; and

''(xix) UAV-Manned Aircraft Collision Research Program;

''(B) $29,000,000 for Economic Competitiveness Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) NextGen–Wake Turbulence;

''(ii) NextGen–Air Ground Integration Human Factors;

''(iii) Next Gen–Weather Technology in the Cockpit; and

''(iv) Commercial Space Transportation Safety;

''(C) $20,000,000 for Environmental Sustainability Research and Development programs, including—

''(i) Environment and Energy; and

''(ii) NextGen–Environmental Research–Aircraft Technologies, Fuels and Metrics; and

''(D) $7,500,000 for Mission Support programs, including—

''(i) System Planning and Resource Management; and

''(ii) William J. Hughes Technical Center Laboratory Facility;

''(13) for fiscal year 2021, $195,000,000;

''(14) for fiscal year 2022, $200,000,000; and

''(15) for fiscal year 2023, $204,000,000.''.

(b) CONTINGENCY FUNDING.—Section 48102(b) of title 49, United States, Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) Notwithstanding subsection (a), no funds are authorized for a fiscal year for Environmental Sustainability Research and Development programs unless the full amount authorized for that fiscal year under subsection (a) for the all of the following programs is appropriated for that fiscal year:

''(A) Safety Research and Development programs.

''(B) Economic Competitiveness Research and Development programs.

''(C) Mission Support programs.''.

(c) ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL AVIATION RESEARCH PLAN.—Section 48102(g) of title 49, United States, Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(g) ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL AVIATION RESEARCH PLAN.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Office of the Administrator for a fiscal year unless the Secretary has submitted the national aviation research plan to Congress no later than the date of submission of the President's budget request to Congress for that fiscal year, as required under section 44501(c).''.

Subtitle B—FAA Research and Development Organization

SEC. 711. ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall appoint an Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

(b) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—The Associate Administrator for Research and Development shall be a Senior Executive Service position.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Associate Administrator for Research and Development shall, at a minimum, be responsible for—

(1) management and oversight of all the FAA's research and development programs and activities; and

(2) production of all congressional reports from the FAA relevant to research and development, including the national aviation research plan required under section 44501(c) of title 49, United States Code.

(d) DUAL APPOINTMENT.—The Associate Administrator for Research and Development may be a dual-appointment, holding the responsibilities of another Associate Administrator.

SEC. 712. RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Section 44508(a)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(A) provide advice and recommendations to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and Congress about needs, objectives, plans, approaches, content, and accomplishments of all aviation research and development activities and programs carried out, including those under sections 40119, 44504, 44505, 44507, 44511–44513, and 44912 of this title;''.

(b) WRITTEN REPLY TO RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 44508 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) WRITTEN REPLY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving any recommendation from the research advisory committee, the Administrator shall provide a written reply to the research advisory committee that, at a minimum—

''(A) clearly states whether the Administrator accepts or rejects the recommendations;

''(B) explains the rationale for the Administrator's decision;

''(C) sets forth the timeframe in which the Administrator will implement the recommendation; and

''(D) describes the steps the Administrator will take to implement the recommendation.

''(2) TRANSPARENCY.—The written reply to the research advisory committee, when transmitted to the research advisory committee, shall be—

''(A) made publicly available on the research advisory committee website; and

''(B) transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

''(3) NATIONAL AVIATION RESEARCH PLAN.—The national aviation research plan required under section 44501(c) shall include a summary of all research advisory committee recommendations and a description of the status of their implementation.''.

Subtitle C—Unmanned Aircraft Systems

SEC. 721. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP.

No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Office of the Administrator for a fiscal year unless the Secretary has submitted the unmanned aircraft systems roadmap to Congress on an annual basis as required under section 45502(a) of title 49, United States Code, (as added by this Act).

SEC. 722. PROBABILISTIC METRICS FOR EXEMPTIONS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall commission an independent study to—

(1) develop parameters to conduct research and development for probabilistic metrics to enable the identification of hazards and the assessment of risks as necessary to make determinations under section 45505(a) of title 49, United States Code, (as added by this Act) that certain unmanned aircraft systems may operate safely in the national airspace system;

(2) identify additional research needed to more effectively develop and use such metrics and make such determinations; and

(3) in developing parameters for probabilistic metrics, this study shall take into account the utility of performance standards to make determinations under section 45505(a) of title 49, United States Code, (as added by this Act).

(b) CONSIDERATION OF RESULTS.—The Administrator shall consider the results of the study conducted under subsection (a) when making a determination described in subsection (a)(1).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the study conducted under subsection (a) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 723. PROBABILISTIC ASSESSMENT OF RISKS.

The Administrator shall conduct research and development to enable a probabilistic assessment of risks to inform requirements for standards for operational certification of public unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace.

SEC. 724. UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE-MANNED AIRCRAFT COLLISION RESEARCH.

(a) RESEARCH.—The Administrator shall coordinate with NASA to conduct comprehensive testing of unmanned aerial vehicles colliding with a manned aircraft, including—

(1) collisions between unmanned aerial vehicles of various sizes, traveling at various speeds, and commercial jet airliners of various sizes, traveling at various speeds;

(2) collisions between unmanned aerial vehicles of various sizes, traveling at various speeds, and propeller planes of various sizes, traveling at various speeds;

(3) collisions between unmanned aerial vehicles of various sizes, traveling at various speeds, and blimps of various sizes, traveling at various speeds;

(4) collisions between unmanned aerial vehicles of various sizes, traveling at various speeds, and rotorcraft of various sizes, traveling at various speeds; and

(5) collisions between unmanned aerial vehicles and various parts of the aforementioned aircraft, including—

(A) windshields;

(B) noses;

(C) engines;

(D) radomes;

(E) propellers; and

(F) wings.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report summarizing the costs and results of research under this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 725. SPECIAL RULE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Except as necessary to support enforcement action under applicable provisions of law against persons operating unmanned aircraft in a manner that endangers the safety of the national airspace system, notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the incorporation of unmanned aircraft systems into FAA plans and policies, the Administrator may not promulgate any rule or regulation regarding the operation of an unmanned aircraft system—

(1) that is flown strictly for research and development use;

(2) that is operated less than 400 feet above the ground and in Class G airspace;

(3) that is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft; and

(4) when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (unmanned aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 5 miles of an airport should establish a mutually-agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport)).

SEC. 726. BEYOND LINE-OF-SIGHT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 332(c)(2) the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Administrator shall'' and inserting ''Administrator'';

(2) at the beginning of each of subparagraphs (A) through (F), by inserting ''shall'';

(3) at the end of subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'';

(4) at the end of subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(G) shall allow beyond line-of-sight operation of unmanned aircraft systems to be flown within the boundaries of a test range established under this subsection;

''(H) may promulgate regulations governing beyond line-of-sight operation of unmanned aircraft systems flown within the boundaries of a test range established under this subsection for the purposes of public safety; and

''(I) shall allow NASA to authorize operation of beyond line-of-sight unmanned aircraft systems within the boundaries of any NASA center or facility.''.

(b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by subsection (a) shall be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to pursue enforcement action under applicable provisions of law against persons operating unmanned aircraft in a manner that endangers the safety of the national airspace system.

Subtitle D—Cybersecurity

SEC. 731. CYBER TESTBED.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop an integrated Cyber Testbed for research, development, evaluation, and validation of air traffic control modernization programs or technologies, before they enter the national airspace system, as being compliant with FAA data security regulations. The Cyber Testbed shall be part of an integrated research and development test environment capable of creating, identifying, defending, and solving cybersecurity-related problems for the national airspace system. This integrated test environment shall incorporate integrated test capacities within the FAA related to the national airspace system and NextGen.

SEC. 732. CABIN COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.

(a) EVALUATION.—The Administrator shall evaluate and determine the research and development needs associated with cybersecurity vulnerabilities of cabin communications, entertainment, and information technology systems on civil passenger aircraft. This evaluation shall include research and development to address—

(1) technical risks and vulnerabilities;

(2) potential impacts on the national airspace and public safety; and

(3) identification of deficiencies in cabin-based cybersecurity.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of opportunities to cooperate with the private sector in conducting aircraft in-cabin cybersecurity research and development; and

(2) provide recommendations to improve research and development on cabin-based cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report on the results of activities under this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate. This report may contain classified annexes.

SEC. 733. CYBERSECURITY THREAT MODELING.

(a) PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall consult the National Institute of Standards and Technology to research and develop an internal FAA cybersecurity threat modeling program to detect cybersecurity vulnerabilities, track how those vulnerabilities might be exploited, and assess the magnitude of harm that could be caused by the exploitation of those vulnerabilities.

(2) UPDATES.—This program shall be updated regularly, not less than once every 5 years.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and within 7 days of each threat modeling program update under subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate detailing the status, results, and composition of the threat modeling program.

SEC. 734. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the FAA shall, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a cybersecurity standards plan to implement National Institute of Standards and Technology revisions to cybersecurity guidance documents within timeframes set by the Office of Management and Budget; and

(2) an explanation of why any such recommendations are not incorporated in the plan or are not incorporated within such timeframes.

SEC. 735. CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH COORDINATION.

The Administrator shall, where feasible, cooperate on cybersecurity research and development with other international air traffic management organizations, including the European Aviation Safety Agency, the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority, Nav Canada, and Airservices Australia.

SEC. 736. CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the FAA, in consultation with other agencies as appropriate, shall establish a research and development program to improve the cybersecurity of civil aircraft and the national airspace system.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the FAA shall develop a plan for the research and development program established under subsection (a) that contains objectives, proposed tasks, milestones, and a 5-year budgetary profile.

(2) NATIONAL ACADEMIES' STUDY.—The Administrator shall—

(A) enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study of the plan developed under paragraph (1); and

(B) provide the results of that study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle E—FAA Research and Development Activities

SEC. 741. RESEARCH PLAN FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES INTO THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with NASA, shall transmit a comprehensive research plan for the certification of new technologies into the national airspace system to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate. This plan shall identify research necessary to support the certification and implementation of NextGen, including both ground and air elements, and explain the plan's relationship to other activities and procedures required for certification and implementation of new technologies into the national airspace system. This plan shall be informed by and conform to the recommendations of the National Research Council report titled ''Transformation in the Air—A Review of the FAA Research Plan'', issued on June 8, 2015. This report shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a description of the strategic and prescriptive value of the research plan;

(2) an explanation of the expected outcomes from executing the plan;

(3) an assessment of the FAA's plan to use research and development to improve cybersecurity over the next 5 years, taking into account the cybersecurity research and development plan developed under section 736(b);

(4) an assessment of the current software assurance practices, and the desired level or attributes to target in the software assurance program;

(5) cost estimates, planned schedules, and performance benchmarks, including specific tasks, milestones, and timelines and including an identification of cost and schedule reserves, for the certification of new technologies into the national airspace system, including NextGen, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast, Data Communications, National Airspace System Voice System, Collaborative Air Traffic Management Technologies, NextGen Weather, and System Wide Information Management;

(6) methods for integrating emerging technologies throughout NextGen's development, certification, and implementation process; and

(7) best practices in research and development used by other organizations, such as NASA, NavCanada, and Eurocontrol.

SEC. 742. AVIATION FUEL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND USAGE.

The Administrator may conduct or supervise research, development, and service testing, currently being conducted under the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI) unleaded avgas program, that is required to allow the use of an unleaded aviation gasoline in existing aircraft as a replacement for leaded gasoline.

SEC. 743. AIR TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE OVER OCEANS AND OTHER REMOTE LOCATIONS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator, in consultation with NASA and other relevant agencies, shall establish a research and development program on civilian air traffic surveillance over oceans and other remote locations. Such program shall—

(1) take into account the need for international interoperability of technologies and air traffic control systems; and

(2) recognize that Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS–B) is an element of the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a pilot program to test, evaluate, and certify for integration into the national airspace system air traffic surveillance equipment for oceans and other remote locations.

(c) PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY.—The Administrator shall partner with private industry on the research, development, testing, and evaluation under this section.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report on activities under this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 744. SINGLE-PILOTED COMMERCIAL CARGO AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROGRAM.—The FAA, in consultation with NASA and other relevant agencies, shall establish a research and development program in support of single-piloted cargo aircraft assisted with remote piloting and computer piloting.

(b) REVIEW.—The FAA, in consultation with NASA, shall conduct a review of FAA research and development activities in support of single-piloted cargo aircraft assisted with remote piloting and computer piloting.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that describes—

(1) the program established under subsection (a); and

(2) the results of the review conducted under subsection (b).

SEC. 745. ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Administrator shall develop a program to research the use of spectrum in the civil aviation domain, including aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems. This research shall, at a minimum, address—

(1) how, operating within an Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management system, unmanned aircraft systems can safely use, for control link, tracking, diagnostics, payload communication, collaborative-collision avoidance (e.g. vehicle-to-vehicle communications), and other purposes—

(A) aviation-protected spectrum;

(B) commercial communications networks, such as mobile communications networks; and

(C) any other licensed or unlicensed spectrum;

(2) how the reallocation of spectrum assigned for use within frequency bands adjacent to those allocated for position, navigation, and timing may impact the safety of civil aviation; and

(3) measures to protect and mitigate against spectrum interference in frequency bands used by the civil aviation community to ensure public safety.

TITLE VIII—AVIATION REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FROM AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9502(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''October 1, 2018'' and inserting ''October 1, 2023''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''or the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018;''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9502(e)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''October 1, 2018'' and inserting ''October 1, 2023''.

SEC. 802. EXTENSION OF TAXES FUNDING AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—Section 4081(d)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''September 30, 2018'' and inserting ''September 30, 2023''.

(b) TICKET TAXES.—

(1) PERSONS.—Section 4261(k)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking ''September 30, 2018'' and inserting ''September 30, 2023''.

(2) PROPERTY.—Section 4271(d)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking ''September 30, 2018'' and inserting ''September 30, 2023''.

(c) FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS.—

(1) FUEL TAX.—Section 4043(d) of such Code is amended by striking ''September 30, 2021'' and inserting ''September 30, 2023''.

(2) TREATMENT AS NONCOMMERCIAL AVIATION.—Section 4083(b) of such Code is amended by striking ''October 1, 2018'' and inserting ''October 1, 2023''.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM TICKET TAXES.—Section 4261(j) of such Code is amended by striking ''September 30, 2018'' and inserting ''September 30, 2023''.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 115–650 and amendments en bloc described in House Resolution 839.

Each such amendment printed in part A of the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

□ 1330

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. SHUSTER. 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 8, strike lines 19 through 22 and insert the following:

(b) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—Section 48101(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking ''Automated Surface Observation System/Automated Weather Observing System Upgrade'' and inserting ''Authorized Expenditures''; and

(2) by striking ''may be used for the implementation'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''may be used for the following:

''(1) The implementation and use of upgrades to the current automated surface observation system/automated weather observing system, if the upgrade is successfully demonstrated.

''(2) The acquisition and construction of remote air traffic control towers (as defined in section 510 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018).

''(3) The remediation and elimination of identified cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the air traffic control system.

''(4) The construction of facilities dedicated to improving the cybersecurity of the National Airspace System.

''(5) Systems associated with the Data Communications program.

''(6) The infrastructure, sustainment, and the elimination of the deferred maintenance backlog of air navigation facilities and other facilities for which the Federal Aviation Administration is responsible.

''(7) The modernization and digitization of the Civil Aviation Registry.

''(8) The construction of necessary Priority 1 National Airspace System facilities.

''(9) Cost-beneficial construction, rehabilitation, or retrofitting programs designed to reduce Federal Aviation Administration facility operating costs.''.

Page 8, line 13, strike ''$2,920,000,000'' and insert ''$3,330,000,000''.

Page 8, line 14, strike ''$2,984,000,000'' and insert ''$3,398,000,000''.

Page 8, line 15, strike ''$3,049,000,000'' and insert ''$3,469,000,000''.

Page 8, line 16, strike ''$3,118,000,000'' and insert ''$3,547,000,000''.

Page 8, line 17, strike ''$3,190,000,000'' and insert ''$3,624,000,000''.

Page 8, line 18, strike ''$3,263,000,000'' and insert ''$3,701,000,000''.

Page 9, line 5, strike ''$10,231,000,000'' and insert ''$10,247,000,000''.

Page 9, line 6, strike ''$10,434,000,000'' and insert ''$10,486,000,000''.

Page 9, line 7, strike ''$10,639,000,000'' and insert ''$10,732,000,000''.

Page 9, line 8, strike ''$10,861,000,000'' and insert ''$11,000,000,000''.

Page 9, line 10, strike ''$11,095,000,000'' and insert ''$11,269,000,000''.

Page 9, line 12, strike ''$11,329,000,000'' and insert ''$11,537,000,000''.

Page 9, after line 13, insert the following:

(b) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—Section 106(k)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) Not more than the following amounts for commercial space transportation activities:

''(i) $22,587,000 for fiscal year 2018.

''(ii) $33,038,000 for fiscal year 2019.

''(iii) $43,500,000 for fiscal year 2020.

''(iv) $54,970,000 for fiscal year 2021.

''(v) $64,449,000 for fiscal year 2022.

''(vi) $75,938,000 for fiscal year 2023.''.

Page 9, line 14, strike ''(b)'' and insert ''(c)''.

At the end of subtitle C of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1___. SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS.

Section 47115 of title 49, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide grants, subject to the conditions of this subsection, for any purpose for which amounts are made available under section 48103 that the Secretary considers most appropriate to carry out this subchapter.

''(2) TREATMENT OF GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant made under this subsection shall be treated as having been made pursuant to the Secretary's authority under section 47104(a) and from the Secretary's discretionary fund under subsection (a) of this section.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, grants made under this subsection shall not be subject to subsection (c), section 47117(e), or any other apportionment formula, special apportionment

category, or minimum percentage set forth in this chapter.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary may provide grants under this subsection only for projects—

''(A) at a nonprimary airport that—

''(i) is classified as a regional, local, or basic airport, as determined using the Department of Transportation's most recently published classification; and

''(ii) is not located within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget);

''(B) at a nonhub, small hub, or medium hub airport; or

''(C) at an airport receiving an exemption under section 47134.

''(4) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Government's share of allowable project costs under this subsection is 80 percent.

''(B) SUBMISSION.—In applying for a grant under this subsection, an airport sponsor that proposes a lower Government share of allowable project costs than the share specified in subparagraph (A) shall receive priority commensurate with the reduction in such share. Projects shall receive equal priority consideration if such project—

''(i) has a proposed Government cost share of 50 percent or less; or

''(ii) is at an airport receiving an exemption under section 47134.

''(5) AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection the following amounts:

''(i) $1,020,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.

''(ii) $1,041,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

''(iii) $1,064,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

''(iv) $1,087,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

''(v) $1,110,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—Sums authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (A) shall remain available for 2 fiscal years.''.

SEC. 1___. SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Section 47102(3)(B)(ii) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and emergency call boxes,'' and inserting ''emergency call boxes, and counter-UAS systems (as defined in section 40102),''.

Page 100, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 103, line 19.

At the end of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3___. FAA AND NTSB REVIEW OF GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in coordination with the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, shall initiate a study of general aviation safety.

(b) STUDY CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of all general aviation accidents since 2000, including a review of—

(A) the number of such accidents;

(B) the number of injuries and fatalities, including with respect to both occupants of aircraft and individuals on the ground, as a result of such accidents;

(C) the number of such accidents investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board;

(D) the number of such accidents investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(E) a summary of the factual findings and probable cause determinations with respect to such accidents;

(2) an assessment of the most common probable cause determinations issued for general aviation accidents since 2000;

(3) an assessment of the most common facts analyzed by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board in the course of investigations of general aviation accidents since 2000, including operational details;

(4) a review of the safety recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board related to general aviation accidents since 2000;

(5) an assessment of the responses of the Federal Aviation Administration and the general aviation community to the safety recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board related to general aviation accidents since 2000;

(6) an assessment of the most common general aviation safety issues;

(7) a review of the total costs to the Federal Government to conduct investigations of general aviation accidents over the last 10 years; and

(8) other matters the Administrator or the Chairman considers appropriate.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY.—Based on the results of the study required under subsection (a), the Administrator, in consultation with the Chairman, shall make such recommendations, including with respect to regulations and enforcement activities, as the Administrator considers necessary to—

(1) address general aviation safety issues identified under the study;

(2) protect persons and property on the ground; and

(3) improve the safety of general aviation operators in the United States.

(d) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator shall have the authority to undertake actions to address the recommendations made under subsection (c).

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study required under subsection (a), including the recommendations described in subsection (c).

(f) GENERAL AVIATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''general aviation'' means aircraft operation for personal, recreational, or other noncommercial purposes.

SEC. 3___. CALL TO ACTION AIRLINE ENGINE SAFETY REVIEW.

(a) CALL TO ACTION AIRLINE ENGINE SAFETY REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a Call to Action safety review on airline engine safety in order to bring stakeholders together to share best practices and implement actions to address airline engine safety.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Call to Action safety review required pursuant to subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of Administration regulations, guidance, and directives related to airline engines during design and production, including the oversight of those processes;

(2) a review of Administration regulations, guidance, and directives related to airline engine operation and maintenance and the oversight of those processes;

(3) a review of reportable accidents and incidents involving airline engines during calendar years 2014 through 2018, including any identified contributing factors to the reportable accident or incident; and

(4) a process for stakeholders, including inspectors, manufacturers, maintenance providers, airlines, and aviation safety experts, to provide feedback and share best practices.

(c) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the conclusion of the Call to Action safety review pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review and any recommendations for actions or best practices to improve airline engine safety.

SEC. 3___. SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 44737. Special rule for certain aircraft operations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The operator of an aircraft with a special airworthiness certificate in the experimental category may—

''(1) operate the aircraft for the purpose of conducting a commercial space transportation support flight; and

''(2) conduct such flight under such certificate carrying persons or property for compensation or hire notwithstanding any rule or term of a certificate issued by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration that would prohibit flight for compensation or hire.

''(b) LIMITED APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to a commercial space transportation support flight that satisfies each of the following:

''(1) The aircraft conducting the commercial space transportation support flight—

''(A) takes flight and lands at a single site that is licensed for operation under chapter 509 of title 51; and

''(B) is used only to simulate space flight conditions in support of—

''(i) training for potential space flight participants or crew (as those terms are defined in chapter 509 of title 51); or

''(ii) the testing of hardware to be used in space flight.

''(2) The operator of the commercial space transportation support flight—

''(A) informs, in writing, any individual serving as crew of the aircraft that the United States Government has not certified the aircraft as safe for carrying crew or passengers prior to executing any contract or other arrangement to employ that individual (or, in the case of an individual already employed as of the date of enactment of this section, prior to any commercial space transportation support flight in which the individual will participate as crew);

''(B) prior to receiving any compensation for carrying any passengers on the aircraft—

''(i) informs, in writing, the passengers about the risks of the aircraft and commercial space transportation support flight, including the safety record for the operator's fleet of similar vehicle types and information sufficient to adequately describe the safety record for the vehicle type regardless of operator; and

''(ii) informs, in writing, any passenger that the United States Government has not certified the aircraft as safe for carrying crew or passengers;

''(C) provides any passenger an opportunity to ask questions orally to acquire a better understanding of the safety record of the aircraft and commercial space transportation support flight; and

''(D) obtains written informed consent from any individual serving as crew and all passengers of the commercial space transportation support flight that—

''(i) identifies the specific aircraft the consent covers;

''(ii) states that the individual understands the risk and that the presence of the individual on board the aircraft is voluntary; and

''(iii) is signed and dated by the individual.

''(3) When the aircraft is also a launch vehicle, reentry vehicle, or component of a launch or reentry vehicle, the operator of the aircraft holds a license or permit issued under chapter 509 of title 51 for that vehicle or vehicle component.

''(4) Any other requirements that the Administrator may prescribe to permit a commercial space transportation support flight under this section.

''(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) Section 44711(a)(1) shall not apply to a person conducting a commercial space transportation support flight under this section only to the extent that a term of the experimental certificate under which the person is operating the aircraft prohibits the carriage of persons or property for compensation or hire.

''(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to exempt a person from a regulatory prohibition on the carriage of persons or property for compensation or hire subject to terms and conditions other than those described in this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''44737. Special rule for certain aircraft operations.''.

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3___. DEFINITIONS.

Section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(48) 'counter-UAS system' means a system or device capable of lawfully and safely disabling, disrupting, or seizing control of an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system.

''(49) 'public unmanned aircraft system' means an unmanned aircraft system that meets the qualifications and conditions required for operation of a public aircraft.

''(50) 'small unmanned aircraft' means an unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds, including everything that is on board or otherwise attached to the aircraft.

''(51) 'unmanned aircraft' means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.

''(52) 'unmanned aircraft system' means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.

''(53) 'UTM' means an unmanned aircraft traffic management system or service.''.

Page 176, strike line 9 (and redesignate accordingly).

Page 176, after line 12, insert the following:

(3) 3 representatives, to be appointed by the Secretary, to represent the various segments of the air ambulance industry.

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4___. ENHANCED TRAINING OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS.

Section 44734(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) dealing with allegations of sexual misconduct.''.

SEC. 4___. ADDRESSING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ON FLIGHTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish a sexual misconduct incident working group composed of aviation industry stakeholders, relevant Federal agencies, national organizations that specialize in providing services to victims of sexual misconduct, labor organizations that represent relevant aviation employees, and State and local law enforcement agencies.

(b) PURPOSE OF WORKING GROUP.—The purpose of the working group shall be to develop best practices for—

(1) addressing sexual misconduct on flights;

(2) airline employee training; and

(3) protocols for law enforcement notification.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit a report describing the best practices developed pursuant to subsection (b) to the Secretary, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(d) SUNSET.—The working group established pursuant to subsection (a) shall terminate 60 days after the submission of the report pursuant to subsection (c).

At the end of subtitle B of title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4___. AIRLINE PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES BILL OF RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 42305. Airline Passengers With Disabilities Bill of Rights

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall develop a document, to be known as the 'Airline Passengers With Disabilities Bill of Rights', that describes in plain language—

''(1) the basic responsibilities of covered carriers, including their employees and contractors, under section 41705; and

''(2) the protections of air passengers with disabilities under section 41705.

''(b) CONTENT.—In developing the Bill of Rights, the Secretary shall include, at a minimum, plain language descriptions of responsibilities and protections provided in law related to—

''(1) the right of passengers with disabilities to be treated with dignity and respect;

''(2) the right of passengers with disabilities to receive timely assistance, if requested, from properly trained personnel of covered carriers and their contractors;

''(3) the right of passengers with disabilities to travel with and stow wheelchairs, mobility aids, and other assistive devices, including necessary medications and medical supplies;

''(4) the right of passengers with disabilities to receive seating accommodations, if requested, to accommodate a disability;

''(5) the right of passengers with disabilities to speak with a complaint resolution officer or to file a complaint with a covered carrier or the Department of Transportation; and

''(6) the right of passengers with disabilities to communications in an accessible format as required under Federal regulations.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The development of the Bill of Rights may not be construed as expanding or restricting the rights available to passengers with disabilities on the day before the date of enactment of this section pursuant to any statute or regulation.

''(d) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the Bill of Rights, the Secretary shall consult with appropriate stakeholders, including disability organizations and covered carriers.

''(e) DISPLAY.—Each covered carrier shall include the Bill of Rights—

''(1) on a publicly available internet website of the covered carrier; and

''(2) in any pre-flight notification or communication provided to a passenger who alerts the covered carrier in advance of the need for accommodations relating to a disability.

''(f) TRAINING.—Covered carriers shall submit to the Secretary plans to ensure that their employees and contractors receive training on the responsibilities and protections described in the Bill of Rights. The Secretary shall review such plans to ensure the plans address the matters described in subsection (b).

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) BILL OF RIGHTS.—The term 'Bill of Rights' means the 'Airline Passengers With Disabilities Bill of Rights' developed under subsection (a).

''(2) COVERED CARRIER.—The term 'covered carrier' means an air carrier or foreign air carrier, as those terms are defined in section 40102(a).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''42305. Airline Passengers With Disabilities Bill of Rights.''.

SEC. 4___. CIVIL PENALTIES RELATING TO HARM TO PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 46301(a) of title 49, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) PENALTIES RELATING TO HARM TO PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.—

''(A) PENALTY FOR BODILY HARM OR DAMAGE TO WHEELCHAIR OR OTHER MOBILITY AID.—The amount of a civil penalty assessed under this section for a violation of section 41705 may be increased above the otherwise applicable maximum amount under this section to an amount not to exceed 3 times the maximum civil penalty otherwise allowed if the violation involves—

''(i) injury to a passenger with a disability; or

''(ii) damage to the passenger's wheelchair or other mobility aid.

''(B) SEPARATE OFFENCES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), a separate violation of section 41705 occurs for each act of discrimination prohibited by that section.''.

SEC. 4___. HARMONIZATION OF SERVICE ANIMAL STANDARDS.

(a) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding—

(1) to define the term ''service animal'' for purposes of air transportation; and

(2) to develop minimum standards for what is required for service and emotional support animals carried in aircraft cabins.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the rulemaking under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) whether to align the definition of ''service animal'' with the definition of that term in regulations of the Department of Justice implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–336);

(2) reasonable measures to ensure pets are not claimed as service animals, such as—

(A) whether to require photo identification for a service animal identifying the type of

animal, the breed of animal, and the service the animal provides to the passenger;

(B) whether to require documentation indicating whether or not a service animal was trained by the owner or an approved training organization;

(C) whether to require, from a licensed physician, documentation indicating the mitigating task or tasks a service animal provides to its owner; and

(D) whether to allow a passenger to be accompanied by more than 1 service animal;

(3) reasonable measures to ensure the safety of all passengers, such as—

(A) whether to require health and vaccination records for a service animal; and

(B) whether to require third-party proof of behavioral training for a service animal;

(4) the impact additional requirements on service animals could have on access to air transportation for passengers with disabilities; and

(5) if impacts on access to air transportation for passengers with disabilities are found, ways to eliminate or mitigate those impacts.

(c) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a final rule pursuant to the rulemaking conducted under this section.

Page 188, strike lines 1 through 15.

Page 188, beginning on line 21, strike ''inserting'' and all that follows through the period at the end and insert ''inserting '$155,000,000 for fiscal year 2018, $158,000,000 for fiscal year 2019, $161,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, $165,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, $168,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, and $172,000,000 for fiscal year 2023'.''.

Page 197, line 3, strike ''Section'' and insert the following:

(a) PURPOSE AND INPUT.—Section

Page 197, after line 17, insert the following:

(b) MILITARY OPERATIONS EXCLUSION.—Section 804 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44501 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) MILITARY OPERATIONS EXCLUSION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may not realign or consolidate a combined TRACON and tower with radar facility of the FAA under this section if, in 2015, the total annual military operations at the facility comprised at least 40 percent of the total annual TRACON operations at the facility.

''(2) TRACON DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'TRACON' means terminal radar approach control.''.

Page 230, strike lines 12 and 13 and insert the following: ''United States Code, is amended by striking 'and' and all that follows through 'administrative' and inserting 'and administrative'.''.

Page 243, line 20, strike ''(48)'' and insert ''(54)''.

Page 244, line 6, strike ''44737'' and insert ''44738''.

Page 244, in the matter following line 18, strike ''44737'' and insert ''44738''.

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5___. FAA EMPLOYEES IN GUAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Defense—

(1) to allow Federal Aviation Administration employees assigned to Guam, their spouses, and their dependent children access to Department of Defense hospitals located in Guam on a space available basis; and

(2) to provide for payments by the Federal Aviation Administration to the Department of Defense for the administrative costs associated with—

(A) enrolling Federal Aviation Administration employees assigned to Guam, their spouses, and their dependent children in any Department of Defense system necessary to allow access pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) billing an insurance company for any medical costs incurred as a result of Federal Aviation Administration employees, their spouses, or their dependent children accessing and receiving medical treatment or services at a Department of Defense hospital located in Guam.

(b) FUNDS SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds for payments by the Federal Aviation Administration described in subsection (a)(2) are subject to the availability of amounts specifically provided in advance for that purpose in appropriations Acts.

SEC. 5___. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVING HISTORY FLIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other law or regulation, in administering sections 61.113(c), 91.9, 91.315, 91.319(a)(1), 91.319(a)(2), 119.5(g), and 119.21(a) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall allow an aircraft owner or operator to accept monetary or in-kind donations for a flight operated by a living history flight experience provider, if the aircraft owner or operator has—

(1) volunteered to provide such transportation; and

(2) notified any individual that will be on the flight, at the time of inquiry about the flight, that the flight operation is for charitable purposes and is not subject to the same requirements as a commercial flight.

(b) CONDITIONS TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.—The Administrator, consistent with current standards of the Administration for such operations, shall impose minimum standards with respect to training and flight hours for operations conducted by an owner or operator of an aircraft providing living history flight experience operations, including mandating that the pilot in command of such aircraft hold a commercial pilot certificate with instrument rating and be current and qualified with respect to all ratings or authorizations applicable to the specific aircraft being flown to ensure the safety of flight operations described in subsection (a).

(c) LIVING HISTORY FLIGHT EXPERIENCE PROVIDER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''living history flight experience provider'' means an aircraft owner, aircraft operator, or organization that provides, arranges, or otherwise fosters living history flight experiences for the purpose of fulfilling its mission.

SEC. 5___. FAA ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM.

(a) CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.—Section 106(s) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(s) CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) APPOINTMENT.—There shall be a Chief Technology Officer appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, with the approval of the Secretary. The Chief Technology Officer shall report directly to the Chief Operating Officer and shall be subject to the authority of the Chief Operating Officer.

''(B) MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.—The Chief Technology Officer shall have—

''(i) at least 10 years experience in engineering management or another relevant technical management field; and

''(ii) knowledge of or experience in the aviation industry.

''(C) REMOVAL.—The Chief Technology Officer shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Operating Officer.

''(D) RESTRICTION.—The Chief Technology Officer may not also be the Deputy Administrator.

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Chief Technology Officer shall include—

''(A) ensuring the proper operation, maintenance, and cybersecurity of technology systems relating to the air traffic control system across all program offices of the Administration;

''(B) coordinating the implementation, operation, maintenance, and cybersecurity of technology programs relating to the air traffic control system with the aerospace industry and other Federal agencies;

''(C) reviewing and providing advice to the Secretary, the Administrator, and the Chief Operating Officer on the Administration's budget, cost accounting system, and benefit-cost analyses with respect to technology programs relating to the air traffic control system;

''(D) consulting with the Administrator on the Capital Investment Plan of the Administration prior to its submission to Congress;

''(E) developing an annual air traffic control system technology operation and maintenance plan that is consistent with the annual performance targets established under paragraph (4); and

''(F) ensuring that the air traffic control system architecture remains, to the maximum extent practicable, flexible enough to incorporate future technological advances developed and directly procured by aircraft operators.

''(3) COMPENSATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Technology Officer shall be paid at an annual rate of basic pay to be determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer. The annual rate may not exceed the annual compensation paid under section 102 of title 3. The Chief Technology Officer shall be subject to the postemployment provisions of section 207 of title 18 as if the position of Chief Technology Officer were described in section 207(c)(2)(A)(i) of that title.

''(B) BONUS.—In addition to the annual rate of basic pay authorized by subparagraph (A), the Chief Technology Officer may receive a bonus for any calendar year not to exceed 30 percent of the annual rate of basic pay, based upon the Secretary's evaluation of the Chief Technology Officer's performance in relation to the performance targets established under paragraph (4).

''(4) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TARGETS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chief Technology Officer, shall establish measurable annual performance targets for the Chief Technology Officer in key operational areas.

''(B) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the annual performance targets established under subparagraph (A).

''(5) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT.—The Chief Technology Officer shall prepare and transmit to the Secretary of Transportation, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an annual report containing—

''(A) detailed descriptions and metrics of how successful the Chief Technology Officer was in meeting the annual performance targets established under paragraph (4); and

''(B) other information as may be requested by the Administrator and the Chief Operating Officer.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 709(a)(3)(L) of the Vision 100–Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended by striking ''Chief NextGen Officer'' and inserting ''Chief Technology Officer''.

(2) Section 804(a)(4)(A) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44501 note) is amended by striking ''Chief NextGen Officer'' and inserting ''Chief Technology Officer''.

SEC. 5___. INTRA-AGENCY COORDINATION.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Chief Operating Officer of the Air Traffic Organization to implement policies that—

(1) designate the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation as the primary liaison between the commercial space transportation industry and the Administration;

(2) recognize the necessity of, and set forth processes for, launch license and permit holder coordination with the Air Traffic Organization on matters including—

(A) the use of air navigation facilities;

(B) airspace safety; and

(C) planning of commercial space launch and launch support activities;

(3) designate a single point of contact within the Air Traffic Organization who is responsible for—

(A) maintaining letters of agreement between a launch license or permit holder and a Federal Aviation Administration facility;

(B) making such letters of agreement available to the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation;

(C) ensuring that a facility that has entered into such a letter of agreement is aware of and fulfills its responsibilities under the letter; and

(D) liaising between the Air Traffic Organization and the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation on any matter relating to such a letter of agreement; and

(4) require the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation to facilitate, upon the request of a launch license or permit holder—

(A) coordination between a launch license and permit holder and the Air Traffic Organization; and

(B) the negotiation of letters of agreement between a launch license or permit holder and a Federal Aviation Administration facility or the Air Traffic Organization.

SEC. 5___. FAA CIVIL AVIATION REGISTRY UPGRADE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall complete covered upgrades of the Administration's Civil Aviation Registry (in this section referred to as the ''Registry'').

(b) COVERED UPGRADE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered upgrades'' means—

(1) the digitization of nondigital Registry information, including paper documents, microfilm images, and photographs, from an analog or nondigital format to a digital format;

(2) the digitalization of Registry manual and paper-based processes, business operations, and functions by leveraging digital technologies and a broader use of digitized data;

(3) the implementation of systems allowing a member of the public to submit any information or form to the Registry and conduct any transaction with the Registry by electronic or other remote means; and

(4) allowing more efficient, broader, and remote access to the Registry.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements of subsection (a) shall apply to the entire Civil Aviation Registry, including the Aircraft Registration Branch and the Airmen Certification Branch.

(d) MANUAL SURCHARGE.—Chapter 453 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 45306. Manual surcharge

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later 6 months after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, the Administrator shall impose and collect a surcharge on a Civil Aviation Registry transaction that—

''(1) is conducted in person at the Civil Aviation Registry;

''(2) could be conducted, as determined by the Administrator, with the same or greater level of efficiency by electronic or other remote means; and

''(3) is not related to research or other noncommercial activities.

''(b) MAXIMUM SURCHARGE.—A surcharge imposed and collected under subsection (a) shall not exceed twice the maximum fee the Administrator is authorized to charge for the registration of an aircraft, not used to provide air transportation, after the transfer of ownership under section 45302(b)(2).

''(c) CREDIT TO ACCOUNT AND AVAILABILITY.—Monies collected from a surcharge imposed under subsection (a) shall be treated as monies collected under section 45302 and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in section 45302(d).''.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the covered upgrades required under subsection (a) are complete, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing—

(1) the schedule for the covered upgrades to the Registry;

(2) the office responsible for the implementation of the such covered upgrades;

(3) the metrics being used to measure progress in implementing the covered upgrades; and

(4) the status of the covered upgrades as of the date of the report.

SEC. 5___. REGULATORY STREAMLINING.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue a final regulation revising section 121.333(c)(3) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to apply only to flight altitudes above flight level 410.

SEC. 5___. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FRANCHISE FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the inspector general of the Department of Transportation shall initiate an audit of the Administrative Services Franchise Fund of the FAA (in this section referred to as the ''Franchise Fund'').

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the audit pursuant to subsection (a), the inspector general shall—

(1) review the history, intended purpose, and objectives of the Franchise Fund;

(2) describe and assess each program, service, or activity that uses the Franchise Fund, including—

(A) the agencies or government bodies that use each program, service, or activity;

(B) the number of employees, including full-time equivalents and contractors, associated with each program, service, or activity;

(C) the costs associated with the employees described in subparagraph (B) and the extent to which such costs are covered by Federal appropriations or Franchise Fund revenue;

(D) the revenue, expenses, and profits or losses associated with each program, service, or activity;

(E) overhead rates associated with each program, service, or activity; and

(F) a breakdown of the revenue collected from services provided to the FAA, Department of Transportation, other Federal entities, and non-Federal entities;

(3) assess the FAA's governance and oversight of the Franchise Fund and the programs, service, and activities that use the Franchise Fund, including the use of internal and publicly available performance metrics;

(4) evaluate the current and historical unobligated and unexpended balances of the Franchise Fund; and

(5) assess the degree to which FAA policies and controls associated with the Franchise Fund conform with generally accepted accounting principles, Federal policies, best practices, or other guidance relating to revolving funds.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of initiation of the audit described in subsection (a), the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the audit, including findings and recommendations.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 5___. REPORT ON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL MODERNIZATION.

(a) FAA REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief Operating Officer of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the multiyear effort of the Administration to modernize the air transportation system (in this section referred to as the ''modernization effort''), including—

(1) the number of years that the modernization effort has been underway as of the date of the report;

(2) the total amount of money expended on the modernization effort as of the date of the report (including a description of how that amount was calculated);

(3) the net present value of the benefits reported from aircraft operators resulting from the money expended on the modernization effort as of the date of the report;

(4) a definition for the Next Generation Air Transportation System (in this section referred to as ''NextGen''), including a description of any changes to that definition that occurred between 2003 and the date of the report;

(5) the net present value of the money expended on NextGen as of the date of the report if such money had been deposited into a Government trust fund instead of being expended on NextGen;

(6) a description of the benefits promised and benefits delivered with respect to NextGen as of the date of the report;

(7) any changes to the benefits promised with respect to NextGen between the date on which NextGen began and the date of the report;

(8) a description of each program or project that comprises NextGen, including—

(A) when the program or project was initiated;

(B) the total budget for the program or project;

(C) the initial budget for the program or project;

(D) the acquisition program baseline for the program or project;

(E) whether the program or project has ever breached the acquisition program baseline and, if so, a description of when, why, and how the breach was resolved;

(F) whether the program or project has been re-baselined or divided into smaller segments and, if so, a description of when, why, and the impact to the cost of the program or project;

(G) the initial schedule for the program or project;

(H) whether the program or project was delayed and, if so, a description of how long, why, and the impact to the cost of the program or project;

(I) whether the Administration changed any contract term or deliverable for the program or project and, if so, a description of the change, why it happened, and the impact to the cost of the program or project;

(J) benefits promised with respect to the program or project at initiation;

(K) benefits delivered with respect to the program or project as of the date of the report;

(L) whether the program or project was cancelled and, if so, a description of why and when;

(M) for cancelled programs or projects, whether there were any costs associated with the decision to cancel and, if so, a description of the amount of the costs (including for both the Administration and the private sector);

(N) the metrics, milestones, and deadlines set for the program or project and how the Administration tracked and ensured compliance with those metrics, milestones, and deadlines;

(O) how the Administration conducted oversight of the program or project and any related stakeholder collaboration efforts; and

(P) the status of the program or project as of the date of the report;

(9) the date upon which, or milestone by which, the Administration anticipates NextGen will be complete; and

(10) any lessons learned during the NextGen effort, and whether, how, and to what effect those lessons have been applied.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the report required under subsection (a) is submitted, the inspector general of the Department of Transportation shall review the report and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a statement of the inspector general that—

(1) determines the accuracy of the information reported;

(2) describes any concerns with the accuracy of the information reported;

(3) summarizes concerns raised by the inspector general, the Government Accountability Office, and other sources with respect to the Administration's implementation and oversight of NextGen since the date on which NextGen began;

(4) describes—

(A) any pertinent recommendations made by the inspector general related to the Administration's implementation and oversight of NextGen since the date on which NextGen began; and

(B) whether and how the Administration addressed the recommendations; and

(5) provides any other information that the inspector general determines is appropriate.

SEC. 5___. AUTOMATIC DEPENDENT SURVEILLANCE-BROADCAST.

Section 211(b) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is repealed. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall ensure that any regulation issued pursuant to such subsection has no force or effect.

SEC. 5___. YOUTH ACCESS TO AMERICAN JOBS IN AVIATION TASK FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force (in this section referred to as the ''Task Force'').

(b) DUTIES.—Not later than 12 months after its establishment under subsection (a), the Task Force shall develop and submit to the Administrator recommendations and strategies for the Administration to—

(1) facilitate and encourage high school students in the United States, beginning in their junior year, to enroll in and complete career and technical education courses, including STEM, that would prepare them to enroll in a course of study related to an aviation career at an institution of higher education, including a community college or trade school;

(2) facilitate and encourage the students described in paragraph (1) to enroll in a course of study related to an aviation career, including aviation manufacturing, engineering and maintenance, at an institution of higher education, including a community college or trade school; and

(3) identify and develop pathways for students who complete a course of study described in paragraph (2) to secure registered apprenticeships, workforce development programs, or careers in the aviation industry of the United States.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—When developing recommendations and strategies under subsection (b), the Task Force shall—

(1) identify industry trends that encourage or discourage youth in the United States from pursuing careers in aviation;

(2) consider how the Administration; air carriers; aircraft, powerplant, and avionics manufacturers; aircraft repair stations; and other aviation stakeholders can coordinate efforts to support youth in pursuing careers in aviation;

(3) identify methods of enhancing aviation apprenticeships, job skills training, mentorship, education, and outreach programs that are exclusive to youth in the United States; and

(4) identify potential sources of government and private sector funding, including grants and scholarships, that may be used to carry out the recommendations and strategies described in subsection (b) and to support youth in pursuing careers in aviation.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after submission of the recommendations and strategies under subsection (b), the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report outlining such recommendations and strategies.

(e) COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE.—The Administrator shall appoint members of the Task Force, including representatives from the following:

(1) Air carriers.

(2) Aircraft, powerplant, and avionics manufacturers.

(3) Aircraft repair stations.

(4) Local educational agencies or high schools.

(5) Institutions of higher education, including community colleges and aviation trade schools.

(6) Such other aviation and educational stakeholders and experts as the Administrator considers appropriate.

(f) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed to the Task Force for the duration of the existence of the Task Force.

(g) COMPENSATION.—Task Force members shall serve without compensation.

(h) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate upon the submittal of the report pursuant to subsection (d).

(i) DEFINITION OF STEM.—The term ''STEM'' means—

(1) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

(2) other career and technical education subjects that build on the subjects described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 5___. AIRPORT INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 47134 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting ''**Airport investment partnership program**'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking '', with respect to not more than 10 airports,'';

(3) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''The Secretary may grant an exemption to a sponsor'' and inserting ''If the Secretary grants an exemption to a sponsor pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall grant an exemption to the sponsor'';

(4) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''The Secretary may grant an exemption to a purchaser or lessee'' and inserting ''If the Secretary grants an exemption to a sponsor pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall grant an exemption to the corresponding purchaser or lessee'';

(5) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

''(1) MULTIPLE AIRPORTS.—The Secretary may consider applications under this section submitted by a public airport sponsor for multiple airports under the control of the sponsor.

''(2) PARTIAL PRIVATIZATION.—A purchaser or lessee may be an entity in which a sponsor has an interest.''; and

(6) by striking subsections (l) and (m) and inserting the following:

''(l) PREDEVELOPMENT LIMITATION.—A grant to an airport sponsor under this subchapter for predevelopment planning costs relating to the preparation of an application or proposed application under this section may not exceed $750,000 per application or proposed application.''.

(b) AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT.—Section 47102(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(P) predevelopment planning, including financial, legal, or procurement consulting services, related to an application or proposed application for an exemption under section 47134.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 47134 and inserting the following:

''47134. Airport investment partnership program.''.

SEC. 5___. REVIEW AND REFORM OF FAA PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY PANEL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish an advisory panel comprising no more than 7 independent, nongovernmental experts in budget, finance, or personnel management to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the FAA's personnel management system and performance management program for employees

not covered by collective bargaining agreements.

(b) REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The advisory panel shall, at a minimum—

(1) review all appropriate FAA orders, policies, procedures, guidance, and the Human Resources Policy Manual;

(2) review any applicable reports regarding FAA's personnel management system, including reports of the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, Government Accountability Office, and National Academy of Public Administration, and determine the status of recommendations made in those reports;

(3) review the personnel management system of any other agency or governmental entity with a similar system to the FAA for best practices with regard to personnel management;

(4) assess the unique personnel authorities granted to the FAA, determine whether the FAA has taken full advantage of those authorities, and identify those authorities the FAA has not fully taken advantage of;

(5) review and determine the overall effectiveness of the FAA's compensation, bonus pay, performance metrics, and evaluation processes for employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements;

(6) review whether existing performance metrics and bonus pay practices align with the FAA's mission and significantly improve the FAA's provision of air traffic services, implementation of air traffic control modernization initiatives, and accomplishment of other FAA operational objectives;

(7) identify the highest, lowest, and average complete compensation for each position of employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements;

(8) survey interested parties and stakeholders, including representatives of the aviation industry, for their views and recommendations regarding improvements to the FAA's personnel management system and performance management program;

(9) develop recommendations to address the findings of the work done pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (7), and to address views and recommendations raised by interested parties pursuant to paragraph (8); and

(10) develop recommendations to improve the FAA's personnel management system and performance management program, including the compensation, bonus pay, performance metrics, and evaluation processes, for employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after initiating the review and evaluation pursuant to subsection (a), the advisory panel shall submit a report on the results of the review and evaluation and its recommendations to the Secretary, the Administrator, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 months after submittal of the report pursuant to subsection (c), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report summarizing the findings of the advisory panel that—

(1) contains an explanation of how the Administrator will implement the recommendations of the advisory panel and measure the effectiveness of the recommendations; and

(2) specifies any recommendations that the Administrator will not implement and the reasons for not implementing such recommendations.

(e) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator has the authority to put in place any recommendations of the advisory panel.

(f) SUNSET.—The advisory panel shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after the transmittal of the report pursuant to subsection (d).

(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 5___. CONTRACT WEATHER OBSERVERS.

Section 2306(b) of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–190; 130 Stat. 641) is amended by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2023''.

SEC. 5___. REGIONS AND CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44507 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting ''**Regions and centers**'';

(2) by striking ''The Civil Aeromedical Institute'' and inserting the following:

''(a) CIVIL AEROMEDICAL INSTITUTE.—The Civil Aeromedical Institute''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) WILLIAM J. HUGHES TECHNICAL CENTER.—The Secretary of Transportation shall define the roles and responsibilities of the William J. Hughes Technical Center in a manner that is consistent with the defined roles and responsibilities of the Civil Aeromedical Institute under subsection (a).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 445 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 44507 and inserting the following:

''44507. Regions and centers.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the manager's amendment. A vote for this amendment is a vote for positive change. A vote against it would be a real missed opportunity to make the bill better.

This amendment enhances the training of flight attendants so they are better equipped to deal with sexual misconduct. It also establishes working groups to develop best practices on how to address sexual misconduct on flights and improve airline employee training.

The amendment addresses an issue which is important to the traveling public and our constituents, and to each of us, in a thoughtful and respectful way.

The amendment adds to the provisions included in H.R. 4 to improve the air travel experience of disabled Americans. It establishes an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights to clarify the rights of passengers with disabilities and the responsibilities of airlines and airports.

The amendment also strengthens the civil penalties for violations that involve injury to a passenger with a disability or damage to a passenger's wheelchair or other mobility aid.

Finally, the amendment will make it better for both passengers and service animals by harmonizing standards. This will provide much-needed clarity in an area where there is real confusion.

We worked closely with organizations representing persons with disabilities, as well as with the airline industry, and I want to thank all those who were willing to come to the table to make those improvements.

Last week, we witnessed a tragedy when an engine exploded in midair, killing a passenger. A far bigger tragedy was averted thanks again to the professionalism of the flight crew and to the pilot, which I talked about earlier.

The same airline experienced a similar incident 2 years ago, and while the FAA and industry have begun inspections, we must ensure that the airline engine safety is thoroughly assessed, and this amendment mandates a call to action to bring relevant people together to examine and address any risk associated with airline engines.

The amendment also requires a deep-dive study of general aviation. This sector of aviation has the highest number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities.

While general aviation safety has improved in recent years, in fiscal year 2016, there were still 213 fatal accidents and 379 fatalities.

We must improve the safety of the general aviation community. They share the skies with other airspace users and operate above our neighborhoods. We can and must do better.

Again, the amendment also provides for the direction on how the FAA should spend the additional general fund, operations, airport infrastructure, and F&E money in 2019 and thereafter.

It also revises the FAA authorization levels to reflect the updated CBO baselines for fiscal year 2018.

In response to the drone sightings around airports, the amendment makes counter-drone systems AIP eligible.

It makes improvement to the Airport Investment Partnership Program so that we can leverage private sector money for our airport infrastructure needs.

There are some good government reforms in here. The amendment repeals a costly mandate for aircraft avionics that have not yet proven to be beneficial. This will relieve a future burden on aircraft operators.

The amendment would bring certain FAA processes into the digital age and review agency practices.

Some other important changes are:

The amendment authorizes expenditures for commercial space transportation activities of the FAA;

It also requires better intra-FAA coordination on commercial space transportation's use of the national airspace and addresses the industry's support aircraft;

Commercial space transportation operators, like other users of the airspace, must coordinate and follow instructions of air traffic controllers;

Air traffic controllers keep us moving safely across this country, but they

also work in far-off places, including Guam. This amendment requires the FAA workers to work with the Department of Defense so that these folks and their families can get good medical care on the island of Guam;

Finally, the amendment establishes the Youth in Aviation Task Force to attract young people to aviation jobs. This is critical to ensure that our aviation system prospers in the years ahead.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is a good amendment, it has bipartisan support and will improve the underlying bill. I urge all Members to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I certainly support the amendment offered by the gentleman. He listed a number of provisions. I don't want to be repetitive, but I think the call to action regarding uncontained airliner engine failures is critical. That is actually the second uncontained failure of that engine with Southwest Airlines in 18 months, which means that somewhere turbine blades are not a life-limited part. There is something amiss in the manufacturing process, and we need to get to the bottom of that.

We also need to be sure that the proper testing is being done to ensure their integrity as the planes continue to fly.

It also has some language regarding incidents of sexual misconduct on flights I support, but I am preparing and will offer a broader stand-alone provision bill on that subject in the near future.

It modestly increases funding levels for aviation programs and includes a $1 billion annual infusion from the general fund for certain AIP projects, principally for small airports in rural communities.

This falls far short of meeting the needs of all airports and all the gates and terminal work we need, as I mentioned earlier in discussing the lack of a PFC in this bill.

Finally, it creates a newly named position in the FAA, that would be chief technology officer. Currently, the department administrator acts as the chief technology officer. So I am not quite certain what that accomplishes, but I will certainly look forward to monitoring that position and the progress and reports on NextGen that that person produces in the near future.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, our general aviation pilot.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his work on putting together a long-term bill.

Mr. Chairman, one of the priorities which was included in the manager's amendment is a program to invest in our small airports.

As part of the increased investment in transportation programs that was provided in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus, we provided an additional $1 billion to the FAA in discretionary grants to small airports. Now airports across the country are going to have the opportunity to compete for additional dollars to carry out the larger projects.

We also have some very important accountability measures. As such, we are asking to review all the FAA's efforts to date on NextGen. This is pure and simple accountability to ensure our tax dollars are being spent to execute the important goals of NextGen.

Mr. Chairman, I ask all of my colleagues to support the manager's amendment, obviously, and the underlying bill. This is a good bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the leadership of this committee for their work.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the en bloc amendment, and I wanted to specifically mention a provision that is very important to the folks who are in Palm Beach County and also Bedminster, New Jersey, which is this constituency of Mr. LANCE.

Mr. Chairman, regardless of what your political ideology is, it is very important for the President to be safe whenever he travels, and this often results in travel restrictions in the locality he visits.

In terms of my locality, Palm Beach County, Florida, Mr. Trump has spent 70 days this year at Mar-a-Lago, dubbed as the winter White House. But here is what happens when he visits a small business operating airport called Lantana Airport, which is 10 miles from Mar-a-Lago: It is completely shut down, which means basically there is a lot of lost income. It is estimated almost $1 million a year.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chairman, if you translate that out, that would be $4 million.

As I said, the President's safety is paramount, and the impact to the local business is a problem. So there is a provision in this amendment that requires the FAA to study the economic impact of flight restrictions, which I think is a good thing, and to analyze the possibilities of some other options.

Mr. Chairman, again, I do support this amendment.

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

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOSAR) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2758. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to provide for the display of the National League of Families POW/MIA flag at the World War I Memorials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 839, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PALMER). The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 printed in part A of House Report 115–650, offered by Mr. SHUSTER of Pennsylvania:

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. LEWIS OF GEORGIA

Page 11, after line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 1____. USE OF FUNDS FROM PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES TO PREVENT POWER OUTAGES.

Section 40117(a)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) An on-airport project to purchase and install generators to prevent power outages in passenger areas of the airport, to separate an airport's redundant power supply and its main power supply, or for any other on-airport project to prevent power outages or damage to the airport's power supply.''.

Page 32, after line 9, insert the following:

SEC. 1____. USE OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS TO PREVENT POWER OUTAGES.

Section 47102(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(P) an on-airport project to purchase and install generators to prevent power outages in the passenger areas of the airport, separate an airport's redundant power supply and its main power supply, or prevent power outages in the airport or damage to the airport's power supply.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

Page 12, line 23, insert ''a sink or sanitizing equipment,'' after ''surface,''.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MRS. WATSON COLEMAN OF NEW JERSEY

Page 13, line 19, strike ''building.'' and insert ''building and will maintain a baby

changing table in 1 men's and 1 women's restroom in each passenger terminal building of the airport.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MRS. MCMORRIS RODGERS OF WASHINGTON

Page 25, strike lines 13 through 18 and insert the following:

(2) EXEMPTION.—Section 47124(b)(3)(D) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Airports with air service under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and more than 25,000 passenger enplanements in calendar year 2014 shall be exempt from any cost-share requirement under this subparagraph.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS

Page 32, after line 9, insert the following:

SEC. 137. GENERAL WRITTEN ASSURANCES.

Section 47107(a)(17) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''each contract'' and inserting ''if any phase of such project has received funds under this subchapter, each contract''.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI OF ILLINOIS

Page 37, line 1, insert ''**AND ECONOMIC**'' after ''**HEALTH**''.

Page 38, line 5, strike ''and'' at the end.

Page 38, line 12, strike the period at the end and insert ''; and''.

Page 38, after line 12, insert the following:

(5) consider the economic harm or benefits to businesses located party or wholly underneath flight paths most frequently used by aircraft flying at an altitude lower than 10,000 feet, including during takeoff or landing.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. JAYAPAL OF WASHINGTON

Page 37, line 23, strike ''or'' at the end.

Page 37, after line 23, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent subparagraph accordingly):

(H) Seattle; or

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle C of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN CONTROL TOWERS.

Section 47116(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended adding at the end the following:

''(3) CONTROL TOWER CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding any provision of section 47124(b)(4)(A), the Secretary may provide grants under this section to an airport sponsor for the construction or improvement of a nonapproach control tower, as defined by the Secretary, and for the acquisition and installation of air traffic control, communications, and related equipment to be used in that tower. Such grants shall be subject to the distribution requirements of subsection (b) and the eligibility requirements of section 47124(b)(4)(B).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEBRASKA

At the end of subtitle C of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. SMALL AIRPORT REGULATION RELIEF.

Section 47114(c)(1) is amended by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

''(F) SPECIAL RULE FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 THROUGH 2020.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) and subject to subparagraph (G), the Secretary shall apportion to a sponsor of an airport under that subparagraph for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2020 an amount based on the number of passenger boardings at the airport during calendar year 2012 if the airport—

''(i) had 10,000 or more passenger boardings during calendar year 2012;

''(ii) had fewer than 10,000 passenger boardings during the calendar year used to calculate the apportionment for fiscal year 2018, 2019, or 2020, as applicable, under subparagraph (A); and

''(iii) had scheduled air service at any point in the calendar year used to calculate the apportionment.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

Page 42, line 17, insert the following:

(k) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may accept funds from the Secretary of Defense to increase the authorized funding for this section by the amount of such transfer only to carry out projects designed for environmental mitigation at a site previously, but not currently, managed by the Department of Defense.

(2) ADDITIONAL GRANTEES.—If additional funds are made available by the Secretary of Defense under paragraph (1), the Administrator may increase the number of grantees under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. TED LIEU OF CALIFORNIA

Page 46, after line 22, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LEAD EMISSIONS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Research Council will conduct a study and develop a report on aviation gasoline.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall include an assessment of—

(1) existing non-leaded fuel alternatives to the aviation gasoline used by piston-powered general aviation aircraft;

(2) ambient Pb concentrations at and around airports where piston-powered general aviation aircraft are used; and

(3) mitigation measures to reduce ambient Pb concentrations, including increasing the size of run-up areas, relocating run-up areas, imposing restrictions on aircraft using aviation gasoline, and increasing the use of motor gasoline in piston-powered general aviation aircraft.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the report developed by the National Research Council pursuant to this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Page 46, after line 22, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AIRCRAFT NOISE, EMISSION, AND FUEL BURN REDUCTION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may carry out an aircraft noise, emission, and fuel burn reduction research and development program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) support efforts to accelerate the development of new aircraft, engine technologies, and jet fuels;

(2) pursue lighter and more efficient turbine engine components, advanced aircraft wing designs, fuselage structures for innovative aircraft architectures, and smart aircraft and engine control systems; and

(3) partner with private industry to accomplish the goals of the program.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. BASS OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 1___. TERMINAL SEQUENCING AND SPACING.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall report to the appropriate committees of Congress on the status of Terminal Sequencing and Spacing (TSAS) implementation across all completed NextGen Metroplexes with specific information provided by airline regarding the adoption and equipping of aircraft and the training of pilots in its use.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title I of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ___. NOISE AND HEALTH IMPACT TRAINING.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on—

(1) while maintaining safety as the top priority, whether air traffic controllers and airspace designers are trained on noise and health impact mitigation in addition to efficiency; and

(2) the prevalence of vectoring flights due to over-crowded departure and arrival paths and alternatives to this practice.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MS. MCSALLY OF ARIZONA

Page 51, after line 24, insert the following:

(x) Airport owners and operators.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle A of title II, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTING FOAMS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the FAA, using the latest version of National Fire Protection Association 403, ''Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services at Airports'', and in coordination with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, aircraft manufacturers and airports, shall not require the use of fluorinated chemicals to meet the performance standards referenced in chapter 6 of AC No: 150/5210–6D and acceptable under 139.319(l) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. ESTES OF KANSAS

Page 72, line 20, strike ''and''.

Page 72, after line 20, insert the following:

(H) aircraft manufacturers; and

Page 72, line 21, strike ''(H)'' and insert ''(I)''.

Page 73, after line 7, insert the following:

(4) ensuring adequate and timely provision of Flight Standards activities and responses necessary for type certification, operational evaluation, and entry into service of newly manufactured aircraft;

Page 73, line 8, strike ''(4)'' and insert ''(5)''.

Page 73, line 10, strike ''(5)'' and insert ''(6)''.

Page 73, lines 13 through 14, strike ''the date of enactment of this Act'' and insert ''the date of the establishment of the Task Force''.

Page 73, lines 23 through 24, strike ''action or cost-effective legislative action'' and insert '', policy, or cost-effective legislative action to improve the efficiency of agency activities''.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

Page 104, line 10, insert ''and pregnant women'' after ''children''.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 109, after line 15, insert the following:

(a) WORKFORCE READINESS.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall coordinate with government, educational institutions, labor organizations representing aviation maintenance workers, and businesses to develop guidance or model curricula for aviation maintenance technician schools certificated under part 147 of title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations to ensure workforce readiness for industry needs, including curricula related to training in avionics, troubleshooting, and other areas of industry needs.

(1) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall publish the guidance or model curricula.

(2) The Administrator shall publish updates to the guidance or model curricula at least once every 2 years from the date of initial publication.

Page 109, line 16, strike ''(a)'' and insert ''(b)''.

Page 109, line 19, strike ''(b)'' and insert ''(c)''.

Page 110, line 18, strike ''and''.

Page 110, line 22, strike the period and insert ''; and''.

Page 110, after line 22, insert the following:

(7) develop recommendations for addressing the needs for government funding, private investment, equipment for training purposes, and other resources necessary to strengthen existing training programs or develop new training programs to support workforce growth in the aviation industry.

Page 110, line 23, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(d)''.

Page 111, line 4, strike ''(d)'' and insert ''(e)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. LONG OF MISSOURI

At the end of subtitle A of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3___. EXIT ROWS.

(a) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a review of current safety procedures regarding unoccupied exit rows on a covered aircraft in passenger air transportation during all stages of flight.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the review, the Administrator shall consult with air carriers, aviation manufacturers, and labor stakeholders.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review.

(d) COVERED AIRCRAFT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered aircraft'' means an aircraft operating under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. CRIST OF FLORIDA

Page 112, after line 12, insert the following:

SEC. 319. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON FAA ENFORCEMENT POLICY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study, and report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the United States Senate on the results thereof, on the effectiveness of Order 8000.373, Federal Aviation Administration Compliance Philosophy, announced on June 26, 2015. Such study shall include information about—

(1) whether reports of safety incidents increased following the order;

(2) whether reduced enforcement penalties increased the overall number of safety incidents that occurred; and

(3) whether FAA enforcement staff registered complaints about reduced enforcement reducing compliance with safety regulations.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. SANFORD OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3___ SPECIAL RULES FOR MODEL AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the incorporation of unmanned aircraft systems into Federal Aviation Administration plans and policies, including this subtitle, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may not promulgate any rule or regulation regarding a model aircraft or an aircraft being developed as a model aircraft; except for—

(1) rules regarding the registration of certain model aircraft pursuant to section 44103; and

(2) rules regarding unmanned aircraft that by design provide advanced flight capabilities enabling active, sustained, and controlled navigation of the aircraft beyond the visual line of sight of the operator, if—

(A) the aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use;

(B) the model aircraft operator is a current member of a community-based organization and whose aircraft is operated in accordance with the organization's safety rules;

(C) the aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds unless otherwise certified through a design, construction, inspection, flight test, and operational safety program administered by a community-based organization;

(D) the aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft;

(E) the aircraft is not operated over or within the property of a fixed site facility that operates amusement rides available for use by the general public or the property extending 500 lateral feet beyond the perimeter of such facility unless the operation is authorized by the owner of the amusement facility; and

(F) when flown within 3 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 3 miles of an airport should establish a mutually agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport)).

(b) AUTOMATED INSTANT AUTHORIZATION.—When the FAA has established a fully operational and functional automated instant authorization and notification system, the model aircraft operator shall use this system for access to controlled airspace unless flown at a permanent location made known to the Administrator (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location should establish a mutually agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport)).

(c) COMMERCIAL OPERATION FOR INSTRUCTIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.—A flight of an unmanned aircraft shall be treated as a flight of a model aircraft for purposes of subsection (a) (regardless of any compensation, reimbursement, or other consideration exchanged or incidental economic benefit gained in the course of planning, operating, or supervising the flight), if the flight is—

(1) conducted for instructional or educational purposes; and

(2) operated or supervised by a member of a community-based organization recognized pursuant to subsection (e).

(d) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to pursue enforcement action against persons operating model aircraft who endanger the safety of the national airspace system.

(e) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''community-based organization'' means a nationwide membership-based associationn entity that—

(1) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(2) is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(3) the mission of which is demonstrably the furtherance of model aviation;

(4) provides a comprehensive set of safety guidelines for all aspects of model aviation addressing the assembly and operation of model aircraft and that emphasize safe aeromodeling operations within the national airspace system and the protection and safety of individuals and property on the ground, and may provide a comprehensive set of safety rules and programming for the operation of unmanned aircraft that have the advanced flight capabilities enabling active, sustained, and controlled navigation of the aircraft beyond visual line of sight of the operator;

(5) provides programming and support for any local charter organizations, affiliates, or clubs; and

(6) provides assistance and support in the development and operation of locally designated model aircraft flying sites.

(f) RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—In collaboration with aeromodelling stakeholders, the Administrator shall publish an advisory circular within 180 days of enactment that identifies the criteria and process required for recognition of nationwide community-based organizations. This recognition shall be in the form of a memorandum of agreement between the FAA and each community-based organization and does not require regulatory action to implement.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except for rules to implement remote identification for unmanned aircraft that by design provide advanced flight capabilities enabling active, sustained, and controlled navigation of the aircraft beyond the visual line of sight of the operator and for rules regarding the registration of certain model aircraft pursuant to section 44103, this section shall become effective when the rule, referred to in section 532 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, regarding revisions to part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, becomes final.

SEC. 3___. RECREATIONAL UAS.

(a) IN GENERAL .—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue rules and regulations relating to small UAS flown for recreational or educational use, and that are not operated within all of the criteria outlined in the special rule for model aircraft in section 45505 of title 49, United States Code, or the requirements of part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—When issuing the rules and regulation pursuant to this section, the Administrator shall—

(1) require the completion of an online or electronic educational tutorial that is focused on knowledge of the primary rules necessary for the safe operation of such UAS and whose completion time is of reasonable length and limited duration;

(2) include provisions that enable the operation of such UAS by individuals under the age of 16 without a certificated pilot;

(3) require UAS operators within Class B, C, D and E airspace to obtain authorization, as the Administrator may determine to be necessary within that airspace, but only after a near- instantaneous automated airspace authorization capability is available for the airspace in which the operator wants o operate; and

(4) include provisions that provide specific operational rules for UAS operating in close proximity to airports in class G airspace.

(c) MAINTAINING BROAD ACCESS TO UAS TECHNOLOGY.—When issuing rules or regulations for the operation of UAS under this section, the Administrator shall not—

(1) require the pilot or operator of the UAS to obtain or hold an airman certificate;

(2) require a practical flight examination, medical examination, or the completion of a flight training program;

(3) limit such UAS operations to pre-designated fixed locations or uncontrolled airspace; or

(4) require airworthiness certification of any UAS operated pursuant to this section.

(d) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall carry out this section in collaboration with industry and community-based organizations.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO OF OREGON

Page 138, strike line 1 and all that follows through line 9 on page 141 and insert the following (and update the table of contents accordingly):

"§ 45509. Exception for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (e), and notwithstanding chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, a person may operate a small unmanned aircraft without specific certification or operating authority from the Federal Aviation Administration if the operation adheres to all of the following limitations:

''(1) The aircraft is flown strictly for recreational purposes.

''(2) The aircraft is operated in accordance with or within the programming of a community-based set of safety guidelines that conform with published Federal Aviation Administration advisory materials.

''(3) The aircraft is flown within the visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft or a visual observer co-located and in direct communication with the operator.

''(4) The aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft.

''(5) In Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace or within the lateral boundaries of the surface area of Class E airspace designated for an airport, the operator obtains prior authorization from the Administrator or designee before operating and complies with all airspace restrictions and prohibitions.

''(6) In Class G airspace, the aircraft is flown from the surface to not more than 400 feet above ground level and complies with all airspace restrictions and prohibitions.

''(7) The operator has passed an aeronautical knowledge and safety test described in subsection (g) and administered by the Federal Aviation Administration online for the operation of unmanned aircraft systems and maintains proof of test passage to be made available to the Administrator or law enforcement upon request.

''(8) The aircraft is registered and marked in accordance with chapter 441 of this title and proof of registration is made available to the Administrator or a designee of the Administrator or law enforcement upon request.

''(b) OTHER OPERATIONS.—Unmanned aircraft operations that do not conform to the limitations in subsection (a) must comply with all statutes and regulations generally applicable to unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems.

''(c) OPERATIONS AT FIXED SITES.—

''(1) OPERATING PROCEDURE REQUIRED.—Persons operating unmanned aircraft under subsection (a) from a fixed site within Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace or within the lateral boundaries of the surface area of Class E airspace designated for an airport, or a community-based organization conducting a sanctioned event within such airspace, shall establish a mutually agreed upon operating procedure with the air traffic control facility.

''(2) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT WEIGHING MORE THAN 55 POUNDS.—A person may operate an unmanned aircraft weighing more than 55 pounds, including the weight of anything attached to or carried by the aircraft, under subsection (a) if—

''(A) the unmanned aircraft complies with standards and limitations developed by a community-based organization and approved by the Administrator; and

''(B) the aircraft is operated from a fixed site as described in paragraph (1).

''(d) UPDATES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with government and industry stakeholders, including community-based organizations, shall initiate a process to periodically update the operational parameters under subsection (a), as appropriate.

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In updating an operational parameter under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consider—

''(A) appropriate operational limitations to mitigate risks to aviation safety and national security, including risk to the uninvolved public and critical infrastructure;

''(B) operations outside the membership, guidelines, and programming of a community-based organization;

''(C) physical characteristics, technical standards, and classes of aircraft operating under this section;

''(D) trends in use, enforcement, or incidents involving unmanned aircraft systems;

''(E) ensuring, to the greatest extent practicable, that updates to the operational parameters correspond to, and leverage, advances in technology; and

''(F) equipage requirements that facilitate safe, efficient, and secure operations and further integrate all unmanned aircraft into the National Airspace System.

''(3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as expanding the authority of the Administrator to require a person operating an unmanned aircraft under this section to seek permissive authority of the Administrator, beyond that required in subsection (a) of this section, prior to operation in the National Airspace System.

''(e) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to pursue an enforcement action against a person operating any unmanned aircraft who endangers the safety of the National Airspace System.

''(f) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in this section prohibits the Administrator from promulgating rules generally applicable to unmanned aircraft, including those unmanned aircraft eligible for the exception set forth in this section, relating to—

''(1) updates to the operational parameters for unmanned aircraft in subsection (a);

''(2) the registration and marking of unmanned aircraft;

''(3) the standards for remotely identifying owners and operators of unmanned aircraft systems and associated unmanned aircraft; and

''(4) other standards consistent with maintaining the safety and security of the National Airspace System.

''(g) AERONAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SAFETY TEST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with manufacturers of unmanned aircraft systems, other industry stakeholders, and community-based aviation organizations, shall develop an aeronautical knowledge and safety test that can be administered electronically.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall ensure the aeronautical knowledge and safety test is designed to adequately demonstrate an operator's—

''(A) understanding of aeronautical safety knowledge; and

''(B) knowledge of Federal Aviation Administration regulations and requirements pertaining to the operation of an unmanned aircraft system in the National Airspace System.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MS. HANABUSA OF HAWAII

Page 157, line 2, strike the semicolon and insert '', including during emergency situations that may threaten public safety;''

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. LEWIS OF MINNESOTA

Page 161, after line 22, insert the following:

SEC. 342. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS INTEGRATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Transportation may establish a pilot program to enable enhanced drone operations as required in the October 25, 2017 Presidential Memorandum entitled ''Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program'' and described in 82 Federal Register 50301.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall accept applications from State, local, and Tribal governments, in partnership with unmanned aircraft system operators and other private-sector stakeholders, to test and evaluate the integration of civil and public UAS operations into the low-altitude national airspace system.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—The purpose of the pilot program is to accelerate existing UAS integration plans by working to solve technical, regulatory, and policy challenges, while enabling advanced UAS operations in select areas subject to ongoing safety oversight and cooperation between the Federal Government and applicable State, local, or Tribal jurisdictions, in order to—

(1) accelerate the safe integration of UAS into the NAS by testing and validating new concepts of beyond visual line of sight operations in a controlled environment, focusing on detect and avoid technologies, command and control links, navigation, weather, and human factors;

(2) address ongoing concerns regarding the potential security and safety risks associated with UAS operating in close proximity to human beings and critical infrastructure by ensuring that operators communicate more effectively with Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement to enable law enforcement to determine if a UAS operation poses such a risk;

(3) promote innovation in and development of the United States unmanned aviation industry, especially in sectors such as agriculture, emergency management, inspection, and transportation safety, in which there are significant public benefits to be gained from the deployment of UAS; and

(4) identify the most effective models of balancing local and national interests in UAS integration.

(d) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall establish application requirements and require applicants to include the following information:

(1) Identification of the airspace to be used, including shape files and altitudes.

(2) Description of the types of planned operations.

(3) Identification of stakeholder partners to test and evaluate planned operations.

(4) Identification of available infrastructure to support planned operations.

(5) Description of experience with UAS operations and regulations.

(6) Description of existing UAS operator and any other stakeholder partnerships and experience.

(7) Description of plans to address safety, security, competition, privacy concerns, and community outreach.

(e) REASONABLE TIME, MANNER, AND PLACE LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REQUESTS.—The Lead Applicant may request reasonable time, place and manner limitations on low-altitude UAS operations within its jurisdiction to facilitate the proposed development and testing of new and innovative UAS concepts of operations in addition to other selection criteria.

(B) SELF-IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS.—The Secretary shall require jurisdictions to ensure that any time, place and manner limitations, including those adopted through means such as legislation or regulation, include self-implementing provisions that automatically terminate those restrictions upon the termination of the Memorandum of Agreement.

(C) MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Monitoring and enforcement of any limitations enacted pursuant to this pilot project shall be the responsibility of the jurisdiction.

(ii) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in clause (i) may be construed to prevent the Secretary from enforcing Federal law.

(2) EXAMPLES.—Examples of reasonable time, manner, and place limitations may include—

(A) prohibiting flight during specified morning and evening rush hours or only permitting flight during specified hours such as daylight hours, sufficient to ensure reasonable airspace access;

(B) establishing designated take-off and landing zones, limiting operations over moving locations or fixed site public road and parks, sidewalks or private property based on zoning density, or other land use considerations;

(C) requiring notice to public safety or zoning or land use authorities before operating;

(D) limiting UAS operations within designated altitudes within airspace over the jurisdiction;

(E) specifying maximum speed of flight over specified areas;

(F) prohibiting operations in connection with community or sporting events that do not remain in one place (for example, parades and running events); and

(G) mandating equipage.

(f) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In making determinations, the Secretary shall evaluate whether applications meet or exceed the following criteria:

(1) Overall economic, geographic, and climatic diversity of the selected jurisdictions.

(2) Overall diversity of the proposed models of government involvement.

(3) Overall diversity of the UAS operations to be conducted.

(4) The location of critical infrastructure.

(5) The involvement of commercial entities in the proposal and their ability to advance objectives that may serve the public interest as a result of further integration of UAS into the NAS.

(6) The involvement of affected communities in, and their support for, participating in the pilot program.

(7) The commitment of the governments and UAS operators involved in the proposal to comply with requirements related to national defense, homeland security, and public safety and to address competition, privacy, and civil liberties concerns.

(8) The commitment of the governments and UAS operators involved in the proposal to achieve the following policy objectives:

(A) Promoting innovation and economic development.

(B) Enhancing transportation safety.

(C) Enhancing workplace safety.

(D) Improving emergency response and search and rescue functions.

(E) Using radio spectrum efficiently and competitively.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall use the data collected and experience gained over the course of this pilot program to—

(1) identify and resolve technical challenges to UAS integration;

(2) address airspace use to safely and efficiently integrate all aircraft;

(3) inform operational standards and procedures to improve safety (for example, detect and avoid capabilities, navigation and altitude performance, and command and control link);

(4) inform FAA standards that reduce the need for waivers (for example, for operations over human beings, night operations, and beyond visual line of sight); and

(5) address competing interests regarding UAS operational expansion, safety, security, roles and responsibilities of non-Federal Government entities, and privacy issues.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''Lead Applicant'' means an eligible State, local or Tribal government that has submitted a timely application.

(2) The term ''NAS'' means the low-altitude national airspace system.

(3) The term ''UAS'' means unmanned aircraft system.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3___. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) UAS SAFETY ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a program to utilize available remote detection and identification technologies for safety oversight, including enforcement actions against operators of unmanned aircraft systems that are not in compliance with applicable Federal aviation laws, including regulations.

(b) REPORTING.—As part of the program, the Administrator shall establish and publicize a mechanism for the public and Federal, State, and local law enforcement to report suspected operation of unmanned aircraft in violation of applicable Federal laws and regulations.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the following:

(1) The number of unauthorized unmanned aircraft operations detected in restricted airspace, including in and around airports, together with a description of such operations.

(2) The number of enforcement cases brought by the Federal Aviation Administration or other Federal agencies for unauthorized operation of unmanned aircraft detected through the program, together with a description of such cases.

(3) Recommendations for safety and operational standards for unmanned aircraft detection and mitigation systems.

(4) Recommendations for any legislative or regulatory changes related to mitigation or detection or identification of unmanned aircraft systems.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN OF WISCONSIN

At the end of subtitle B of title III of the bill, add the following:

SEC. _____. ACTIVELY TETHERED PUBLIC UAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue such regulations as are necessary to authorize the use of certain actively tethered public unmanned aircraft system by government public safety agencies without any requirement to obtain a certificate of waiver, certificate of authorization, or other approval by the Federal Aviation Administration.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall establish risk-based operational conditions for operation of actively tethered public unmanned aircraft systems by government public safety agencies that recognize and accommodate the unique operational circumstances of such systems, including the requirements that the aircraft component may only be operated—

(1) within the line of sight of the operator;

(2) less than 200 feet above the ground;

(3) within class G airspace; and

(4) at least 5 statute miles from the geographic center of a tower-controller airport or airport denoted on a current aeronautical chart published by the Federal Aviation Administration, except that an actively tethered public unmanned aircraft system may be operated closer than 5 statute miles to the airport if—

(A) the operator of the actively tethered public unmanned aircraft system provides prior notice to the airport operator and receives, for a tower-controlled airport, prior approval from the air traffic control facilitate located at the airport; or

(B) the exigent circumstances of an emergency prevent the giving of notice contemplated by clause (i) and the actively tethered public unmanned aircraft system is operated outside the flight path of any manned aircraft.

(c) DEFINITION OF ACTIVELY TETHERED PUBLIC UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''actively tethered public unmanned aircraft system'' means public unmanned aircraft system in which the unmanned aircraft component—

(1) weighs 4.4 pounds or less, including payload;

(2) is physically attached to a ground station with a taut, appropriately load-rated tether that provides continuous power to the unmanned aircraft; and

(3) is capable of being controlled and retrieved by such ground station through physical manipulation of the tether.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GOSAR). Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 25 be modified by the form I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 25 printed in part A of House Report No. 115–650 offered by Mr. SANFORD of South Carolina:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

The amendment is modified as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3____ SPECIAL RULES FOR MODEL AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the incorporation of unmanned aircraft systems into Federal Aviation Administration plans and policies, including this subtitle, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may not promulgate any rule or regulation regarding a model aircraft or an aircraft being developed as a model aircraft, except for—

(1) rules regarding the registration of certain model aircraft pursuant to section 44103; and

(2) rules regarding unmanned aircraft that by design provide advanced flight capabilities enabling active, sustained, and controlled navigation of the aircraft beyond the visual line of sight of the operator, if—

(A) the aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use;

(B) the model aircraft operator is a current member of a community-based organization and whose aircraft is operated in accordance with the organization's safety rules;

(C) the aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds unless otherwise certified through a design, construction, inspection, flight test, and operational safety program administered by a community-based organization;

(D) the aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft;

(E) the aircraft is not operated over or within the property of a fixed site facility that operates amusement rides available for use by the general public or the property extending 500 lateral feet beyond the perimeter of such facility unless the operation is authorized by the owner of the amusement facility; and

(F) when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 5 miles of an airport should establish a mutually agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport)).

(b) AUTOMATED INSTANT AUTHORIZATION.—When the FAA has developed and implemented an automated airspace authorization system for the airspace in which the operator wants to operate, the model aircraft operator shall use this system for authorization to controlled airspace unless flown—

(1) at a permanent location agreed to by the Administrator; and

(2) in accordance with a mutually agreed upon operating procedure established with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport).

(d) COMMERCIAL OPERATION FOR INSTRUCTIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.—A flight of an unmanned aircraft shall be treated as a flight of a model aircraft for purposes of subsection (a) (regardless of any compensation, reimbursement, or other consideration exchanged or incidental economic benefit gained in the course of planning, operating, or supervising the flight), if the flight is—

(1) conducted for instructional or educational purposes; and

(2) operated or supervised by a member of a community-based organization recognized pursuant to subsection (e).

(e) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to pursue enforcement action against persons operating model aircraft who endanger the safety of the national airspace system.

(f) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''community-based organization'' means a nationwide membership-based association entity that—

(1) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(2) is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(3) the mission of which is demonstrably the furtherance of model aviation;

(4) provides a comprehensive set of safety guidelines for all aspects of model aviation addressing the assembly and operation of model aircraft and that emphasize safe aeromodeling operations within the national airspace system and the protection and safety of individuals and property on the ground, and may provide a comprehensive set of safety rules and programming for the operation of unmanned aircraft that have the advanced flight capabilities enabling active, sustained, and controlled navigation of the aircraft beyond visual line of sight of the operator;

(5) provides programming and support for any local charter organizations, affiliates, or clubs; and

(6) provides assistance and support in the development and operation of locally designated model aircraft flying sites.

(g) RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—In collaboration with aeromodelling stakeholders, the Administrator shall publish an advisory circular within 180 days of enactment that identifies the criteria and process required for recognition of nationwide community-based organizations. This recognition shall be in the form of a memorandum of agreement between the FAA and each community-based organization and does not require regulatory action to implement.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except for rules to implement remote identification for unmanned aircraft that by design provide advanced flight capabilities enabling active, sustained, and controlled navigation of the aircraft beyond the visual line of sight of the operator and for rules regarding the registration of certain model aircraft pursuant to section 44103, this section shall become effective when the rule, referred to in section 532 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, regarding revisions to part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, becomes final.

SEC. 3____. RECREATIONAL UAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue rules and regulations relating to small UAS flown for recreational or educational use, and that are not operated within all of the criteria outlined in the special rule for model aircraft in section 45505 of title 49, United States Code, or the requirements of part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—When issuing the rules and regulation pursuant to this section, the Administrator shall—

(1) require the completion of an online or electronic educational tutorial that is focused on knowledge of the primary rules necessary for the safe operation of such UAS and whose completion time is of reasonable length and limited duration;

(2) include provisions that enable the operation of such UAS by individuals under the age of 16 without a certificated pilot;

(3) require UAS operators within Class B, C, D and E airspace to obtain authorization, as the Administrator may determine to be necessary within that airspace, but only after the Federal Aviation Administration has developed and implemented an automated airspace authorization system for the airspace in which the operator wants to operate; and

(4) include provisions that provide specific operational rules for UAS operating in close proximity to airports in class G airspace.

(c) MAINTAINING BROAD ACCESS TO UAS TECHNOLOGY.—When issuing rules or regulations for the operation of UAS under this section, the Administrator shall not—

(1) require the pilot or operator of the UAS to obtain or hold an airman certificate;

(2) require a practical flight examination, medical examination, or the completion of a flight training program;

(3) limit such UAS operations to pre-designated fixed locations or uncontrolled airspace; or

(4) require airworthiness certification of any UAS operated pursuant to this section.

(d) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall carry out this section in collaboration with industry and community-based organizations.

Mr. SHUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the modification be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I support considering these amendments en bloc, all of which have been approved by both the majority and the minority.

These Members put forth thoughtful amendments, and I am pleased to be able to support moving them en bloc.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I support the adoption of these amendments en bloc. This grouping includes many Democratic and Republican amendments, and each, as the chairman has said, has been approved by the majority and the minority for consideration en bloc.

Among the amendments in this package is my comprehensive solution to the ever-growing list of safety and security concerns that have resulted from an unwise provision of law adopted in 2012.

That law prohibits the Federal Aviation Administration from promulgating any rule or regulation relating to drones flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

Let me repeat: any rule or regulation relating to drones flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

This was put in at the behest of model aircraft folks, who have a long

and very responsible history, know the rules of the road in the air, but now there are millions of other people now operating relatively inexpensive drones. Things have changed pretty dramatically in that time period, and we sorely need some reasonable regulations.

There are very strong national security concerns expressed by Homeland and Secret Service and others, and they are saying that basically they are going to hold back any rules regarding drones until they can be assured that the operators and the drone can be identified, which the commercial people can easily do.

□ 1345

It would be an expense for the recreational manufacturers so there is a competing amendment that is more conciliatory toward the Chinese drone manufacturers, which is a concern I don't have.

Sooner or later, one of these little toy drones is going to take down an aircraft and people are going to die. Plain and simple. They have already conducted tests on the hull, and they have found that a small quadcopter can cause fatal damage to aircraft controls. And they haven't even done the ingestion test yet into a jet engine, a turbine engine, where you will see more uncontained failures like the one we saw last week.

So it is critical that we get a handle on this and the proliferation of these with people with little or no experience or knowledge of aviation rules. Countless stakeholders are supporting my version, which would be the commercial drone industry, U.S. airlines and pilots, air traffic controllers, aircraft manufacturers, State and local entities.

They have all been asking for modification or repeal of that provision prohibiting the FAA from regulating recreational drone users. Until this is done, our skies will be less safe and the true potential of the commercial drone industry will never be unlocked because of the security concerns that I already mentioned.

My amendment, among other things, grants the FAA the authority to impose standards on recreational users as needed, ensure the safety of our airspace system going forward, including requirements remotely identifying and tracking drone operators. That first step is critical to protecting sensitive facilities, assets, and addressing the concerns of Homeland Security, Secret Service, and others.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this amendment en bloc, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair reminds all Members not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), a valued member of the committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I am proud to speak in support of this en bloc amendment, and then also in support of H.R. 4.

It is finally a long-term reauthorization of the FAA. Two programs of vital importance to my district are the Essential Air Service program and the Contract Tower Program. Both programs are critical to rural areas and are protected in this bill.

The bill also includes a provision I authorized and authored to ensure small low-risk microdrones can be operated safely, but also under different operational requirements than larger drones. Safely and more appropriately integrating microdrones into the airspace will foster innovation at companies like Horizon Hobby in my district and incentivize better operator compliance.

H.R. 4 also includes important customer service provisions. It prohibits involuntary bumping of passengers once they have already boarded an aircraft. It makes fees and taxes more transparent, and when consumers have complaints about their flying experience, this bill will allow them to call a hotline or use an app on their smartphone.

I also want to mention the disaster title of this bill. It is actually a shame that I have to speak about this again today because this House already passed this legislation last December. Unfortunately, our colleagues in the Senate stripped these provisions out of the disaster supplemental package we passed earlier this year, but now we have an opportunity to finally get this crucial legislation signed into law.

Included in this package is my bill, the Disaster Declaration Improvement Act, which requires FEMA to place a greater weight and consideration on severe, localized impact of damage following a disaster. Passing this bill will have real impact in States like Illinois where a large portion of our population is concentrated in a small geographical area in the northeast portion of our State.

Enacting this language into law will help level the playing field, and help ensure rural areas like my district are given a fair shake when disasters happen and help is needed.

I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for working to include this disaster package in this bill, and for all of the hard work on the underlying bill, and I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), a member of the committee.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member and Chairman SHUSTER for their work on this bill, on this block of amendments, in which I have an amendment that I drafted that would allow airports to apply for grants from the small airport fund to construct air traffic control towers for participation in the Federal Contract Tower Program.

This provision will ensure that our airspace remains the gold standard for safety by helping small airports currently operating without towers to invest in lifesaving safety infrastructure.

It is my understanding that because this will be a new eligibility, the FAA will need to classify the construction of an air traffic control tower under the Airports Capital Improvement Plan to ensure that it is scored properly for purposes of determining grant awards through the national priority ranking system.

Mr. Chair, I ask the chairman if he will agree with me that: first, the FAA has never classified control towers under ACIP before; second, that the FAA should plan to ensure that these high-priority projects are classified properly for consideration in grant decisions; and third, that they should be classified in a manner that provides them with an appropriate, level playing field with other projects to ensure competitiveness, and I ask the chairman if he agrees on these three provisions.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, we will be committed to working with the gentleman as we move forward.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LEWIS), a member of our committee.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for all of his hard on H.R. 4.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased that my amendment to codify the FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integrated Pilot Program is included in this en bloc package.

Drones are an innovation that I know our country is anxious to take advantage of. However, it brings with it a need to rethink and redefine some current policies. Aviation regulations that manage the flow of air traffic at 30,000 feet, or even 1,000 feet, do not make sense when managing the operation of a UAS 5 feet off the ground.

Congress should formally support this pilot program and learn from the data gathered here. We must also recognize the importance of non-Federal bodies like States, municipalities, and Tribal governments to be part of the drone oversight. This pilot program, which my amendment codifies and which stem from a White House proposal, will help us do just that, and it has been widely supported.

In fact, drone associations, traditional aviation groups, and large companies wrote in support of the pilot program. We hope that by Congress codifying the pilot program, the Department of Transportation will now expand the pilot program to further participation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for including two of my amendments in the en bloc package. The gentlemen have set a high bar for leadership and collegiality through this process, and I look forward to working with them as the FAA implements this bill.

My amendments focus on two issues important not only to the residents of Washington's Seventh District, but across the country; namely, the issue of airplane noise and infrastructure needs of fast-growing airports like Sea-Tac.

Many of our communities with large and medium airports are growing by leaps and bounds. According to Airports Council International, over the last 10 years, Sea-Tac's passenger traffic has grown by 52.6 percent, second only to San Francisco. We need to be certain that our communities are able to prepare for that growth, while still ensuring that they remain livable.

These amendments will help to build that evidence base, and I deeply appreciate the consideration.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to propose an amendment to section 232 of H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act.

As a Representative of the Fourth District of Kansas, which includes Wichita, also known as the Air Capital of the World, I have a deep appreciation for the importance of the aviation industry in our region and country.

For more than 100 years, our community has pioneered aviation and manufacturing. Today, the greater Wichita area is home to many of the world's largest aviation manufacturers and produces nearly 50 percent of all general aviation planes built.

Without question, aviation is a great source of pride for all Kansans, and I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their efforts to support the industry and modernize the FAA.

As part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Congress has tasked the FAA administrator to establish a task force on flight standards reform. I believe creating this task force to improve aviation safety standards is a needed and overdue initiative.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. H.R. 4 mandates the task force be comprised of representatives from air carriers, general and business aviation, repair stations, unmanned aviation systems, flight schools, and aviation safety inspectors.

Today, I am offering an amendment to the task force to also include representatives of aircraft manufacturers. I believe those responsible for producing our Nation's aircraft can play a valuable role in updating aviation standards and should have a voice.

I want to thank our colleagues for their attention to the industry and consideration of this amendment, and ask that they support the FAA Reauthorization Act.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman and ranking member for including my amendment in the en bloc.

My amendment would require the FAA to study the economic harm caused by excessive aircraft noise on communities and businesses near major airports.

Companies adjacent to airports, such as O'Hare International Airport in my district, see that flight paths have to contend with the economic activity in that region, and noise disrupts their customers and interferes with business, in addition to the physiological effects that constant noise has on employees.

Under my amendment, the FAA will study what happens to businesses when they are subject to excessive noise throughout the workday. This will include, but is not limited to, employee productivity and retention, workplace morale and satisfaction, and other data to help policymakers grasp the full effect of airport noise on neighborhoods.

This is a bipartisan, commonsense amendment, and again, I thank the committee for including it in the en bloc.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRIST).

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership and bipartisanship on this bill.

Americans who watched 60 Minutes last weekend or who read the Tampa Bay Times were shocked by serious airline safety concerns—specifically with Allegiant Airlines, a carrier that operates 95 percent of the traffic at my hometown airport. It raises questions about the FAA's ''compliance philosophy,'' focused on fewer enforcement actions, more working quietly with the airlines behind the scenes on safety issues.

I sure hope it is true that airlines are more likely to self-report safety incidents if they do not fear retribution, but lives are at stake, and we must get the facts. My amendment would require an investigation into whether this hands-off approach is, in fact, working. Profits can never trump passenger safety.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this straightforward amendment.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER), my neighbor to the north.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of my amendment, which would modify the Airport Improvement Program to require the FAA to explicitly consider the emergency preparedness needs of the communities served when reviewing an airport's master plan.

Currently, the FAA relies primarily on a number of enplanements when making their funding determinations under the AIP. That disadvantages rural airports like William R. Fairchild International Airport in my district, which serves as a critical component of the State's and FEMA's emergency response plan for the region, but has relatively few enplanements.

This commonsense improvement would help ensure that Fairchild and other airports like it will be able to secure the funding necessary to maintain their runway and other critical infrastructure so that the resources are available when disaster strikes.

This matters to folks in my neck of the woods who live in the shadow of the Cascadia subduction zone. When the big one hits, the Fairchild Airport will be essential to deploying emergency supplies, as well as for evacuating people to safety.

I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their support of this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on it.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the en bloc package, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Chair, Soto amendment number 3 to H.R. 4, FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, would require a sink or sanitizing equipment in the lactation area in commercial service airports.

This small but significant change would benefit traveling mothers and children. A 2014 study in Breastfeeding Medicine showed that only 62 of the top 100 passenger-volume U.S. airports labeled themselves as ''breastfeeding friendly''. However, they found that only eight of the 100 surveyed airports provided the minimum requirements for a lactation room, as set forth under Section 122 of this bill.

I am pleased to see that this bill would require medium or large hub airports to maintain lactation areas in each passenger terminal building with minimum requirements of a chair, table, and electrical outlet. With the inclusion of my amendment, traveling mother will now have access to sanitation equipment, too.

I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and the staff of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for their support and for working with me on this amendment. I thank my colleagues for their support on this issue.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Chair, Soto amendment, Soto number 21, to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, H.R. 4, would require the FAA Administrator to also consider the potential emergency medical needs of pregnant women when evaluating the minimum contents of approved medical kits—currently the bill only

specifies the consideration of children's emergency medical needs.

Obstetrical symptoms, while rare causes of in-flight medical emergencies, should be given consideration when evaluating the adequacy of in-flight emergency medical kits.

I am pleased to see that this bill would require the consideration of the potential emergency medical needs of pregnant women. I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and the staff of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, for their support and for working with me on this amendment. I also thank my colleagues for their support on this issue.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the en bloc #1 amendment package to H.R. 4, which includes my amendment (#2). I am proud to offer an amendment that responds to a key and grave local matter.

My amendment is simple: It would allow airports to use Federal funds to buy generators for passenger areas of the airport, something they currently are not able to do. It would also let airports separate backup power from the main power lines, and to complete other projects to prevent power outages using A.I.P. and P.F.C. funds.

As you know, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest airport, is located in my Congressional district. Last December, an underground fire disabled both the airport's primary and backup power supplies. This caused a power outage that lasted for 11 hours, cancelling hundreds of flights and stranding passengers and employees on planes and in dark terminals.

Fortunately, no one was hurt, but this event raised important public safety questions. The City of Atlanta and Georgia Power are looking into what happened and what can be done to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future. I look forward to their report. My common-sense amendment will give airports the flexibility they need to keep the lights on and passengers safe.

Finally, and most importantly, Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to all the police, firefighters, electricians, and airport, airline, and MARTA employees for their work to assist stranded travelers. I would also like to thank the tens of thousands of passengers who remained calm and patient throughout this unprecedented ordeal.

I appreciate the support of the Chairman and the Ranking Member and thank them and their staffs for working with me on this issue. I look forward to continuing to work with them to keep the travelling public safe.

I urge all of my colleagues to support my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

The en bloc amendments, as modified, were agreed to.

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AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. ROSKAM

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. ROSKAM. 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 46, after line 22, insert the following:

SEC. ___. AIRPORT NOISE MITIGATION AND SAFETY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a study to review and evaluate existing studies and analyses of the relationship between jet aircraft approach and takeoff speeds and corresponding noise impacts on communities surrounding airports.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study initiated under subsection (a), the Administrator shall determine—

(1) whether a decrease in jet aircraft approach or takeoff speeds results in significant aircraft noise reductions;

(2) whether the jet aircraft approach or takeoff speed reduction necessary to achieve significant noise reductions—

(A) jeopardizes aviation safety; or

(B) decreases the efficiency of the National Airspace System, including lowering airport capacity, increasing travel times, or increasing fuel burn;

(3) the advisability of using jet aircraft approach or takeoff speeds as a noise mitigation technique; and

(4) if the Administrator determines that using jet aircraft approach or takeoff speeds as a noise mitigation technique is advisable, whether any of the metropolitan areas specifically identified in section 157(b)(2) would benefit from such a noise mitigation technique without a significant impact to aviation safety or the efficiency of the National Airspace System.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study initiated under subsection (a).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, briefly, the Roskam amendment does the following:

It recognizes that my constituency, and I think a lot of others, want the benefits of living near a large international airport but not as much of the burden. Here is the backstory about what is going on.

My constituency is right next door to O'Hare Airport, which, as an international airport, brings incredible convenience to my flying constituents and also incredible commerce and opportunity. That is a good thing.

The problem is the burdens of the noise of the airport rest disproportionately with some communities. These are communities that have found themselves with different flight patterns in different situations where, all of a sudden, a flight pattern from years ago is now something that they are seeing overhead.

One constituent of mine in Wayne, Illinois, complained that the noise sometimes is 30 seconds apart for hours on end. Another complained that their house actually shakes because of the planes that are flying so close. Mr. Chairman, you can imagine how difficult this would be to live in this type of situation.

Realizing that we want the benefits of an international airport and also as quiet a situation as possible, I have worked with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to find common ground.

A scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has completed computer modeling and found that reducing plane takeoff speeds by 35 miles per hour would dramatically reduce the noise pollution and only lengthen flight time by a mere 30 seconds.

This commonsense amendment directs the FAA to study this proposal and report back to Congress on whether or not this will alleviate the nuisance that too many of my constituents have had to deal with.

Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague from across the aisle, Congresswoman SPEIER, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am in favor of it.

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.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

I actually, recently, had a conversation with the Acting FAA Administrator on this very subject. I think it is something that could help mitigate. Since we have moved to performance-based navigation and changed for more efficient approaches to safe fuel, the airlines are benefiting tremendously, but it has concentrated the noise over a narrow area.

I have also asked the FAA if it would be possible to vary the approaches on performance-based so that you are not always, every day, every hour, every minute, going over exactly the same position. I think that is also something they should look at.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon for his support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. DENHAM. 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, insert the following:

SEC. 1____. JUDICIAL REVIEW FOR PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES.

Section 330(e) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''150 days as set forth in section 139(l)''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)(i) by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''150 days as set forth in section 139(l)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer the bipartisan Denham-Costa amendment which eliminates duplication of environmental reviews.

The MAP–21 highway bill created the NEPA assignment program in 2012, which allows States to assume responsibility for environmental review, consultation, and compliance of NEPA for Federal aid highway projects and other transportation projects. The program removes an entire layer of Federal bureaucracy from the NEPA process, allowing States and counties to operate more efficiently.

NEPA assignment has been a success, saving time and cost of infrastructure projects across six States: California, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Utah, and Alaska. Two more States, Arizona and Nebraska, are in the process of applying, and all 50 States are eligible to participate.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee built on the success of the NEPA assignment program in the 2015 FAST Act by establishing the NEPA reciprocity program. The NEPA reciprocity program allows States with environmental laws that are at least as stringent as NEPA to make the approval of reviews under State laws and regulations and in replacement of NEPA. This allows States to remove parallel and redundant NEPA requirements from their own environmental process, which will get projects built faster and at a lower cost. In other words, this not only allows one environmental review, but stops us from doing two.

As reasonable and promising as this program is, the judicial review period or window that litigants can challenge a record of decisions is nearly five times longer than for Federal aid highway projects that are subject to NEPA. The judicial review period for the reciprocity program is 2 years, substantially increasing the risk of litigation and dissuading States from pursuing the program.

This amendment harmonizes the statute of limitation for the program with other Federal highway projects to 150 days. Instead of delaying 2 years for lawsuits, we do it in 150 days, the same as all other Federal highway projects.

This commonsense change would render the program workable as originally intended in the FAST Act. This program would allow States impacted by the 2017 major disasters to rebuild devastated communities faster and at a lower cost, saving taxpayer dollars.

Many wildfire-impacted counties in California have recognized the potential benefits of NEPA reciprocity for their recovery efforts and are pushing the State to participate. This amendment would allow California and other impacted States with major disasters, like Texas and Florida, to apply and rebuild in short order.

In September 2017, the Department of Transportation issued the notice of proposed rulemaking, and the comment period closed in November. DOT should issue the rule to establish the program soon, and this modification must be in place for the program to be workable at that time.

There has been a lot of discussion about environmental review and permitting reform being included in the infrastructure package, and for good reason: projects take too long and they cost way too much money. We have an opportunity to ensure streamlining programs that are already law are working correctly by passing this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment being offered by Congressman DENHAM and me to H.R. 4, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Together, we have worked long and hard to reduce the duplicative environmental permitting requirements that contribute, as we all know, to delays in delivery of important transportation projects throughout the Nation and throughout California, as both Congressman DENHAM and I have experienced.

California remains at the forefront of finding innovative ways to streamline the transportation delivery project without compromising the natural environment and complying with environmental laws. As a matter of fact, we have a very big initiative that was passed last year to provide another $52 billion in construction projects over the next 10 years. So this is an important amendment.

In 2015, Congress passed the FAST Act, which implemented a pilot program to provide reciprocity for environmental permitting for States like California that have laws that provide equal or greater environmental protection. That is the case with California. That is why this amendment is so applicable and why it makes such good common sense.

This amendment would further streamline the delegation process, as the gentleman noted, reduce project delivery times and costs, lead to more projects being constructed at a faster rate, and improve our deteriorating infrastructure.

For all these good reasons, we ought to adopt this amendment. I urge my colleagues to concur.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, although I rose in opposition, my principal concern is this was a very, very long, difficult negotiation as we adopted the FAST Act, and all parties agreed on these five pilot projects.

We gave the task, as we normally do, to the Department of Transportation to draw up a rule that will establish and implement the pilot program, but DOT has not yet acted to establish those rules. So I have concerns about putting strictures on the Department of Transportation before they have had an opportunity to implement the rule, which, hopefully, will be soon forthcoming. I assume it is not one of these rules that the President has held up from being issued, since it would be something beneficial, if properly done.

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. DENHAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 839, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 2 consisting of amendment Nos. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 45, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 64, and 65 printed in part A of House Report 115–650, offered by Shuster of Pennsylvania:

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. CRAMER OF NORTH DAKOTA

In title III, at the end of subtitle B add the following:

SEC. 342. REPORT ON POSSIBLE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS OPERATION ON SPECTRUM ALLOCATED FOR AVIATION USE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after consultation with relevant stakeholders, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) on whether unmanned aircraft systems operations should be permitted on spectrum designated for aviation use, on an unlicensed, shared, or exclusive basis, for operations within the UTM system or outside of such a system;

(2) that addresses any technological, statutory, regulatory, and operational barriers to the use of such spectrum for unmanned aircraft systems operations; and

(3) that, if it is determined that spectrum designated for aviation use is not suitable for operations by unmanned aircraft systems, includes recommendations of other

spectrum frequencies that may be appropriate for such operations.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''unmanned aircraft system'' means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.

(2) UTM.—The term ''UTM'' means an unmanned aircraft traffic management system or service.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. LOBIONDO OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. ___. U.S. COUNTER-UAS SYSTEM REVIEW OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATION PROCESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after that date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in consultation with government agencies currently authorized to operate Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) systems within the United States (including the territories and possessions of the United States), shall initiate a review of the following:

(1) The process the Administration is utilizing for interagency coordination of C-UAS activity pursuant to a relevant Federal statute authorizing such activity within the United States (including the territories and possessions of the United States).

(2) The standards the Administration is utilizing for operation of a C-UAS systems pursuant to a relevant Federal statute authorizing such activity within the United States (including the territories and possessions of the United States), including whether the following criteria are being taken into consideration in the development of the standards:

(A) Safety of the national airspace.

(B) Protecting individuals and property on the ground.

(C) Non-interference with avionics of manned aircraft, and unmanned aircraft, operating legally in the national airspace.

(D) Non-interference with air traffic control systems.

(E) Consistent procedures in the operation of C-UAS systems to the maximum extent practicable.

(F) Adequate coordination procedures and protocols with the Federal Aviation Administration during the operation of C-UAS systems.

(G) Adequate training for personnel operating C-UAS systems.

(H) Assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the coordination and review processes to ensure national airspace safety while minimizing bureaucracy.

(I) Such other matters the Administrator deems necessary for the safe and lawful operation of C-UAS systems.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date upon which the review in subsection (a) is initiated, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, a report on the Administration's activities related to C-UAS systems, including—

(1) any coordination with Federal agencies and States, subdivisions and States, political authorities of at least 2 States that operate C-UAS systems; and

(2) an assessment of the standards being utilized for the operation of a counter-UAS systems within the United States (including the territories and possessions of the United States).

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 151, before line 17, insert the following (and redesignate accordingly):

(6) the Administrator should—

(A) place particular priority in continuing measures, including partnering with nongovernmental organizations and State and local agencies, to educate the public about the dangers to public safety of operating unmanned aircraft over areas that have temporary flight restrictions in place, for purposes such as wildfires, without appropriate approval or authorization from the Forest Service; and

(B) partner with State and local agencies to effectively enforce relevant laws so that unmanned aircrafts do not interfere with the efforts of emergency responders;

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MR. SANFORD OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 161, after line 11, insert the following:

(d) PROGRAM ALIGNMENT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation within 90 days after enactment of this Act that describes how each of the following programs will be executed or implemented in a systematic and timely manner to avoid duplication, leverage capabilities learned across programs, and support the safe integration of UAS into the national airspace:

(1) Commercially-operated Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability.

(2) The Unmanned Aircraft System Integration Pilot Program.

(3) The Unmanned Traffic Management Pilot Program.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE OF RHODE ISLAND

Page 181, after line 21, insert the following new paragraph (and redesignate the subsequent paragraphs accordingly):

(2) Compensation (regarding rebooking options, refunds, meals, and lodging) for flight diversions.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. CÁRDENAS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 182, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. OVERBOOKING POLICIES OF AIR CARRIERS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study on the overbooking policies of air carriers and how the policies impact the United States economy.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall assess the effects of the overbooking policies on increasing or decreasing the costs of passenger air transportation.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Page 182, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TRAINING POLICIES REGARDING RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND RELIGIOUS NONDISCRIMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) each air carrier's training policy for its employees and contractors regarding racial, ethnic, and religious nondiscrimination; and

(2) how frequently an air carrier is required to train new employees and contractors because of turnover in positions that require such training.

(b) BEST PRACTICES.—After the date the report is submitted under subsection (1), the Secretary of Transportation shall develop and disseminate to air carriers best practices nevessary to improve the training policies described in subsection (a), based on the findings of the report and in consultation with—

(1) passengers of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds;

(2) national organizations that represent impacted communities;

(3) air carrier;

(4) airport operators; and

(5) contract service providers.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI OF OREGON

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, add the following new section:

SEC. 4___. AVIATION CONSUMER ADVOCATE AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall review aviation consumer complaints received that allege a violation of law and, as appropriate, pursue enforcement or corrective actions that would be in the public interest.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In considering which cases to pursue for enforcement or corrective action under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the requirements of the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–435; 100 Stat. 1080);

(2) unfair and deceptive practices by air carriers, foreign air carriers, and ticket agents;

(3) the terms and conditions agreed to between passengers and air carriers, foreign air carriers, or ticket agents;

(4) aviation consumer protection and tarmac delay contingency planning requirements for both airports and airlines; and

(5) any other applicable law.

(c) AVIATION CONSUMER ADVOCATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the Aviation Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Transportation, there shall be established the position of Aviation Consumer Advocate.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Aviation Consumer Advocate shall—

(A) assist consumers in resolving carrier service complaints filed with the Aviation Consumer Protection Division;

(B) evaluate the resolution by the Department of Transportation of carrier service complaints;

(C) identify and recommend actions the Department can take to improve the enforcement of aviation consumer protection rules and resolution of carrier service complaints; and

(D) identify and recommend regulations and policies that can be amended to more effectively resolve carrier service complaints.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary, acting through the Aviation Consumer Advocate, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an annual report summarizing the following:

(1) The total number of annual complaints received by the Secretary, including the number of complaints by the name of each air carrier and foreign air carrier.

(2) The total number of annual complaints by category of complaint.

(3) The number of complaints referred in the preceding year for enforcement or correction action by the Secretary.

(4) Any recommendations under subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (c)(2).

(5) Such other data as the Aviation Consumer Advocate considers appropriate.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN OF RHODE ISLAND

At the end of subtitle B of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 44__. REGULATIONS ENSURING ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN AIR TRANSPORTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) review, and if necessary revise, applicable regulations to ensure that individuals with disabilities who request assistance while traveling in air transportation receive dignified, timely, and effective assistance at airports and on aircraft from trained personnel; and

(2) review, and if necessary revise, applicable regulations related to air carrier training programs for air carrier personnel, including contractors, who provide physical assistance to passengers with disabilities to ensure that training under such programs—

(A) occurs on an appropriate schedule for all new and continuing personnel charged with providing physical assistance; and

(B) includes, as appropriate, instruction by personnel, with hands-on training for employees who physically lift or otherwise physically assist passengers with disabilities, including the use of relevant equipment.

(b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—The assistance referred to subsection (a)(1) may include requests for assistance in boarding or deplaning an aircraft, requests for assistance in connecting between flights, and other similar or related requests, as appropriate.

(c) AIR CARRIER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''air carrier'' means an air carrier or foreign air carrier (as those terms are defined in section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code).

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. O'HALLERAN OF ARIZONA

Page 190, after line 6, insert the following (and redesignate accordingly):

(b) REQUIRED ANALYSIS ON COMMUNITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a)(2)(E) the Comptroller General shall include, for each option for further reform, an analysis of the impact on local economies of communities with airports receiving Essential Air Service funding, access to air travel for residents of rural communities and the impact to local businesses in such communities.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT OF NEW YORK

Page 266, line 25, strike the semicolon and insert '', including the fees charged to ground transportation providers for airport access;''.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. SANFORD OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. STUDY ON AIRPORT REVENUE DIVERSION.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a study of—

(1) the legal and financial challenges related to repealing the exception in section 47107(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, for those airports the Federal Aviation Administration has identified are covered by the exception; and

(2) measures that may be taken to mitigate the impact of repealing the exception.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall address—

(1) the level of revenue diversion at the airports covered by the exception described in subsection (a)(1) and the uses of the diverted revenue;

(2) the terms of any bonds or financial covenants an airport owner has issued relying on diverted airport revenue;

(3) applicable local laws or ordinances requiring use of airport revenue for non-airport purposes;

(4) whether repealing the exception would improve the long-term financial performance of impacted airports; and

(5) any other practical implications of repealing the exception for airports or the national aviation system.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MR. FLEISCHMANN OF TENNESSEE

At the end of title V add the following:

SEC. ____. GEOSYNTHETIC MATERIALS.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, to the extent practicable, shall encourage the use of durable, resilient, and sustainable materials and practices, including the use of geosynthetic materials and other innovative technologies, in carrying out the activities of the Federal Aviation Administration.

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Add at the end of title V the following:

SEC. _____. RULE FOR ANIMALS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a rule to require each primary airport (as defined in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code) to provide a designated area for animals, traveling with their owners, to relieve themselves.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL OF MICHIGAN

At the end of title V of the bill, add the following:

SEC. _____. ENHANCED AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a pilot program to provide air traffic control services on a preferential basis to aircraft equipped with certain NextGen avionics that—

(1) lasts at least 2 years; and

(2) operates in at 3 least suitable airports.

(b) DURATION OF DAILY SERVICE.—The air traffic control services provided under the pilot program established under subsection (a) shall occur for at least 3 consecutive hours between 0600 and 2200 local time during each day of the pilot program.

(c) AIRPORT SELECTION.—The Administrator shall designate airports for participation in the pilot program after consultation with aircraft operators, manufacturers, and airport sponsors.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) CERTAIN NEXTGEN AVIONICS.—The term ''certain NextGen avionics'' means those avionics and related software designated by the Administrator after consultations with aircraft operators and manufacturers.

(2) PREFERENTIAL BASIS.—The term ''preferential basis'' means—

(A) prioritizing aircraft equipped with certain NextGen avionics during a Ground Delay Program by assigning them fewer minutes of delay relative to other aircraft; and

(B) sequencing aircraft equipped with certain NextGen avionics ahead of other aircraft in the Traffic Flow Management System to the maximum extent consistent with safety.

(e) SUNSET.—The pilot program established under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2023.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the pilot program.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL OF MICHIGAN

At the end of title V of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5___. NEXTGEN DELIVERY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall initiate a study of the potential impacts of a significantly delayed, significantly diminished, or completely failed delivery of the Next Generation Air Transportation System modernization initiative by the Federal Aviation Administration, including impacts to the air traffic control system and the national airspace system as a whole.

(b) SCOPE OF STUDY.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the Inspector General shall assess the Administration's performance related to the Next Generation Air Transportation System modernization initiative, including—

(1) the potential impacts on the operational efficiency of our aviation system;

(2) an analysis of potential economic losses and stranded investments directly related to NextGen;

(3) an analysis of the potential impacts to our international competitiveness in aviation innovation;

(4) an analysis of the main differences that would be seen in our air traffic control system;

(5) the potential impacts on the flying public, including potential impacts to flight times, fares, and delays in the air and on the ground;

(6) the effects on supply chains reliant on air transportation of cargo;

(7) the potential impacts on the long-term benefits promised by NextGen;

(8) an analysis of the potential impacts on aircraft noise and flight paths;

(9) the potential changes in separation standards, fuel consumption, flight paths, block times, and landing procedures or lack thereof;

(10) the potential impacts on aircraft taxi times and aircraft emissions or lack thereof;

(11) a determination of the total potential costs and logistical challenges of the failure of NextGen, including a comparison of the potential loss of the return on public and private sector investment related to NextGen, as compared to other available investment alternatives, between December 12, 2003 and the date of enactment of this Act; and

(12) other matters arising in the course of the study.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of initiation of the study under subsection (a), the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MS. DEGETTE OF COLORADO

At the end of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 543. LIMITED REGULATION OF NON-FEDERALLY SPONSORED PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection (b), the Secretary of Transportation may not directly or indirectly regulate—

(1) the acquisition, use, lease, encumbrance, transfer, or disposal of land by an airport owner or operator;

(2) any non-Federal facility upon such land; or

(3) any portion of such land or facility.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to any regulation—

(1) ensuring—

(A) the safe and efficient operation of aircraft and airports, including the safety of people and property on the ground;

(B) that an airport owner or operator receives not less than fair market value for the lease, use, encumbrance, transfer, or disposal of land, any facilities on such land, or any portion of such land or facilities; or

(C) that the airport pays not more than fair market value for the acquisition of land or facilities on such land; or

(2) imposed with respect to—

(A) any land or a facility acquired or modified using—

(i) Federal financial assistance, including Federal grants; or

(ii) passenger facility charge revenues collected under section 40117 of title 49, United States Code; or

(B) any land conveyed to the airport, including its predecessors or successors, by the United States or any agency thereof.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the applicability of section 47107(b) or 47133 of title 49, United States Code, to revenues generated by the use, lease, encumbrance, transfer, or disposal of land as described in subsection (a), facilities upon such land, or any portion of such land or facilities.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. BANKS OF INDIANA

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. NATIONAL AIRMAIL MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in 1930, commercial airmail carriers began operations at Smith Field in Fort Wayne, Indiana;

(2) the United States lacks a national museum dedicated to airmail; and

(3) the airmail hangar at Smith Field in Fort Wayne, Indiana—

(A) will educate the public on the role of airmail in aviation history; and

(B) honor the role of the hangar in the history of the Nation's airmail service.

(b) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The airmail museum located at the Smith Field in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is designated as the ''National Airmail Museum''.

(2) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The national museum designated by this section is not a unit of the National Park System and the designation of the National Airmail Museum shall not require or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to that national memorial.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MS. SINEMA OF ARIZONA

At the end of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5___. REVIEW OF APPROVAL PROCESS FOR USE OF LARGE AIR TANKERS AND VERY LARGE AIR TANKERS FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING.

(a) REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT OF CURRENT APPROVAL PROCESS.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a review of its process to approve the use of large air tankers and very large air tankers for wildland firefighting for the purpose of—

(1) determining the current effectiveness, safety, and consistency of the approval process;

(2) developing recommendations for improving the effectiveness, safety, and consistency of the approval process; and

(3) assisting in developing standardized next-generation requirements for air tankers used for firefighting.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to Congress a report describing the outcome of the review conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS OF ARIZONA

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. REPORT ON BAGGAGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) study and publicize for comment a cost-benefit analysis to air carriers and consumers of changing the baggage reporting requirements of section 234.6 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, before the implementation of such requirements; and

(2) submit a report on the findings of the cost-benefit analysis to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. SUPPORTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE AVIATION FIELD.

(a) ADVISORY BOARD.—To encourage women and girls to enter the field of aviation, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall create and facilitate the Women in Aviation Advisory Board (referred to in this Act as the ''Board''), with the objective of promoting organizations and programs that are providing education, training, mentorship, outreach, and recruitment of women into the aviation industry.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall consist of members whose diverse background and expertise allows them to contribute balanced points of view and ideas regarding the strategies and objectives set forth in subsection (f).

(c) SELECTION.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall appoint members of the Board, including representatives from the following:

(1) Major airlines and aerospace companies.

(2) Nonprofit organizations within the aviation industry.

(3) Aviation business associations.

(4) Engineering business associations.

(5) United States Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol.

(6) Institutions of higher education and aviation trade schools.

(d) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed to the Board for the duration of the existence of the Board.

(e) COMPENSATION.—Board members shall serve without compensation.

(f) DUTIES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall present a comprehensive plan for strategies the Administration can take, which include the following objectives:

(1) Identifying industry trends that directly or indirectly encourage or discourage women from pursuing careers in aviation.

(2) Coordinating the efforts of airline companies, nonprofit organizations, and aviation and engineering associations to facilitate support for women pursuing careers in aviation.

(3) Creating opportunities to expand existing scholarship opportunities for women in the aviation industry.

(4) Enhancing aviation training, mentorship, education, and outreach programs that are exclusive to women.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit a report outlining the comprehensive plan for strategies pursuant to subsection (f) to—

(A) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(C) the Administrator.

(2) AVAILABILITY ONLINE.—The Administrator shall make the report publicly available online and in print.

(h) SUNSET.—The Board shall terminate upon the submittal of the report pursuant to subsection (g).

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF MISSOURI

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. GAO STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF GRANTING AN EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF AERONAUTICAL SERVICES TO AN AIRPORT SPONSOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the General Accountability Office shall conduct a study to examine the cases in which an airport sponsor exercised an exclusive right (commonly known as a ''proprietary exclusive right''), as described in the Federal Aviation Advisory Circular 150/1590-6 published on January 4, 2007.

(b) REPORT.—At the end of the 2-year period under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit the findings of such report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. KILMER OF WASHINGTON

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 543. EVALUATION OF AIRPORT MASTER PLANS.

Section 47106 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) EVALUATION OF AIRPORT MASTER PLANS.—When evaluating the master plan of an airport for purposes of this subchapter, the Secretary shall take into account—

''(1) the role the airport plays with respect to medical emergencies and evacuations; and

''(2) the role the airport plays in emergency or disaster preparedness in the community served by the airport.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MR. PANETTA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title V of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5___. STUDY REGARDING DAY-NIGHT AVERAGE SOUND LEVELS.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall evaluate alternative metrics to the current average day night level standard, such as the use of actual noise sampling and other methods, to address community airplane noise concerns.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study, including a description of the proposed structure of a recommended pilot program.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. HILL OF ARKANSAS

At the end of title V (page 267, after line 10), insert the following:

SEC. 543. REPORT ON STATUS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN FAA AND LITTLE ROCK PORT AUTHORITY.

(a) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives

and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Little Rock Port Authority to relocate the Little Rock, Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range with Collocated Tactical Air Control and Navigation (LIT VORTAC).

(b) REPORT CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The status of the efforts by the Federal Aviation Administration to relocate the LIT VORTAC.

(2) The long-term and short-term budget projections for the relocation project.

(3) A description of and timeline for each phase of the relocation project.

(4) A description of and explanation for the required location radius.

(5) A description of work completed by the Federal Aviation Administration as of the date of the report.

AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MRS. LOWEY OF NEW YORK

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. ___. STUDY ON ALLERGIC REACTIONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(1) study the prevalence of allergic reactions on board flights, whether airlines universally report reactions to the Federal Aviation Administration, and the frequency of first aid inventory checks to ensure medicine to prevent anaphylactic shock is in an aircraft; and

(2) submit a report to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and Appropriations of the Senate.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I support considering these amendments en bloc, all of which have been approved by both the majority and the minority. These Members put forward thoughtful amendments, and I am pleased to be able to support moving them en bloc.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the committee for including amendment No. 111 in this en bloc.

After the tragic fires that we have seen in California, we must do everything possibly to protect our communities. In San Diego, helicopters and air tankers had to be grounded during fire fights after recreational drones were spotted in the area. These drones can pose a risk to aircraft and emergency personnel flying overhead. That is why my amendment would protect emergency response efforts from interruptions by drones and direct the FAA to work with local agencies to inform the public about this issue.

I want to thank, again, the committee for their tireless work on this bill.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

□ 1415

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, the Northern Plains Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Site in Grand Forks, North Dakota, is doing extensive work with private industry stakeholders in advancing this very important emerging industry. However, the growth of the UAS industry is reliant on receiving dedicated spectrum allocation to ensure the connection for beyond visual line of sight operations.

My amendment simply directs the FAA, the NTIA, and the FCC to submit to Congress a report on whether UAS operations of all sizes, at all altitudes, should be permitted to operate on spectrum that is designated for aviation use. It may also include recommendations of other licensed spectrum frequencies, such as LTE, that may be appropriate for flying UAS.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for my amendment to advance the UAS industry, and I look forward to working with stakeholders and Members of the Senate to take it across the finish line.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the en bloc amendment, which includes my amendment to H.R. 4. I thank the chairman and ranking member for their work on this important bill, as well as the inclusion of a section that would require airlines to provide consumers with a one-page description of their rights as passengers.

My amendment will amend this section to ensure that passengers are notified of what compensation airlines provide—including rebooking options, refunds, meals, and lodging—if a passenger's flight is diverted.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for including this and for their efforts, and urge adoption of this very pro-consumer amendment.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and ranking member for taking our amendment and including it in the en bloc amendment. It is a GAO study of revenue diversion by airports.

I think it is important for three different reasons:

One, it ties to the very heart of equity or fairness, the idea of all entities under law being treated equally. What we have now is a 35-year tradition wherein 20 airports have been exempted in a way that the other 380 primary airports in this country are not.

Two, this is about recognizing that you can't use that which you divert. In 2015 alone, more than $1 billion was diverted from airport operations to other, and if we are going to say we need more money, let's use first some money we have, which would bring me to my final point: You should always spend what you have before you go asking for more. I think this is particularly important when you talk about $130 billion of need within the airport system; that you simply spend within the system first before you go to the taxpayer asking for yet more.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the en bloc package, which includes my amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Act relating to air passengers with disabilities. I also want to thank the chairman and ranking member for including an air passengers with disabilities bill of rights in the manager's amendment.

The Air Carrier Access Act was enacted in 1986 to prohibit discrimination based on disability in air travel. Despite progress, travelers with disabilities still encounter significant barriers. My amendment requires the Secretary of Transportation to review and, if necessary, revise regulations issued under the act. In particular, it focuses on providing timelier and more effective assistance to people with disabilities, including by improving hands-on training for airline personnel.

Inadequate assistance for people with disabilities can lead to unacceptable delays, missed flights, and even passenger injuries. We can and must do better. Mr. Chairman, I have traveled all over the world, and I have dealt with those airlines who do things the right way and treat people with disabilities with respect and have good processes in place and other airlines that need more improvement and need to work harder at this.

These amendments and this bill will help us to get there. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their hard work.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS).

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and my colleagues for their work on this underlying legislation.

My amendment is simple. It would designate the hangar at Smith Airfield in Ft. Wayne, in my district, as the National Airmail Museum. Currently, there is no such museum with this particular designation. I want to also make clear that my amendment prohibits any Federal funding to support this important initiative for the community. It is a zero-cost amendment.

The significance of hangar number 2, which is the only example of Clark W. Smith's patented carousel design, makes it a fine fit for this designation. In 1911, the United States Postal Service began airmail delivery, and in 1930,

commercial airmail service came to Smith Airfield.

Mr. Chairman, this recognition would be a great addition to my community and a vital tool to educate the American people on the significant role airmail played in the evolution of aviation. Furthermore, such recognition would propel the ongoing initiative to preserve and share the history of airmail.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the en bloc amendment and support the preservation of airmail history.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN).

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a moment to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support of my commonsense, bipartisan amendment that strengthens our commitment to rural America.

The Essential Air Service is a critical link for residents and businesses in small and rural communities by linking service to hub airports in 36 States. EAS serves as an important economic tool in local communities.

Page and Show Low, Arizona, in my district, are two communities that benefit from EAS, which allows businesses there to access larger markets and compete on a level playing field. My amendment simply requires the comptroller general to analyze the impact any proposed reforms to EAS it reports to Congress would have on the local communities that depend on the program.

At a time when rural America is still recovering from economic recession, we should be working together to revitalize communities and create jobs. EAS is a vital resource in many of these communities across America, and we must continue to protect it. I thank Congressman DON YOUNG for cosponsoring this amendment and being a stalwart champion for EAS.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for including it in their en bloc package.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO and Chairman SHUSTER. Our families have some history, but I also appreciate your friendship and leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 4. My amendment will ensure that the FAA studies alternative ways to measure sound over a period of time, such as actual noise sampling, to properly capture the experience of those on the ground.

I offer this amendment for my constituents in Carmel Valley to Capitola to Santa Cruz. Those are people who lived in communities that were once quiet until the FAA NextGen changed the routes over their houses back in 2015. Their health, their sleep, their pets, their well-being were all affected by the sound of jet engines, air brakes, and landing gear.

I appreciate the work that FAA has done to get us close to quieter skies in my community, as well as the Select Committee on these issues and their work with the FAA. However, like many Members who have districts who have faced these types of airplane noise concerns, I believe that the existing day-night level 65-decibel standard is out of date, out of touch, and inadequate to measure the amount of sound pollution impacting our communities.

My amendment would ensure not just alternative ways, but proper ways to study noise sampling. I appreciate the committee for including this amendment en bloc.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is straightforward and simply requires the Department of Transportation to provide a cost-benefit analysis to Congress before moving forward with changes to what is commonly referred to as the mishandled baggage reporting rule. If DOT wants to alter a sensible reporting requirement that has been in place for decades, it should, at the very least, be asked to justify it with a cost-benefit analysis.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support the en bloc package, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in support of this En Bloc amendment package, which contains two of my amendments to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

It is no secret our Air Traffic Control system is antiquated. It relies on old technology and old techniques. It is a safe system, but it is ineffective and could be significantly improved.

Despite billions and billions of taxpayer dollars spent over the past 30 years to make it better, the system still largely relies on World War II era radar technology.

The Government Accountability Office and the Department of Transportation Inspector General have both said the FAA lags massively behind in bringing Air Traffic Control into the 21st Century. NextGen—the common name for these modernization efforts—has cost well over seven billion dollars already with no implementation date—still.

We all know the promise that Air Traffic Control modernization holds, but we also know NextGen has taken too long and cost too much money to fully implement.

My amendments today will help expedite full NextGen deployment and get taxpayers the return on investment they deserve and expect.

My first amendment to H.R. 4 would establish a pilot program to demonstrate the full promise of NextGen technologies. This pilot program could also show policy makers and the Federal Aviation Administration where we still have room for improvement in NextGen.

There are some airports and some planes that have begun to use the newest technologies. After this many years and this many dollars spent, it certainly makes sense that would be the case.

My amendment today would create a limited pilot program, with a sunset date and a reporting requirement, for planes and airports with the latest NextGen technologies.

This pilot program would allow for limited enhanced access for planes with the latest technology, at a limited number of airports.

The parameters for the pilot program would be developed by the Federal Aviation Administration after consultations with aircraft operators, manufacturers, and airport sponsors.

Here's what we can find out with such a program: How good can a fully implemented NextGen be? How will pilots and airports utilize the system? Where are areas that need more attention? How much more investment is necessary, and what will be the return on that investment?

These are all questions that make sense to ask, and have been asked. This amendment and this pilot program takes those questions and creates an opportunity that will show policy makers and the public real-world and tangible—and measurable—results.

To recap, my first amendment creates a limited pilot program to demonstrate what a fully implemented NextGen system could look like. It has an end date, so it's not an open-ended program. It requires the FAA to report to Congress once the pilot program is ended. After reviewing the results, policy makers and the FAA would have greater knowledge about how best to finish NextGen implementation, and how to run a fully modernized Air Traffic Control system.

My second amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, paired with the first one, will further ensure Air Traffic Control modernization stays on track.

Today's Manager's Amendment from Chairman SHUSTER requires the FAA to tell Congress and the public how much time, effort, and money has gone in to NextGen to date, and what the returns on that investment are so far. It also requires the DOT IG to examine that report from the FAA for accuracy and completeness.

My second amendment today builds upon these accountability measures put forward by Chairman SHUSTER.

My amendment requires the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to study the potential impacts of a significantly delayed, significantly diminished, or completely failed delivery of the NextGen modernization initiative. My amendment is forward looking, and helps hold the FAA accountable to taxpayers.

This examination by the IG would ask some very straightforward but very important questions.

Questions like what are the potential impacts on the operational efficiency of our aviation system without NextGen; how would a failed NextGen delivery impact our international competiveness; what would be the impact on the flying public; what would be the overall economic impact; how would it effect stakeholder use of the system; and more. These are all questions that we need answers for.

By having this information, Congress and the American people will know how much is at stake and where we need to make adjustments. NextGen is an opportunity, but if that

opportunity isn't fully realized, investments to date will be for naught, and all the benefits of a fully modernized Air Traffic Control system will not be realized. Failure is not an option, and Congress needs to do everything in our power to keep the FAA on track.

In sum, my amendment makes the DOT IG do a deep dive into the worst case scenarios for NextGen implementation. By having these answers, Congress and the taxpayers will have a full picture of the need to expedite Air Traffic Control modernization, and what more needs to be done to get our aviation system in to the 21st Century.

I am pleased both of my amendments are included in the En Bloc package, because I believe they will expedite NextGen deployment and will help modernize our Air Traffic Control systems.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. 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 IV, insert the following:

SEC. 6___. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN FLIGHTS BY STAGE 2 AIRPLANES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 47534 of title 49, United States Code, not late than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a pilot program to permit the operator of a Stage 2 airplane to operate that airplane in revenue and nonrevenue service into medium hub airports or nonhub airports if—

(1) the airport—

(A) is certified under part 139 of 14, Code of Federal Regulations;

(B) has a runway that—

(i) is longer than 8,000 feet and not less than 200 feet wide; and

(ii) is load bearing with a pavement classification number of not less than 38;

(C) has a maintenance facility with a maintenance certificate issued under part 145 of such title; and

(D) certifies annually to the Administrator that the airport intends to continue participating in the pilot program;

(2) the operator of the Stage 2 airplane operates not more than 10 flights per month using that airplane; and

(3) revenue flights will be limited to flights transporting specific and necessary equipment to maintain or improve the vital industry of small rural communities.

(b) TERMINATION.—The regulations required by subsection (a) shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of the Act; or

(2) the date on which the Administrator determines that no Stage 2 airplane remain in service.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MEDIUM HUB AIRPORT; NONHUB AIPORT.—The terms ''medium hub airport'' and ''nonhub airport'' have the meanings given those terms in section 40102 of the title 49, United States Code.

(2) STAGE 2 AIRPLANE.—The term ''Stage 2 airplane'' has the meaning given that term in section 91.851 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very simple. If adopted, it would require the administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to initiate a 10-year pilot program to permit operators of State 2 airplanes to conduct operations in medium-hub or non-hub airports.

This pilot program would additionally require that participating airports certify each year that they wish to remain in the program. The whole purpose of my amendment is to allow rural airports that are located outside of more heavily populated areas to have the ability to conduct commercial and noncommercial activities that currently are not allowed.

Mr. Chairman, this is a pro-business and commonsense amendment, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it and the passage of Chairman SHUSTER's underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back 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 yield myself such time.

We have already heard a lot today about noise complaints, and State 2 are very noisy aircraft. They were phased out of revenue service about 15 years ago. They are noisy. They consume more fuel. And I am not quite certain what uses these five or so airports might have and what this pilot program would look like. So I have a number of concerns about the amendment.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

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

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. HIGGINS for yielding.

I believe this amendment that initiates a pilot program allows small numbers of these aircraft to land in the United States for maintenance services. I understand what the gentleman is trying to do, and I want to stress the next point, that no community would have these older aircraft land at their airports unless they certify annually that they are willing to accept them.

I think the gentleman is trying to create jobs in a district, in a rural area, that the noise will not affect and that will put hardworking Louisianans to work fixing these planes that still operate around the Caribbean.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I stand in support of this amendment, and I respect my colleague's concerns. I have communicated thoroughly with my constituents in rural areas that would benefit from this amendment and allow the further use of rural airports without interfering with neighborhoods. It has broad support, my friend, across the communities that I represent, and I urge my colleague to reconsider and to support my 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 Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1430

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 42 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk, No. 42.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 214, strike lines 11 through 15.

Page 215, beginning on line 13, strike ''Pursuant to section 828 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44701 note), not'' and insert ''Not''.

Page 216, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

(1) ICAO TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS.—The term ''ICAO Technical Instructions'' means the International Civil Aviation Organization Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (as amended, including any amendments adopted after the date of enactment of this Act).

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. _____. UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP.

Section 828 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 44701 note), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents of such Act, is repealed.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, years ago, people used to refer to the tombstone mentality at the FAA, with a lack of oversight where fatal accidents happened, loss of rudder control and other things like that that could have been prevented with proper maintenance. We have moved beyond that point to a much more engaged and active FAA, except Congress has imposed a tombstone mentality on the FAA.

At the behest of Chinese battery manufacturers and large firms in the

U.S. who utilize those batteries, an amendment was placed into a previous bill that prohibits the FAA from exercising its judgment about the safety of the carriage of lithium batteries on airplanes. Instead, we are bound to an international convention, the ICAO, which is very responsive to third-world countries and China and others in terms of seeking lowest common denominator regulation of anything that they can.

Normally, we lead the world. Normally, we would say: No, get this stuff off aircraft. We have lost two 747s—two 747s. They were cargo aircraft. They went down because of lithium batteries. It only takes a very few lithium batteries.

Do we have the lithium battery picture?

This is packaging of lithium batteries. This is what happens with those lithium batteries if just one overheats and starts a spontaneous reaction—again, catastrophic to the aircraft.

Now we are temporarily under an ICAO rule that says that they should not be carried in passenger aircraft, but they are still being regularly carried in the holds of cargo aircraft.

Now, we have oceans. We have freighters. They have containers. You could plan ahead.

Let's say 2 months from now we are going to say these things don't go in the air anymore because, okay, yeah, you are right; there are only a couple of pilots who are going to lose their lives. It kind of concerns me. Well, what happens if the 747 comes down in a populated area? Oops, a lot more people lose their lives.

So you can say 2 months from now they are not going to be on aircraft anymore and the industry can set up a new supply chain of putting these things in containers and shipping them across the ocean in a way that will not endanger people on the ground and, in all probability, will not lead to fatalities if there were an uncontained spontaneous ignition of these batteries.

Even worse, this administration has designated that the—did you ever hear of this?—Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHMSA, which is a little tiny, pretty dysfunctional agency, will take over the authority for the regulation and the negotiation of the regulation of lithium batteries from the FAA.

What does PHMSA, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, know about aviation? Nothing. Zero. Nada. Nothing.

So I guess, again, we are seeing the clout of the manufacturers and the Chinese battery manufacturers. Theoretically, they are safer now because they can only be charged to 30 percent, but often the Chinese just kind of forget to do it that way and put them on the planes anyway.

So this is an accident waiting to happen. It is an imposition of a tombstone mentality on the FAA by Congress. It says, until there is another proven crash due to lithium batteries, we can't regulate.

Come on. Really? Another proven crash, we can't regulate?

Let's give the FAA the authority to regulate these batteries. They could probably develop containers, maybe, that they could go in and still be on aircraft, but there are other ways of moving these batteries in world commerce.

So I would urge adoption of my amendment and the repeal of the tombstone mentality mandate on the FAA.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. The amendment would repeal existing law that has been in place since 2012. The law generally prevents DOT from adopting lithium battery regulations that are not harmonized with international standards.

Existing law represents a balanced approach that allows DOT to issue regulations that exceed international requirements if the Secretary has credible evidence that lithium batteries would substantially contribute to onboard fires.

Billions of lithium batteries and lithium-battery containing products are shipped safely by air every year. Shipments by air into the U.S. in 2017 were valued at approximately $120 billion, which also means there are thousands of jobs attached to these.

Aviation is a global industry, and it is very important there not be a patchwork of regulations. The international body studying the global standards for lithium battery transport requirements has been very active on the issue, and the United States has been centrally involved. In reality, the international effort on lithium batteries has been ahead of the DOT in terms of implementing requirements.

Additionally, H.R. 4 continues to focus on safely transporting the products that almost all Americans rely on. It assures expert participation in all panels and working groups of international test or standard-setting organizations in which the United States participates. It avoids creating a burdensome patchwork of regulations, provides the Secretary of Transportation with the authority to deal with this, and creates a Lithium Battery Air Safety Advisory Committee to ensure that the best and safest policy positions are developed and synchronized in the U.S.

This amendment also would put exclusive powers to represent the United States internationally on transport issues in the hands of the FAA, despite hazardous materials transportation affecting all modes of transportation.

Currently, the Secretary of Transportation is statutorily directed to represent the United States in international forums for transporting hazardous materials in international commerce. It is the Secretary's discretion to delegate this authority to her or his choice of agencies. Discretion appropriately rests with the Secretary.

Experts agree that uniform international transportation regulation is a key to safety, so I would urge all Members to oppose this amendment.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, this doesn't tell the FAA nor mandate the FAA to regulate lithium batteries. It would allow the status quo, which means the FAA would have the authority to determine whether they represent an inordinate risk and there should be strictures put upon their transport, whether it is containers or other strictures, as opposed to following the lowest common denominator international organization.

You know, airplane manufacturers see the risk. According to the International Coordination Council for Aerospace Industries Association, which includes Boeing and Airbus, they say: ''Existing cargo compartment fire protection systems . . . are unable to suppress or extinguish a fire involving significant quantities of lithium batteries . . . . Therefore, continuing to allow the carriage of lithium batteries within today's transport category aircraft cargo compartments is an unacceptable risk to the air transport industry.''

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleague's passion on this issue.

I would, again, say, having a system that is harmonized throughout the world is critical. ICAO has already said in their standard that they recommend that we don't carry them on passenger aircraft, so our industry in America has done that.

Further, the companies that ship cargo—UPS, FedEx—are working, and I have seen what they have done to make sure that the crews of cargo planes are protected. Again, the private industry understands this, and they are moving forward to develop these systems that contain it or suppression systems.

So, again, I believe that the best way forward is to, again, harmonize with the rest of the world and continue to ship billions of dollars of these batteries safely every year. Again, I urge my colleagues to not support 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes 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 Oregon will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 44 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 46 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, to affirm what the chairman already knows, 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 V, add the following:

SEC. 5___. ACCESS OF AIR CARRIERS TO INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICANTS TO BE PILOTS FROM NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER.

Section 30305(b)(8) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(8)(A) An individual who is seeking employment by an air carrier as a pilot may request the chief driver licensing official of a State to provide information about the individual under subsection (a) of this section to the prospective employer of the individual, the authorized agent of the prospective employer, or the Secretary of Transportation.

''(B) An air carrier that is the prospective employer of an individual described in subparagraph (A), or an authorized agent of such an air carrier, may request and receive information about that individual from the National Driver Register through an organization approved by the Secretary for purposes of requesting, receiving, and transmitting such information directly to the prospective employer of such an individual or the authorized agent of the prospective employer.

''(C) Information may not be obtained from the National Driver Register under this paragraph if the information was entered in the Register more than 5 years before the request unless the information is about a revocation or suspension still in effect on the date of the request.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 46 printed in part A of House Report 115–650 be modified by the form I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 46 printed in part A of House Report 115–650 offered by Mr. COHEN:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5___. ACCESS OF AIR CARRIERS TO INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICANTS TO BE PILOTS FROM NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER.

Section 30305(b)(8) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(8)(A) An individual who is seeking employment by an air carrier as a pilot may request the chief driver licensing official of a State to provide information about the individual under subsection (a) of this section to the prospective employer of the individual, the authorized agent of the prospective employer, or the Secretary of Transportation.

''(B) An air carrier that is the prospective employer of an individual described in subparagraph (A), or an authorized agent of such an air carrier, may request and receive information about that individual from the National Driver Register through an organization approved by the Secretary for purposes of requesting, receiving, and transmitting such information directly to the prospective employer of such an individual or the authorized agent of the prospective employer. A request for information shall be made in accordance with the requirements of section 44703(h)(2).

''(C) Information may not be obtained from the National Driver Register under this paragraph if the information was entered in the Register more than 5 years before the request unless the information is about a revocation or suspension still in effect on the date of the request.''.

Mr. COHEN (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we not listen to any more of the modification but continue on with debate.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bipartisan, bicameral amendment, offered with my colleague on the Aviation Subcommittee, Mr. WOODALL, and spearheaded in the Senate by former military pilot, mother, and great Member, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois, and Senator PERDUE.

This amendment is common sense and ensures the safety of the flying public. Our bipartisan amendment streamlines an onerous process that has led to unintended burdens and delays on the State Department of Motor Vehicles across the country and delays in getting prospective pilots eligible for employment.

To be clear, this amendment does nothing to remove protections to pilots and their privacy already enshrined in Federal law.

In 1996, Congress passed the Pilot Records Improvement Act, which mandated the airlines obtain driving records of all prospective pilot employees from the National Driver Registry. An unintended consequence came about requiring only the chief State licensing official could approve such request. This has caused delays at DMVs, and currently, most employees have to request these records from Missouri, since they are the sole State still willing to access the National Driver Registry for requests from all parties. That is not what was intended, and it requires a simple and technical fix that this amendment does bring about.

That 1996 law also clearly and strictly stipulated the written consent that airlines require from pilots before obtaining their records and spells out strict guidelines on the privacy and use of that information. They cannot sell that information.

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment and ask that it be voted on and approved, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment.

This amendment would streamline the process for airlines to obtain information from the National Driver Registry for airline pilots seeking employment.

I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to take my remaining time to thank Mr. SHUSTER for his work on this bill, and Mr. DEFAZIO for his work, too. They did bring about an excellent bill that I am proud to support.

I have been proud to be a member of the committee with Mr. SHUSTER as the chair. He has done an outstanding job and done his father's memory as a great chairman even greater honor.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. TIPTON). The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

□ 1445

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 47 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, and I rise to speak in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title V the following:

SEC. 543. PROHIBITION REGARDING WEAPONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Unless authorized by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a person may not operate an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system that is equipped or armed with a dangerous weapon.

(b) DANGEROUS WEAPON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''dangerous weapon'' has the meaning given that term in section 930(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

(c) PENALTY.—A person who violates this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than $25,000 for each violation.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman

from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, today, I offer an amendment to prevent a person from operating an unmanned aircraft or an unmanned aircraft system in the national airspace if that aircraft is equipped or armed with a dangerous weapon, unless that equipment is authorized by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. I have introduced this important language as the No Armed Drones Act since the 112th Congress.

In 2015, an 18-year-old in Connecticut built a multirotor drone mounted with a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun capable of firing live ammunition while flying. This individual demonstrated how easy it was for a private citizen to create and operate an armed drone in his YouTube video entitled ''Flying Gun.''

Police did not arrest this person, saying that no violation of law had occurred. According to the then-chief of police in Clinton, Connecticut, where the drone video was made, this appeared to be a case of technology surpassing current legislation.

In response to this and other drone incidents, government agencies are developing counter-drone technology to redirect rogue drones. Police say their greatest fear, with the increase in the use of recreational drones, is their weaponization. In addition, North Dakota has allowed law enforcement to fly drones armed with ''less than lethal'' weapons since 2015, something many in law enforcement say they are not comfortable doing.

The use of drones for regular business operations is increasing, and that is a good thing. Farmers use drones to inspect their crops, security companies use drones to conduct surveillance over guarded properties, home repair companies use drones to assess damage on structures, and drones are even beginning to be used for home delivery services. While these abilities may prove convenient to our daily lives, we must not let the civilian applications of drone technology advance to weaponization.

Outside of the United States, terrorist groups in the Middle East have used small drones as weapons. There is real concern that homegrown extremists in the United States could do the same thing. It is imperative that we take steps to protect the public before death by armed drone becomes a headline.

There is no statute in the United States Code that affirmatively states that an unmanned aircraft system may not be used in the national airspace as a weapon. This amendment today protects the public from drones that have been weaponized, both lethal and nonlethal, by private citizens by preventing a person from flying an armed drone in the national airspace without FAA authorization. A person who violates this requirement may be fined a civil penalty of up to $25,000 per violation under the statute.

I offer this language as an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 in order to align current legislation with available technology. It is time we take a preemptive, rather than a reactive, step to protect all Americans.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to it.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment. This seems very commonsense to me.

Earlier in the en bloc, my amendment was adopted, which would give the FAA authority to begin regulation of the small drones, which currently has been prohibited by a statute earlier adopted by Congress.

If this passes, that will allow the FAA, if my amendment stands in conference, to adopt this commonsense rule. Should my amendment not be adopted in conference with the Senate, and we pass this, the FAA would not have the authority to prohibit arming of small drones since they are prohibited from regulating them. Hopefully, both things will occur.

Mr. Chairman, I recommend adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MR. PERLMUTTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 49 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. 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 V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. HELICOPTER FUEL SYSTEM SAFETY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 44738. Helicopter fuel system safety

''(a) PROHIBITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A person may not operate a covered rotorcraft in United States airspace unless the design of the rotorcraft is certified by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to—

''(A) comply with the requirements applicable to the category of the rotorcraft under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section 27.952(a), section 27.952(c), section 27.952(f), section 27.952(g), section 27.963(g) (but allowing for a minimum puncture force of 250 pounds if successfully drop tested in-structure), and section 27.975(b) or paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section 29.952(a), section 29.952(c), section 29.952(f), section 29.952(g),section 29.963(b) (but allowing for a minimum puncture force of 250 pounds if successfully drop tested in-structure), and 29.975(a)(7) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment; or

''(B) employ other means acceptable to the Administrator to provide an equivalent level of fuel system crash resistance.

''(2) COVERED ROTORCRAFT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered rotorcraft' means a rotorcraft not otherwise required to comply with section 27.952, section 27.963, and section 27.975, or section 29.952, section 29.963, and section 29.975 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations as in effect on the date of enactment for which manufacture was completed, as determined by the Administrator, on or after the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this section.

''(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Administrator shall—

''(1) expedite the certification and validation of United States and foreign type designs and retrofit kits that improve fuel system crashworthiness; and

''(2) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and periodically thereafter, issue a bulletin to—

''(A) inform rotorcraft owners and operators of available modifications to improve fuel system crashworthiness; and

''(B) urge that such modifications be installed as soon as practicable.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the operation of a rotorcraft by the Department of Defense.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''44738. Helicopter fuel system safety.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

First, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for working with me and Mr. POLIS, listening to our concerns, and I appreciate their assistance.

I rise today to offer an amendment we have been working on for almost 3 years, which is designed to improve helicopter fuel system safety for newly manufactured helicopters.

As the chairman knows, on July 3, 2015, a Flight for Life air ambulance helicopter took off in Frisco, Colorado. Just seconds later, the helicopter crashed in a parking lot next to the helipad. After impact, gasoline began to leak from the helicopter and a fire quickly erupted trapping the crew. The crash itself was largely survivable, but the post-crash fire contributed to the death of the pilot, Patrick Mahany, and severely burned the two flight nurses—Dave Repsher and Matthew Bowe. One of the flight nurses suffered burns on more than 90 percent of his body.

As we began learning what happened in Frisco, we discovered that a 1994

FAA rulemaking required all newly certified helicopter designs to incorporate crash resistant fuel systems. The problem is that helicopter designs are certified once and then can be manufactured for years. So new helicopters, like the 1-year-old helicopter which crashed in Frisco, Colorado, are being built to a now unsafe design from the 1970s.

Mr. Chairman, this is wrong. Since that 1994 rulemaking, there have been more than 175 post-crash fires and at least 80 deaths. We can do better, and we must do better.

Since 2015, the FAA has finally started to address the issue. They convened the Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group and tasked them with determining what requirements to place on newly manufactured helicopters moving forward. That working group submitted their final report last month and made evidence-based recommendations about what safety features should be required.

My amendment today implements those recommendations of the working group by requiring all newly manufactured helicopters to be built with safer fuel systems within 18 months. We have known about this problem for decades, and it is past time we close the loophole from 1994 and improve the safety of these helicopters.

Two people deserve special thanks: Patrick Mahany's wife, Karen, for her tireless advocacy for safer helicopters; and Chris Vanderveen, from KUSA-Channel 9, for his diligent reporting about the dangers of these fragile and outdated fuel systems.

I would also like to thank Air Methods, the Air Medical Operators Association, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, and Helicopter Association International for working with me and my staff.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD letters of support from Air Methods, Helicopter Association International, and Air Medical Operators Association.

AIR METHODS,
Greenwood Village, CO, April 24, 2018.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: As the House of Representatives prepares to consider HR. 4, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018, on behalf of Air Methods, I want to thank you for your dedication and attention to aviation safety, and in particular your tireless efforts to make helicopter fuel systems safer by equipping them with crash resistant fuel systems (CRFS).

At Air Methods, safety is our top priority. We have worked continuously to strengthen our practices, instill a culture of safety throughout our organization, and contribute to industry-wide advances in aviation safety. As part of Air Methods' dedication to the safety of its crews and patients, we have committed to retrofitting our Airbus H125 and H130 (formally known as EC130) fleet with the updated CRFS.

As you may know, in 2015 we partnered with Vector Aerospace to conduct CRFS testing and seek certification for a crash resistant fuel system for all Airbus single-engine helicopters we operate. The first H125 with the new system arrived at Air Methods' headquarters in Denver, CO on Dec. 30, 2017, following the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) supplemental type certificate approval. To date, Air Methods has received and completed the installation of 14 CRFS in our fleet. The Company intends to roll out an entire fleet of retrofitted Airbus H125 and H130 over the next two years.

We believe the CRFS program is critical to the air medical transportation industry and have been advocating for and supporting CRFS for several years. We look forward to continuing to work together with you and other legislators to support efforts to improve industry-wide safety standards in aviation safety and ensure the safety of those who fly with us.

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to engage Air Methods while working toward ensuring safety for our patients and crews. We look forward to working alongside you and your office to promote aviation safety.

Sincerely,

MR. AARON TODD,
Chief Executive Officer,
Air Methods Corporation.

HAI STATEMENT ON REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER'S AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 25, 2018.—Helicopter Association International (HAI) commends Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.) for his collaborative efforts in drafting Amendment 29 to improve helicopter fuel system safety.

Amendment 29 implements recommendations from the FAA Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group to require all newly manufactured helicopters to meet certain standards to improve the crash resistance of helicopter fuel systems within 18 months.

HAI appreciates Rep. Perlmutter's work in addressing this important safety issue and for his commitment to work so closely with the working group's recommendations. As an advocate for safety in the helicopter industry, HAI has been an active participant in the FAA Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group and is committed to the safety improvements the group's recommendation has brought before the industry.

HAI is the professional trade association for the civil helicopter industry. HAI's 1,500 plus organizational members and 1,800 individual members operate more than 4,500 helicopters approximately 2.3 million flight hours each year in 73 nations. HAI is dedicated to the promotion of the helicopter as a safe, effective business tool and to the advancement of the international helicopter community.

AIR MEDICAL OPERATORS ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, April 24, 2018.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: On behalf of the Air Medical Operators Association (AMOA), I am writing today to express our support for your proposed amendment on ''Helicopter Fuel System Safety''. This amendment would codify the recommendations of the FAA's Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group on Crash Resistant Fuel Systems (CRFS).

Since its founding in 2009, AMOA and its member companies have committed to an ongoing series of safety enhancements and investments. Our efforts include actions to comply with the FAA's Helicopter Air Ambulance rule, such as installing Helicopter Terrain Awareness and Warning Systems (HTAWS) and Flight Data Monitoring Systems (FDMS), and establishing Operations Control Centers (OCC). AMOA member companies have also gone above and beyond regulatory requirements by undertaking voluntary safety initiatives, including the use of Night Vision Goggles (NVGs).

In November, 2015, AMOA announced a commitment to the installation of CRFS in all new aircraft and equipping current aircraft with CRFS as those products become available. We also supported the inclusion of Section 2105 of the ''FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016'', which directed the FAA to ''evaluate and update, as necessary, standards for crash-resistant fuel systems for civilian rotorcraft''.

We are pleased to support your amendment as another positive step in the continuous effort to improve the safety of the life-saving transportation provided by AMOA's member companies. AMOA urges the House to adopt your amendment.

Thank you for your work on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

SALLY VEITH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
Air Medical Operators Association.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their help through this process.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though 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, I thank the gentleman for offering his amendment.

This amendment implements critical recommendations from the FAA's Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group. Specifically the amendment will require newly manufactured helicopters meet specific safety standards to prevent post-crash fires from occurring.

In many cases, fatal helicopter accidents are due to post-crash fires rather than the impact itself. Equipping these new helicopters with crash resistant fuel systems is absolutely critical in preventing thermal injuries and fatalities.

I thank the gentleman for his continued leadership and persistence. When I say persistence, the gentleman has been working on this issue for a number of years, so, again, I congratulate him for that effort.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to another gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Representative PERLMUTTER. I am proud to join him in offering this amendment, which comes in a direct response to a tragedy that occurred in the district I am honored to represent, and countless other tragedies across the country.

As Representative PERLMUTTER mentioned, back in 2015, there was a Flight for Life crash in Frisco, Colorado. The pilot, Patrick Mahany, died, and one person on board is still in the recovery process.

The death and damage was caused not directly from the crash, but from the lack of a crash resistant fuel system that is already mandated in military helicopters, but, for some ridiculous reason, it is not mandated in civilian aircraft like the Flight for Life helicopter.

I want to thank the widow of Patrick, Karen Mahany, for keeping this issue in front and foremost. I know how difficult it must be to go through a personal mourning process, but then to look above that and say: Let's stop this kind of tragedy from affecting other families. That is what Karen has done by putting herself out there.

I am honored to be supportive of this amendment here today that will save lives and make sure that Patrick is among the last to suffer from a loss of life from this lack of simple safety equipment in helicopters.

This important amendment simply requires the FAA to mandate crash resistant fuel systems in newly manufactured helicopters. I am also working on a tax credit to help fund retrofitting of existing helicopters. We can't let another tragedy lead to loss of life from an avoidable problem. All helicopters should be equipped with the best, most effective, and cost-effective technology available.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly encourage my colleagues to adopt this amendment and ensure that this is part of the final bill that comes out of the House and Senate as well.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I have no other speakers on this. I would ask for an ''aye'' vote on amendment No. 49, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 53 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 60 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. 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 V of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5___. COASTAL OVERFLIGHT.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall ensure that all aircraft transitioning from flight over ocean to flight over land shall fly at a safe altitude. Such altitude shall not be lower than specific flight operations require.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Congressman DEFAZIO and, of course, Chairman SHUSTER for their hard work that they put into this.

Unfortunately, my amendment, as it indicates, is that a large part of the job that I would have hoped that would have been accomplished by the FAA reauthorization was not done in a way that handles what is, in my area, the most significant problem. There are a great many provisions there. But my amendment today, which I am advocating today, seeks to correct one area that has been given underwhelmingly little treatment in this legislation, and that is called: correcting the problems of air noise over our neighborhoods.

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My amendment, the amendment we are discussing at this point, will ensure that aircraft transitioning from flight over ocean to flight over land be no lower than is absolutely necessary for safety.

Many times over our coastal communities, planes are flying much lower on approach, after taking off, and briefly climbing back over the ocean and then over the land.

There is no reason that some aircraft need to be at 1,600 feet when other aircraft can safely fly at 3,500 feet. This amendment will correct that problem. It will require those aircraft that are coming over the ocean and onto land and into some flight pattern in our local airports and nationally in those airports, that they fly at the highest altitude that is safe in this situation.

Unfortunately, I have had four amendments that were not permitted that would have corrected the noise problem altogether and it would have said that we would have then been able to address it.

The reason it wasn't addressed as the bill was being prepared is that this legislation and the regulations of the FAA say that safety will be the first priority, efficiency will be the second priority, and then community impact on those communities below have third priority.

Well, the fact is there is no reason why—number one, safety does have to be first, we know that—but there is no reason why the excessive noise and the impact of noise and pollution on the cities below a landing area or a taking-off area should not have more consideration than simply the efficiency of the airlines to save a few minutes.

I am very upset that those amendments that would have corrected this problem—number one, all we have to do is make sure that we are mandating the right priorities for the FAA; that efficiency is less important than the communities that are being flown over, because every day, those people have to experience noise and pollution due to the fact that they live near an airport.

So those amendments, however, were not made in order, and I would officially hope that we can deal with that later, but that is a great disservice to those people around the country who are suffering excessive noise that didn't need to happen.

So this amendment goes far enough in terms of an issue like that, but we should be solving the problem by changing the priorities and mandating that all airplanes, when they are flying over populated areas, the people who they are flying over have to be given consideration by making sure that that plane is flying at the highest altitude that is safe.

Unfortunately, as I say, the amendments that I offered that would have mandated that actually were not made in order.

This amendment will come to grips a little bit on this issue, but we had an opportunity here to change and to solve one of the basic complaints that are being made throughout our country by American citizens when dealing with air traffic.

When we are here, our job isn't just to watch out for the airliners. That is not it. We have to be considerate about the American people, and especially those people whose homes are there underneath the flight patterns.

That is not what has happened in this legislation, and I am very disturbed about it, because I had five amendments that would have solved this problem once and for all, would have been fair to the airlines, would have made sure we were safe, that people were safe, but at the same time, we would see that the American people who live underneath these flight paths were treated fairly and that their families were not put at risk by excessive noise and by pollution that comes from airlines flying overhead.

Mr. Chair, I ask for my amendment to be accepted, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida). The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the fact that the gentleman is representing very well his constituents' concerns. We had an earlier discussion on the floor about the aircraft noise. An amendment was adopted to have the FAA study the speed of approach and take-off, which can dramatically reduce the noise impact.

I have also asked the FAA to look at establishing alternate performance-based navigation routes so they are not using the same route every day over the same houses and the same neighborhoods.

When I first saw this amendment, it seemed to me innocuous since it seems to follow the basic requirement in the

controller handbook, FAA Order 7110.65, section 561, which addresses this issue. However, we have been contacted by the National Air Traffic Controllers union, and they have expressed grave concerns that they think it may have unintended consequences.

Unfortunately, they just contacted us, so we haven't been able to get the details of their concerns. So in that case, I would have to oppose the amendment.

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

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

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chair, 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 California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 63 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title V of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ___. PREVAILING RATE OF WAGE REQUIREMENTS.

None of the funds made available by this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing rate of wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, this is an amendment that this House has seen before in different configurations, but it is known as the Davis-Bacon amendment.

What it does, it provides that none of the funds made available by this act may be used to implement, to administer, or enforce the prevailing rate of wage requirements, commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act.

Mr. Chairman, I think that we know what this bill does. It was in 1931, it was established for, I will say, trade protectionism, labor protectionism, to lock the African-American labor from Alabama out of the construction trades in New York City that were unionized at that time and strongly protected, and still are, actually, but the substance of it is this.

I have a letter here that was written by Grover Norquist, the president of Americans For Tax Reform, and in summary, it says this: Because the Davis-Bacon Act reduces the number of jobs, increases costs, and has a racist history, funds from the FAA Reauthorization Act should not be used to fulfill Davis-Bacon Act requirements. Americans For Tax Reform, therefore, strongly supports Congressman KING's amendment.

That is one version of description of this bill.

Here is another one I thought was a little bit more descriptive. This is an article written by George Will, and it is dated June 19, 2017. He references back to River City, and he says a quote from that, ''The Music Man'': You really ought to give Iowa a try, provided you are contrary.

He starts out this article this way, and the quote is from ''Iowa Stubborn'', a song in ''The Music Man'', Mr. Chairman. It says:

Contrary does not quite capture STEVE KING's astringency. The Iowa native and conservative Congressman was born, appropriately, in Storm Lake, Iowa, and carries turbulence with him. He also carries experience of actual life before politics, when he founded a construction company, which is one reason he has long advocated an excellent idea: repeal of the Davis-Bacon law.

King came to Congress in 2003, and has been stubbornly submitting repeal legislation since 2005. He would not have succeeded even if he were less of a prickly cactus and more of a shrinking violet.

Davis-Bacon is just another piece of government that is as indefensible as it is indestructible. And so today, when social hygienists are cleansing the public square of names and statues tainted by historical connections with racism, Davis-Bacon's durability is proof that a measure's racist pedigree will be forgiven if the measure serves a progressive agenda.

It is time to put an end to Davis-Bacon. We can do that here today, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, this is a perpetual debate here on the floor whenever it comes to the expenditure of Federal tax dollars on projects that are covered by Davis-Bacon, as would be projects under the Airport Improvement Program and other related activities by the FAA.

The bottom line here is we can chase the lowest common denominator around the United States, or around the world sometimes, in terms of trade, and undermine the capability of Americans to make a decent living, to have a home and have a family, and live the American Dream.

The savings are illusory at best. In many cases, they would go to profits for nonunion shops and others, and we would return to the old days of basically exploiting those who work in construction and related activities.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. DEFAZIO both for yielding, but especially for his leadership on this issue.

As the ranking member said, this is something that comes up every year. Thankfully, Democrats and Republicans have stood together to protect this important worker protection.

Let's just be clear about this. This is about the desire to engage in this race to the bottom to pay working families less money.

The truth of the matter is coming from a community, a community like Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, where we have seen significant and continuing loss of earned income by working people, where we have a chance to say to the American people that when it is your tax dollars being spent, we are not going to use them to undermine the ability of a family to have a decent wage.

People work hard at these jobs, they have trained long for these jobs, going through apprenticeships or other skilled training, and the idea that we would reverse a decades-long commitment to the American worker that when it comes to federally funded projects, we are going to ensure that if you work hard, play by the rules, you get a decent wage, I support that, and we all should.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Oregon has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I hear these arguments constantly: lowest common denominator, nonunion shops.

We know it is union scale, there is a confession that it is, even though the law says that it is prevailing wage.

Exploiting workers, race to the bottom, people work hard. These are standard lines that come out every year, but I am the one that has lived this. We have met payroll for over 42 years, and we pay a competitive wage. We want to hire the best people we can and pay them the best wages that we can, and we want to have the lowest turnover possible. And we are in pretty good shape that way after 42 years. I think I know about this.

Davis-Bacon increases inefficiencies and it puts people in the wrong place doing the wrong thing for the wrong incentives.

And by the way, who is hardworking? The taxpayers are hardworking. The taxpayers are paying the bill for an extra 20 percent on every construction project in America. In a lot of cases, we are borrowing the money from China and putting the debt onto our children. That is what we are faced with here, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, look around the country. There are many States

that have not adopted a minimum wage that exceeds the Federal minimum wage of $7.50 an hour. That is pretty pathetic.

My State is one of many that has chosen to far exceed that minimum wage, but if we do away with—this says that federally funded contracts must receive the local prevailing wage for their work. In Oregon, we have recognized that with a higher minimum wage, so our prevailing wages are going to be higher than some State that only follows the Federal minimum wage of $7.50 an hour.

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So what might some contractor do? Oh, I can go over here and hire people who are used to earning $7.50 an hour. I am going to import them into Oregon. Of course, you are going to still have a problem with our minimum wage law, but this is what this is about is to find less expensive labor and move it around the country, and that, I believe, is a disservice to the working people of the United States.

I would urge Congress, as it has done every other time this amendment has been offered, to reject it on a broad bipartisan basis.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks, but I would add for the body that the Federal minimum wage really is not relevant at all to this Davis-Bacon wage scale debate. There is nobody working under Davis-Bacon wage scales who is making minimum wage. And by the way, that Federal minimum wage is becoming irrelevant as competition for wages is driving things up.

But here is another way to think about this: I have long said that if it is a road construction, you can build 5 miles of road instead of 4 if you get rid of Davis-Bacon; five bridges instead of four if you get rid of Davis-Bacon.

If it happens to be river construction—we lost a lock and dam on the Mississippi going into the weekend, lock and dam No. 11. These things cost money. There are 29 of those. We could either fix 23 of them under Davis-Bacon, or all 29 of them without Davis-Bacon.

There are 45 major airports in America; and if we are going to renovate those airports, we can renovate all of them, or we can renovate 36 of them, depending on whether this amendment passes or fails.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a letter from Americans for Tax Reform and an article from The Washington Post.

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2018.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: I am writing in support of Congressman Steve King's (R–IA) amendment (#63) to the FAA Reauthorization Act, H.R. 4. The amendment prohibits the usage of funds from the bill to ''implement, administer, or enforce'' the prevailing wage requirements in the Davis-Bacon Act.

The Davis-Bacon Act is a 1931 federal law that has a history of high costs, lost jobs and racism. It requires contractors and subcontractors to pay the local ''prevailing wage'' on public works projects (over $2,000) for laborers and mechanics. The ''prevailing wage'' is usually a wage set by unions and is typically much higher than the average wage for the job in the area. This leads to higher government project costs, hurting small non-unionized contractors and costing low-skilled jobs.

In fact, the Government Accountability Office (General Accounting Office) in 1979 urged the repeal of Davis-Bacon for these same reasons. Further, a 2011 study by the Heritage Foundation found that the Act added almost $11 billion to the deficit in 2011 in unnecessary expenses, while suspending the Act would have added 155,000 construction jobs. Finally, the Congressional Budget Office reported in 2016 that repealing the act would reduce discretionary outlays by $13 billion from 2018 through 2026.

In addition to raising costs and losing jobs, the Act also has racist origins and was passed during the Great Depression because minority migrant workers were taking jobs meant for white locals at lower wages.

Because the Davis-Bacon Act reduces the number of jobs, increases costs and has a racist history, funds from the FAA Reauthorization Act should not be used to fulfill Davis-Bacon Act requirements. Americans for Tax Reform, therefore, strongly supports Congressman King's amendment.

Sincerely,

GROVER NORQUIST,
President, Americans for Tax Reform.

[From the Washington Post, June 19, 2017]

A RACIST VESTIGE OF THE PAST THAT PROGRESSIVES ARE HAPPY TO LEAVE IN PLACE

(By George F. Will)

''You really ought to give Iowa a try. Provided you are contrary.''—''Iowa Stubborn,'' from Meredith Wilson's ''The Music Man''

''Contrary'' does not quite capture Steve King's astringency. The Iowa native and conservative congressman was born, appropriately, in Storm Lake, and carries turbulence with him. He also carries experience of actual life before politics, when he founded a construction company, which is one reason he has long advocated an excellent idea—repeal of the Davis-Bacon law.

King came to Congress in 2003 and has been stubbornly submitting repeal legislation since 2005. He would not have succeeded even if he were less of a prickly cactus and more of a shrinking violet. Davis-Bacon is just another piece of government that is as indefensible as it is indestructible.

It is too secure to require defending because it benefits a muscular faction. Repeal would, however, reduce the cost of new infrastructure by many billions of dollars. And today, when social hygienists are cleansing the public square of names and statues tainted by historical connections with racism, Davis-Bacon's durability is proof that a measure's racist pedigree will be forgiven if the measure serves a progressive agenda.

Davis-Bacon was enacted in 1931 to require construction contractors to pay ''prevailing wages'' on federal projects. Generally, this means paying union wage scales. It was enacted as domestic protectionism, largely to protect organized labor from competition by African Americans who often were excluded from union membership but who were successfully competing for jobs by being willing to work for lower wages.

In 1927, Rep. Robert Bacon, a Long Island Republican, was miffed because the low bidder for a construction project in his district—a veterans' hospital—was an Alabama contractor who used black labor. That year, when Bacon first introduced his legislation, he showed that he was not a narrow-gauge bigot. He inserted into the Congressional Record the following statement by 34 professors concerning immigration legislation:

''We urge the extension of the quota system to all countries of North and South America from which we have substantial immigration and in which the population is not predominantly of the white race . . . Only by this method can that large proportion of our population which is descended from the colonists . . . have their proper racial representation.''

By 1931, the Depression had made government construction money especially coveted and Davis-Bacon passed with the support of the American Federation of Labor. The congressional debate that preceded enactment was replete with references to ''unattached migratory workmen,'' ''itinerant labor,'' ''cheap, imported labor,'' ''cheap bootleg labor'' and ''labor lured from distant places'' for ''competition with white labor throughout the country.''

Hearings on Davis-Bacon brought out the drollery in Rep. William Upshaw, a Georgia Democrat. He said he hoped his Northern colleagues in Congress would permit a Southerner to smile about ''your reaction to that real problem you are confronted with in any community with a superabundance or large aggregation of Negro labor.''

In 1931, the unemployment rate of blacks was approximately the same as the rate for the general population. Davis-Bacon is one reason the rate for blacks began to deviate adversely. In 1932, generally there were about 3,500 workers building what became Hoover Dam. Never more than 30 were black.

In 1993, with Congress stoutly opposed to taking anything from something as powerful as organized labor, opponents of Davis-Bacon turned to the judiciary. A lawsuit on behalf of some minority contractors challenged the law's constitutionality, arguing that it burdened the exercise of a fundamental civil right—the right to earn a living. And that it had a disparate impact on minority workers and small minority-owned construction businesses. The suit languished in court for almost a decade before the plaintiffs lost, victims of excessive judicial deference to the legislature.

In 1992, to expedite cleanup after Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki, President George H.W. Bush suspended portions of Davis-Bacon in South Florida, coastal Louisiana and Hawaii. Bush's successor, Bill Clinton, promptly reversed Bush's policy.

A 2011 Heritage Foundation study estimated that Davis-Bacon would add almost $11 billion to that year's construction costs. That sum will be eclipsed when—if—bold talk about making America's infrastructure great again is translated into spending. Then we build up the national debt while purchasing less infrastructure than the appropriated sums should purchase.

Davis-Bacon is rent-seeking, the use of political power to supplant the market as the allocator of opportunity and wealth. Rent-seeking is lucrative, which is why there is so much of it, even when its pedigree is repulsive.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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 Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 839, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 66, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 100, and 101 printed in part A of House Report 115–650, offered by Mr. SHUSTER of Pennsylvania:

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MR. FORTENBERRY OF NEBRASKA

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. SAFETY EQUIPMENT STORAGE FACILITIES.

Section 47102(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(P) Constructing storage facilities to shelter snow removal equipment or aircraft rescue and firefighting equipment that is owned by the airport sponsor and used exclusively to maintain safe airfield operations, up to the facility size necessary to accommodate the types and quantities of equipment prescribed by the FAA, regardless of whether Federal funding was used to acquire the equipment.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 69 OFFERED BY MR. SUOZZI OF NEW YORK

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____. REPORT ON AIRLINE AND PASSENGER SAFETY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on airline and passenger safety.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the average age of commercial aircraft owned and operated by United States air carriers;

(2) the over-all use of planes, including average lifetime of commercial aircraft;

(3) the number of hours aircraft are in flight over the life of the aircraft and the average number of hours on domestic and international flights , respectively; and

(4) the impact of metal fatigue on aircraft usage and safety;

(5) a review on contractor assisted maintenance of commercial aircraft; and

(6) a re-evaluation of the rules on inspection of aging airplanes.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MS. MAXINE WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 543. REPORT ON AIRCRAFT DIVERSIONS FROM LAX TO HAWTHORNE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue and make available to the public a report on diversions of aircraft from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to Hawthorne Municipal Airport, also known as Jack Northrop Field, in the City of Hawthorne, California. This report shall cover at least the previous one-year period and include the total number of aircraft diversions, the average number of diversions per day, the types of aircraft diverted, and the reasons for the diversions.

AMENDMENT NO. 71 OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SECTION _____. FORMER MILITARY AIRPORTS.

Section 47118(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) the airport is—

''(A) a former military installation; and

''(B) a primary airport.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MR. FLEISCHMANN OF TENNESSEE

At the end of title V, insert the following new section:

SEC. 543. USE OF STATE HIGHWAY SPECIFICATIONS.

Section 47114(d)(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(5) USE OF STATE HIGHWAY SPECIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall use the highway specifications of a State for airfield pavement construction and improvement using funds made available under this subsection at nonprimary airports serving aircraft that do not exceed 60,000 pounds gross weight if—

''(A) such State requests the use of such specifications; and

''(B) the Secretary determines that—

''(i) safety will not be negatively affected; and

''(ii) the life of the pavement, with necessary maintenance and upkeep, will not be shorter than it would be if constructed using Administration standards.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary should produce a smart airports initiative plan that focuses on creating a more consumer-friendly and digitally connected airport experience. The plan should include recommendations on modernizing technologies to provide more efficient check-ins, shortened security lines, Wi-Fi and GPS upgrades, as well as improvements of aircraft turnaround for on-time boarding and flights. The purpose of the initiative is to invest in technologies and infrastructure toward better-connected airports while providing appropriate national security and cybersecurity for travelers.

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. OXYGEN MASK DESIGN STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a study to review and evaluate the design and effectiveness of commercial aircraft oxygen masks. In conducting the study, the Administrator shall determine whether the current design of oxygen masks is adequate, and whether changes to the design could increase correct passenger usage of the masks.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MR. GIBBS OF OHIO

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5____. STANDARDS FOR PILOTS.

(a) AGE ADJUSTMENT.—Section 44729(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''covered operations until attaining 65 years of age'' and inserting ''covered operations described under subsection (b)(1) until attaining 65 years of age and covered operations described under subsection (b)(2) until attaining 70 years of age''.

(b) COVERED OPERATIONS.—Section 44729(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''means operations under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.'' and inserting ''means—

''(1) operations under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

''(2) operations by a person that—

''(A) holds an air carrier certificate issued pursuant to part 119 to conduct operations under part 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

''(B) qualifies as a program manager under subpart K of part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

''(C) performed an aggregate total of at least 150,000 turbojet operations in—

''(i) calendar year 2017; or

''(ii) any subsequent year.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5____. STUDY REGARDING TECHNOLOGY USAGE AT AIRPORTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a study and report the findings of such study to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

(1) technology developed by international entities (including foreign nations and companies) that have been installed in American airports and aviation systems over the past decade, including the nation where the technology was developed and the any airports utilizing the technology; and

(2) aviation safety related technology developed and implemented by international entities with proven track records of success that may assist in establishing best practices to improve American aviation operations and safety.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. _____. APPLICATIONS FOR DESIGNATION.

Section 2209 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(C)—

(A) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(B) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) Railroad facilities.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DEADLINES.—

''(1) Not later than December 31, 2018, the Administrator shall publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to carry out the requirements of this section.

''(2) Not later than 12 months after publishing the notice of proposed rulemaking under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall issue a final rule.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 82 OFFERED BY MR. DOGGETT OF TEXAS

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 543. APPLICABILITY OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS TO OPERATORS OF AIR BALLOONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited a the ''Commercial Balloon Pilot Safety Act of 2018''.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall revise section 61.3(c) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to second-class medical certificates), to apply to an operator of an air balloon to the same extent such regulations apply to a pilot flight crewmember of other aircraft.

(c) AIR BALLOON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''air balloon'' has the meaning given the term ''balloon'' in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling).

AMENDMENT NO. 83 OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF GEORGIA

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 543. COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS OF EQUIPMENT RENTAL.

(a) COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS OF EQUIPMENT RENTAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any cost-effectiveness analysis for equipment acquisition conducted on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each executive agency shall consider equipment rental in such cost-effectiveness analysis.

(2) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to implement the requirement under paragraph (1).

(b) STUDY OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a comprehensive report on the decisions made by the executive agencies with the highest levels of acquisition spending, and a sample of executive agencies with lower levels of acquisition spending, to acquire high-value equipment by lease, rental, or purchase pursuant to subpart 7.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EQUIPMENT RENTAL.—The term ''equipment rental'' means the acquisition of equipment by contract from a commercial source for a temporary period of use with no fixed duration.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given that term in section 102 of title 40, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MR. LANCE OF NEW JERSEY

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act (except as described in subsection (d)), the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the results of the study described in subsection (b).

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Administrator shall make recommendations based on—

(1) an analysis of—

(A) the economic effects of temporary flight restrictions, particularly temporary flight restrictions issued pursuant to section 91.141 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, on airports or aviation-related businesses located or based in an area covered by the temporary flight restriction; and

(B) potential options and recommendations for mitigating identified negative economic effects on airports or aviation-related businesses located or based in an area frequently covered by a temporary flight restriction; and

(2) an analysis of the potential for using security procedures similar to those described in the Maryland Three Program (allowing properly vetted private pilots to fly to, from, or between the three general aviation airports closest to the National Capital Region) during temporary flight restrictions in the following airports:

(A) Solberg Airport.

(B) Somerset Airport.

(C) Palm Beach County Park Airport (also known as Lantana Airport).

(c) COLLABORATION.—In making the recommendations described in subsection (b), the Administrator shall consult with—

(1) industry stakeholders; and

(2) the head of any other agency that, in the Administrator's determination, is a stakeholder agency.

(d) SPECIAL DEADLINE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the results of the portion of the study described in subsection (b)(1)(A).

AMENDMENT NO. 86 OFFERED BY MS. JAYAPAL OF WASHINGTON

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. STUDY ON INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF FAST-GROWING AIRPORTS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall enter into an agreement with an institution of higher education to conduct a study on the infrastructure needs of airports—

(1) in metropolitan statistical areas with an average 5-year, year-to-year population growth rate between 6 and 13 percent; and

(2) with an average 5-year, year-to-year passenger growth rate between 7 and 10 percent.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the infrastructure needs of the airports described in subsection (a);

(2) an examination of how such infrastructure needs are related to the population and economic growth of relevant metropolitan statistical areas;

(3) an assessment of the infrastructure funding and financing tools available to such airports;

(4) the development of recommendations on additional funding and financing tools that may provide significant new revenues and flexibility;

(5) an estimate of the population and economic growth rate of the relevant metropolitan statistical areas over the next 10 years; and

(6) the development of recommendations on how such airports can best fund the infrastructure necessary to accommodate—

(A) increases in passenger growth; and

(B) population and economic growth in the relevant metropolitan statistical areas.

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. AIRCRAFT NOISE RESEARCH AND MITIGATION STRATEGY.

Not later than 1 year from the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a 5-year aircraft noise research and mitigation strategy.

AMENDMENT NO. 90 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ALTERNATIVE AIRPLANE NOISE METRIC EVALUATION DEADLINE.

Not later than 1 year from the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall complete the ongoing evaluation of alternative metrics to the current Day Night Level (DNL) 65 standard.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARDS.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall, to the maximum extent possible and consistent with Federal law, and based on input by the public, ensure that regulations, guidance, and policies issued by the Federal Aviation Administration on and after the date of enactment of this Act are issued in the form of performance-based standards, providing an equal or higher level of safety.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 543. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in consultation with the National Transportation Safety Board, shall issue a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that—

(1) provides a technical review of systems capable of detecting wrong surface alignment to determine whether the capability exists to detect imminent wrong-surface landings at each airport where such a system is in use; and

(2) includes information gathered from the use of Airport Surface Surveillance Capability System (ASSC) at San Francisco International Airport since July 2017.

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 543. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CERTAIN AVIATION SAFETY RISKS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(1) identifies safety risks associated with power outages at airports caused by weather or other factors, and recommends actions to improve resilience of aviation communication, navigation, and surveillance systems in the event of such outages; and

(2) reviews alerting mechanisms, devices, and procedures for enhancing the situational awareness of pilots and air traffic controllers in the event of a failure or an irregularity of runway lights, and provides recommendations on the further implementation of such mechanisms, devices, or procedures.

AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 543. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in consultation with the National Transportation Safety Board, shall issue a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that reviews the relative benefits and risks of requiring the use of runway awareness and advisory systems in turbine-powered airplanes

under the provisions of part 121 or part 129 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___ REVIEW OF FAA'S AVIATION SAFETY INFORMATION ANALYSIS AND SHARING SYSTEM.

(a) AUDIT BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall initiate a follow-up review of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing (ASIAS) System to assess FAA's efforts and plans to improve the system.

(2) REVIEW.—The review should include, at a minimum, an evaluation of FAA's efforts to improve the ASIAS system's predictive capabilities and solutions developed to more widely disseminate results of ASIAS data analyses, as well as an update on previous Inspector General recommendations to improve this safety analysis and sharing system.

(3) REPORT.—The Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of its review and any recommendations to improve FAA's ASIAS system.

AMENDMENT NO. 98 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE OF MICHIGAN

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 543. CYBERSECURITY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STANDARDS PLAN.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Committee on Technology of the National Science and Technology Council, transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that contains a cybersecurity and artificial intelligence standards plan for Federal Aviation Administration operations that takes into consideration the influence of cybersecurity on artificial intelligence and of artificial intelligence on cybersecurity.

AMENDMENT NO. 99 OFFERED BY MR. CÁRDENAS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HIRING VETERANS.

It is the sense of Congress that the aviation industry, including certificate holders under parts 121, 135, and 145 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, should hire more of the Nation's veterans.

AMENDMENT NO. 100 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. _____. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing a review of the following:

(1) Direct and indirect effects on passengers, if any, resulting from significant computer network disruptions of 49 CFR Part 121 air carriers between January 1, 2014, and the date of enactment of this section, including—

(A) systemwide delays;

(B) flight cancellations; and

(C) disrupted or broken itineraries.

(2) An estimate of any expenses incurred by passengers during significant computer network disruptions, including—

(A) meals, lodging, and ancillary expenses per persons;

(B) late hotel check-in or car rental fees;

(C) missed cruise-ship departures; and

(D) lost productivity.

(3) Air carriers' contracts of carriage and interline agreements to determine if and how air carriers accommodate passengers affected by significant computer network disruptions on other air carriers or foreign air carriers.

(4) Whether passengers who have been displaced by significant computer network disruptions are furnished with alternative transportation aboard another air carrier or foreign air carrier.

(5) Costs incurred by airports, if any, to meet the essential needs of passengers, including increased demands on utilities, food concessionaires, restroom facilities, and security staffing, during significant computer network disruptions.

(6) Other costs, if any, incurred by passengers, airports, and other entities as a direct result of significant computer network disruptions.

(7) Processes, plans, and redundancies in place at air carriers to respond to and recover from such network disruptions.

AMENDMENT NO. 101 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN

Page 267, after line 11, insert the following:

SEC. 543. PROMPT PAYMENTS.

(a) REPORTING OF COMPLAINTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall ensure that each airport that participates in the Program tracks, and reports to the Administrator, the number of covered complaints made in relation to activities at that airport.

(b) IMPROVING COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall take actions to assess and improve compliance with prompt payment requirements under part 26 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall assess—

(A) whether requirements relating to the inclusion of prompt payment language in contracts are being satisfied;

(B) whether and how airports are enforcing prompt payment requirements;

(C) the processes by which covered complaints are received and resolved by airports;

(D) whether improvements need to be made to—

(i) better track covered complaints received by airports; and

(ii) assist the resolution of covered complaints in a timely manner;

(E) the effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms with respect to resolving covered complaints;

(F) best practices that ensure prompt payment requirements are satisfied;

(G) the Federal Aviation Administration resources, including staff, that are dedicated to helping resolve covered complaints; and

(H) how the Federal Aviation Administration can enhance efforts to resolve covered complaints, including by using timelines and providing additional staffing and other resources.

(3) REPORTING.—The Administrator shall make available to the public on an appropriate website operated by the Administrator a report describing the results of the assessment completed under this subsection, including a plan to respond to such results.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED COMPLAINT.—The term ''covered complaint'' means a complaint relating to an alleged failure to satisfy a prompt payment requirement under part 26 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the airport disadvantaged business enterprise program referenced in section 140(a) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47113 note).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I support considering these amendments en bloc, all of which have been approved by both the majority and minority. These Members put forward thoughtful amendments, and I am pleased to be able to support moving them en bloc.

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

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

These amendments, en bloc, have been reviewed, both by the majority and the minority, and there is consensus on their merit. I urge my colleagues to support them.

Before I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), I would say first that I strongly support his amendment and tried to work with the former FAA Administrator to rectify this issue that led to this extraordinary and unnecessary loss of life.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on that and his help. I wish the FAA had listened. And I thank Mr. SHUSTER and the staffs on both sides of the committee for including this amendment with others that need to be part of this action.

It was about 2 years ago that the largest, most deadly crash of a commercial balloon in American history occurred just south of Austin, near Lockhart and Maxwell, Texas. It was, in fact, and remains the largest aviation disaster of any type in this decade. When that morning, that Saturday morning ended, this was all that was left, along with the bodies of the victims of this.

The Federal Aviation Administration had been asked, prior to this incident, by the National Transportation Safety Board, to take a closer look and come up with reasonable regulations for the commercial balloon industry. The FAA failed to do that. Since this accident, the Federal Aviation Administration has been asked, once again, by the National Transportation Safety Board to act on this matter, and the FAA has again failed.

The families of the victims launched a petition on their own to express their

concern about this. I have joined them, others have joined them, in asking for action, and it is clear that only legislative action by us will address this problem.

I am hopeful that, with the passage of this amendment, which is narrow, which is bipartisan, and is directed only to assuring that individuals who are flying these—lifting off in these balloons are medically fit to do so. Had that been in place, I believe that this incident would never have happened.

So the grief, the horror, that these families experienced, many of them want to channel it into seeing that no other family faces a similar crisis. This is an incident that had a widespread effect. I talked with the owner of the property where the crash occurred. There was a giant prayer circle around the Caldwell County Courthouse of concern of many people in the county for what happened here.

I just want to thank my colleagues for incorporating this amendment in because I think it will help save lives in the future.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the House FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

I wish to thank the distinguished chairman of the committee, Mr. SHUSTER, and the ranking member, Mr. DEFAZIO, for the opportunity to offer this amendment.

My amendment supports our Nation's more than 5,000 general aviation airports by providing a commonsense solution to reduce the cost and construction time for critical pavement projects, while maintaining the highest level of safety and quality.

Our general aviation airports provide critical access, vital emergency and medical services, economic activity, and many other important services, as vital lifelines, especially in rural areas.

However, the cost of building and maintaining runways at general aviation airports has become unnecessarily burdensome and costly, due to outdated pavement specification requirements that the FAA recognizes can and should be updated. As such, in consultation with key industry groups and agencies, I have introduced this amendment to address this issue.

Among many other things, this reform will better equip our dedicated network of State aviation officials, airports, and other good personnel, working on the front lines in maintaining and improving our Nation's airports. This amendment will allow them to undertake more projects efficiently and safely, with commonsense savings that frees up additional funding for other critical projects.

More specifically, after extensive field testing that has provided concrete evidence that States can and have utilized alternative pavement mixes, procured more conveniently and cost-effectively from local businesses on critical runway projects to safely maintain our Nation's runway systems of general aviation airports.

Mr. Chairman, I respectfully urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 4 to ensure that the FAA is helping businesses that have been historically discriminated against when it comes to government contracting. And I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support.

Adoption of my amendment is a good start, but much more needs to be done to address discrimination and related barriers that still exist. This includes addressing the exclusion of any Federal DBE participation requirements or goals for Passenger Facility Charge-funded projects. It is critical that we don't miss the opportunity to address these barriers.

I want to remind everyone that billions of dollars of transportation contracts are at stake in this reauthorization. And for businesses that have been historically discriminated against in transportation contracting, they just want a chance to compete for these dollars.

In this reauthorization, Congress must continue to ensure that qualified minority and women-owned businesses in every congressional district can fairly compete for work.

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, my thanks to Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO.

I rise today in support of this en bloc package that contains my bipartisan amendment requiring the FAA to study the economic impact of Temporary Flight Restrictions on local airports and to recommend ways to mitigate the negative effects, potentially including creating security procedures to allow limited use of certain airports during a TFR.

This is about fairness for New Jersey pilots and small businesses. The President and the First Family use Trump National Golf Course in Bedminster, New Jersey, in the district I serve, as a weekend residence during the late spring, the summer, and the early fall. During such visits to Bedminster, a TFR is imposed in the area, shuttering Solberg and Somerset airports, and grounding recreational and training flights.

The safety of the President and the First Family and the official visitors to Bedminster is, of course, paramount, but TFRs can be very challenging, and I want to find a compromise with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secret Service so that pilots can be vetted, prescreened, and allowed to fly.

This is not a new idea. For some airports in Maryland, near Washington, D.C., pilots are permitted limited operation after being properly vetted. I seek the same status for constituents I serve in New Jersey.

I thank the chairman for his interest and ask for further help in crafting this policy with the FAA. I further hope to work with him on establishing a temporary reimbursement program, as was done for the Maryland airports in the early 2000s. I urge a ''yes'' vote on this legislation.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I urge all my colleagues to support the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Chair, last year was the safest on record for commercial air travel, and the United States has one of the safest systems in the world.

However, last Tuesday's emergency landing by Southwest Airlines Flight 1380—and the tragic death of a passenger—Jennifer Riordan—is a call to action when it comes to assuring airline and passenger safety.

Tuesday's incident on Southwest Flight 1380 was caused when the aircraft's left engine suddenly exploded mid-flight.

Metal weakness or ''metal fatigue'' was found in the left jet engine that failed during the flight of Southwest 1380.

This issue is one of the reasons I have introduced an amendment to H.R. 4, the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act.

The FAA needs to understand the full scope of any and all dangers connected to metal fatigue.

My amendment instructs the FAA Administrator to produce a report on airline and passenger safety within 180 days of House passage.

More specifically, my amendment instructs the FAA to study the issue of metal fatigue as well as the age and over-all use of U.S. commercial aircraft.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, I imagine many in this room have seen the 60 Minutes report on Allegiant Air.

The report exposed numerous safety problems at Allegiant Air, a low-cost carrier that is more than three times as likely to have in-flight mechanical emergencies than any other major airline.

I'm deeply concerned about the issues at Allegiant.

I also worry about reports that the FAA has shied away from punishing airlines that cut corners with regards to passenger safety. That's just flat-out unacceptable.

Finally, Congress needs to be concerned about the practice of offshoring U.S. aircraft maintenance to foreign repair stations.

Today, approximately 24 percent of total heavy aircraft maintenance is offshored to repair facilities in other countries, more than triple the share offshored in 2003.

This offshoring has cost hardworking Americans thousands of aircraft maintenance jobs.

This practice has also raised real concerns regarding the level of U.S. oversight on offshored maintenance work.

Safety and security regulatory gaps persist, creating a double standard for domestic maintenance workers and workers overseas.

A dangerous double standard that could result in an airline—passenger tragedy.

That's why my amendment also instructs the FAA to review policies regarding maintenance performed by contractors.

Overall, our mission is simple, clear and all-important:

To empower the FAA to root out any problems in the hopes of preventing any further tragedies.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 67 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. BEYER. 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 V, add the following:

SEC. ___. NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION HELICOPTER FLIGHT PATHS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the National Capital Region, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall review and revise helicopter flight paths, including those used by the Department of Defense and all military helicopters, identifying and issuing new official paths for areas in which helicopters may be able to fly at higher altitudes.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the review and revision under subsection (a), the Administrator must consider—

(1) residents living below the flight paths;

(2) national security and emergency flight paths, which shall only be used in cases of emergency; and

(3) fixed-wing plane flight paths.

(c) DEFINITION OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—In this section, the term ''National Capital Region'' means—

(1) the District of Columbia;

(2) Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties in Maryland;

(3) Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties in Virginia; and

(4) all cities and towns included within the outer boundaries of the foregoing counties.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I consistently hear a great deal from my constituents about pervasive, intrusive helicopter noise. I have carefully listened to them for years, through community forums, townhalls, letters, emails, phone calls, and the like. I have also worked with both the FAA and the Department of Defense on possible solutions.

We certainly have a difficult balance to strike in the National Capital Region, but people shouldn't have to live under the constant thunder of helicopter noise. Helicopter noise, by all accounts, has gotten significantly worse year after year after year. Even those who are neighbors with the Pentagon have noticed it has gotten much worse.

□ 1530

Last year, I had an amendment to the NDAA for the Department of Defense to conduct a study on mitigating the helicopter noise. We had excellent conversations. Colonels and majors came out from the Air Force, the Army, the Marines, and the FAA came out. We had big townhall meetings. In those conversations, we moved forward with a now completed DOD noise study.

The Department of Defense has repeatedly informed me that they follow the FAA helicopter maps perfectly and that they fly at the required minimum altitudes. So as a solution, my amendment would require the FAA to simply review all the helicopter flight paths in the national capital region, including those used solely by the Department of Defense, to assess whether some of these helicopter trips could be safely flown at a higher altitude. If they can be, the amendment would also require the FAA to revise the official helicopter flight maps for this region to allow some relief for those communities that live below.

Progress has remained very slow on this issue—glacial—and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment so that we can move forward with a responsible way to mitigate this helicopter noise.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

This amendment would interfere with national security, homeland security, and law enforcement operations.

As home to the Nation's Capital, the area serves a critical role for the country as home to the Federal Government. Each day, military pilots and other agencies use helicopters to conduct vital missions as part of our national defense and the operations of government. These agencies include the DOD, the Coast Guard, Park Police, Capitol Police, and other agencies. The missions they fly cannot be accomplished by any other means and are essential to our Nation's protection.

This amendment would add complexity to the airspace and could affect the safety of our servicemembers and law enforcement and affect the efficiency of the airspace.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman's concerns, and I hope we can find some way to address them, but I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, with great respect to the chairman of the committee, the many conversations I have had with the general who runs the Washington Military District, with the Air Force and Army colonels, with the Marine major, and with many of the helicopter pilots, none of them have suggested for a moment that national security, homeland security, or law enforcement were at risk here. In fact, the pilots said: We would be happy to fly higher as long as we have permission from the FAA.

We are not interfering in the slightest with their ability to accomplish their mission. We understand their mission. We respect it.

No one is saying that we can't protect not only our Nation's top executives, but also the military officers who need to fly in and around this region. What we are simply saying is that, in many cases, 300 feet, 500 feet, 700 feet is a more logical place to fly.

We have had testimony that people have been in apartment buildings in Crystal City, looked out their window, and seen the helicopters fly below their window. This happens in Rosslyn, also.

What we are simply asking is that the FAA responsibly look at whether—with lots of feedback from the Army, Air Force, Marines, from law enforcement, from the Secret Service—they couldn't, in fact, fly a few hundred feet higher than they fly right now. If they can't, we will accept that and do our best to move some other way. But, really, this is at the recommendation of our military leaders that the FAA examine this and find a way to move forward.

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

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

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

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

Mr. SHUSTER. 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 Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEBRASKA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 68 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. 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 V, add the following:

SEC. ___. GAO STUDY ON AVIATION WORKFORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a study, based on previous studies, that looks at the current and future supply of individuals in the aviation workforce.

(b) REVIEW.—In carrying out the study, the Comptroller General shall review, at a minimum—

(1) the current state of the aviation workforce;

(2) barriers to entry into the aviation workforce; and

(3) options to increase the future supply of individuals in the aviation workforce.

(c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study, including any findings and recommendations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment, which would direct the Comptroller General to study the current and future availability of pilots in the aviation workforce.

Since the implementation of new pilot training requirements for first officers in 2013, two airlines which provided air service to my congressional district have filed for bankruptcy, citing the inability to find pilots as a primary factor in their financial struggles. Even before withdrawing from Nebraska, both airlines had poor flight cancellation records, which they indicated was caused by this issue, severely reducing enplanements at these airports.

In rural areas like Nebraska's Third District, commercial air service provides a vital economic link for communities which are several hours' drive from the nearest major airport.

In an effort to further address the concerns of the seven communities with passenger air service in my district and numerous others around the country, this amendment merely asks GAO to study what the current state of the aviation workforce is, where it is going in the future, and what, if anything, we can do to mitigate pilot shortages. We must do more to address these communities' concerns, and this study will provide valuable information as we seek to address this problem.

Beyond the direct economic impact on these communities from the loss of these flights, these cancellations have also caused overall enplanements at airports such as Kearney, North Platte, and Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and other airports in a number of other States, to fall below the minimum 10,000 required to qualify for full Airport Improvement Program funding.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member for moving my other amendment en bloc to provide regulatory relief to airports by treating them consistently with how they have been treated previously.

Again, I urge support of this amendment we are currently debating, which will direct GAO to study our current and future aviation workforce needs, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nebraska.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nebraska.

This amendment would require the Comptroller General to conduct a study on the current and future supply of individuals for the U.S. aviation workforce. The study would review the current state of our aviation workforce as well as barriers to entry.

A strong and robust aviation workforce will ensure the U.S. remains the global leader and innovator in civil aviation; therefore, I support this amendment.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the ranking member, Mr. LARSEN. This amendment requesting the GAO study makes a lot of sense to me. The outlook of the future supply of individuals in the workforce, we know there are some shortages out there. This report will inform us about the current aviation workforce and needed actions to ensure we do have an adequate supply of workers in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and thank him for offering this amendment, and I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Chairman, again, this amendment just asks the Comptroller General to assess our current situation for aviation and pilot needs. Canceled flights have been a major problem for communities with the smaller airlines, and certainly we want to prevent something in a similar manner from impacting the larger airports around the country as well.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their support, and I urge others 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 Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MR. LEWIS OF MINNESOTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 75 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. 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 V, insert the following:

SEC. ____. METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 134(d)(4) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Nothing'' and inserting ''Except with respect to a metropolitan planning organization whose structure consists of no local elected officials, nothing''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LEWIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, since 1991, Federal law has stated that metropolitan planning organizations around the country should have local elected officials on their boards.

In 2012, Congress passed MAP–21 and included a clause stating that these MPOs that were not in compliance had 2 years to conform.

Now, in the previous administration, there was a Federal clause that was used to grandfather the Twin Cities—Minneapolis-St. Paul—Metropolitan Council into compliance without having elected officials. So we now have, in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, the only board in the country that is entirely nonelected, the only MPO that has the authority to independently raise taxes and is not elected.

Indeed, in Minneapolis-St. Paul, our metropolitan planning organization has a budget that dwarfs all the others in the country. In fact, it is larger than Houston; Dallas; Atlanta; Los Angeles; Phoenix; Seattle; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; Boston; Philadelphia; Denver; Miami; Tampa; and Chicago combined.

Now, why does an entity of this magnitude not require local elected officials?

Now, I know some defending the status quo are now making misleading claims about this amendment, about our efforts here in Congress.

First, the Met Council does perform transportation work, and their transportation advisory board does include elected officials. But the Federal Highway Administration and FTA ruled in 2015 that the TAB is an advisory body to the council; it is not the MPO. Even the previous administration, the Obama administration, disagreed with the Met Council's assertion that the TAB would be equivalent to a local elected official.

Second, the defenders of the status quo are asserting that total chaos will ensue if this amendment passes. It will be a complete mess. Every other MPO was either formed in compliance with elected officials, or local elected officials on its board, or it came into compliance with this Federal law, and none gained widespread attention for chaos.

The defenders of the status quo, including the current council and even the Governor of the State, now assert that, well, this is too uncertain, that chaos would ensue. I would argue that having a 17-member board entirely appointed by the Governor is uncertainty. Uncertainty is a board that changes course every time there is a new election in the Governor's mansion.

Finally, the critics of my amendment have begun stirring up the masses by saying this singlehandedly stops Federal funding for any transportation project in the area, even up to $2 billion by 2021. But in the past, when other MPOs have come into compliance, it hasn't had this effect. It simply hasn't happened. Besides, the congressional intent is that any MPO whose structure changes in order to adhere to Federal law will be given a transition period, a very generous one.

The point is this amendment does not put in jeopardy any current or future Federal investments and grants. In fact, my colleagues and I from Minnesota have been working with the DOD to make certain our region gets the Federal support we need. But it is vital, and it has been vital for years in our region, that we determine our own governance structure, that the local elected officials have a say.

If the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council thinks it would take too large an effort to find common ground in order to pursue an MPO that has elected officials, then that is the best indication that there is a serious problem with the status quo.

Mr. Chairman, it is time to give citizens power over their regional government. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to oppose the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the concerns that he has with his local MPO. We all face our own challenges with local MPOs, but they are an important decisionmaking body that ensures local governments can take full advantage of Federal transportation programs in a coordinated manner.

This amendment is attempting to break apart the operating structure of a local MPO, seemingly to punish it. It does not achieve the outcome the gentleman is hoping to achieve except to create government dysfunction.

I would also note that some frequently argue that local decisions should be made by local decisionmakers. They say, ''Keep the Federal Government out of our business,'' except this amendment declares, if the decisions are not made to the liking of one Federal official, he can step in and blow up that local decisionmaking body.

□ 1545

Mr. Chairman, I am urging my colleagues, therefore, to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. LEWIS and I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment. The Metropolitan Planning Organizations were created to ensure that local officials drive the decisions about how Federal and highway transit funds are spent. Unfortunately, for the gentleman's district, a loophole in the law undermines elected officials.

This amendment ensures the structure of MPOs can consist of locally elected officials. This is a fair and commonsense amendment, so I urge all Members to support this amendment.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I would note that of all of the opposition in this body, they are already in compliance with what I am proposing for the Metropolitan Council. So, clearly, it didn't induce chaos, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, we have no other speakers, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 78 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. LIPINSKI. 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:

Add at the end of title V of the bill, the following:

SEC. 5___. INTERLINING.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule requiring an air carrier to seek, in the event of a delay exceeding 3 hours, cancellation, or misconnection as a result of circumstances or an event within an air carrier's control, as determined by the Secretary of Transportation, alternative transportation for displaced passengers, including aboard another air carrier capable of transporting the passenger to his or her originally scheduled destination, and to accept, for a reasonable fee, the passengers of another air carrier who have been displaced by circumstances or an event within that air carriers control, as determined by the Secretary of Transportation, or if the passenger has been involuntarily denied boarding due to a lack of available seats.

SEC. 5___. IMPROVED ACCOMMODATION OF DISPLACED PASSENGERS.

Not later than 1 year after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall modify part 259 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations to include the following:

(1) ADOPTION OF PLAN.—Each covered carrier shall adopt a contingency plan for lengthy terminal delays for its scheduled flights at each large hub airport, medium hub airport, small hub airport and non-hub airport in the United States at which it operates or markets such air transportation service and shall adhere to its plan's terms.

(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Each contingency plan for any delay, cancellation, or misconnection, affecting a passenger who has been involuntarily denied boarding as a result of circumstances or an event within an air carrier's control, as determined by the Administration of the Federal Aviation Administration (except in the case in which the flight crew determines that a passenger poses a danger to the safety of the flight), shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) ESSENTIAL NEEDS.—An air carrier shall ensure that essential needs, including food, water, restroom facilities, and assistance in the case of a medical emergency are met. If the only available seating on the carrier's next flight to the passenger's destination is a higher class of service than purchased, the carrier shall transport the passenger on the flight at no additional cost.

(B) MEAL VOUCHER.—In the case of a delay exceeding 4 hours, the air carrier shall provide a meal voucher or, if at the request of the passenger, cash equivalent to the value of a meal voucher. An air carrier shall not be liable to reimburse the passenger for expenses related to meals if the passenger did not accepted such compensation when offered.

(C) LODGING, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER VOUCHERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a delay, cancellation, or misconnection as a result of circumstances or an event within an air carrier's control, as determined by the Secretary of Transportation, of which any portion exceeding 2 hours occurs between the period of time between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., local time, of the following day, and with no guarantee of reaccommodation aboard another flight to the passenger's destination within the following 2 hours after the initial 2-hour delay, an air carrier shall provide the passenger with lodging, transportation to and from the airport to the place of lodging, and meal expenses. At the request of the passenger, the carrier shall alternatively compensate such passenger with the cash equivalent to the value of the lodging, meals, and transportation, or a voucher of equivalent value for future travel on the carrier.

(ii) LODGING UNAVAILABLE.—If lodging is unavailable, an carrier shall compensate a passenger with the cash equivalent to the value of the lodging, meals, and transportation, or, at the request of the passenger, a voucher of equivalent value for future travel on the carrier.

(iii) PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCE.—The provisions of clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to a passenger whose permanent residence is 60 miles or less from the airport where such delay, cancellation, or misconnection occurred.

(iv) FAILURE TO ACCEPT INITIAL COMPENSATION.—An air carrier shall not be liable to reimburse the passenger for expenses related to meals if the passenger did not accept such compensation when offered.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, while we have had some good news that airlines have improved their performance on various metrics in the past year, passengers continue to suffer frustrations.

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, in 2017, 285,000 flights were delayed due to circumstances within the airlines' control. And last year, even though bumpings were down, over 23,000 were involuntarily denied boarding.

When passengers are significantly delayed as a result of an event within the

airlines' control, it only makes sense that airlines be required to accommodate them better. But in a competitive climate where passengers' expectation of service quality has declined significantly, the airlines won't make these passenger-friendly changes, and that is why we need this commonsense amendment.

My amendment will require airlines to place a passenger who is delayed more than 3 hours onto another carrier, if that would be the quickest way to get the passenger to their destination. This would apply only to delays caused by an event within an air carrier's control, as defined by the Secretary of Transportation.

In order to make this easier for the airlines, it will require all carriers to accept such rebookings for a reasonable fee. At one time, this was a common practice. Some airlines still have these agreements—called interline agreements—with other airlines. And some have, in the past year, created new interline agreements. But many airlines still fall short and some require passengers to ask for this treatment in order to receive it.

This amendment also requires airlines to ensure that passengers have access to essential needs, such as medical care and restrooms, no matter when or where a delay occurs. It requires meal vouchers to be given in the event of delays longer than 4 hours, and it requires hotel accommodations during lengthy overnight delays that occur between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m.

These measures would go a long way to improving airline passenger protections. In order to make sure that this is done in the best possible manner, the Secretary of Transportation will engage in a rulemaking process, giving the airlines and the flying public an opportunity to have input.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is a re-regulation of the airlines that was soundly defeated in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It would force airlines to interline, which refers to agreements among airlines to carry each other's passengers. Most airlines already have interline agreements with other airlines, and the freedom to do so is important to preserve.

Forcing all airlines unwilling into such deals will have unintended consequences. Customers will be punished and forced to bear the burden of the service fares of other airlines. The problems caused by this amendment would be most acute in smaller communities that have few flights per day.

H.R. 4 includes provisions requiring air carriers to prominently disclose to passengers what services will be offered in the event of widespread disruption. The underlying bill contains a number of other consumer protections that are widely supported by stakeholders and Members alike.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue, but I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois. There is no doubt that time and time again, the airlines have a lot of work to do in the realm of customer service. With little competition in the U.S. airline industry, airlines are no longer required to compete on the quality of services they provide to consumers, yet, the industry has become the world's most profitable due in large part to countless ancillary fees they charge passengers.

I believe certainly that more must be done to restore basic rights and fairness in air travel. However, the amendment, as drafted, does take a one-size-fits-all approach to customer service that may not be appropriate for every situation.

Before legislating prescriptive requirements for the airlines when passengers are displaced, I think the committee should hold additional hearings and study these issues more thoroughly. I hope we can agree on that.

A recent lesson learned was with the Department of Transportation tarmac delay rule, a rule with great intentions that had several unintended consequences, such as passengers becoming stranded overnight at diversion airports hundreds of miles from their destination. Congress had to mitigate some of these issues in the 2016 FAA extension.

When we are proscriptive on the customer service front, we have to be sure we are getting it right. But I do want to thank Mr. LIPINSKI for offering this amendment. I hope he will continue to work with the committee to perfect it, but I stand in opposition to it.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member LARSEN for his comments. I thank Chairman SHUSTER for his work on this bill. There are many good provisions in this bill, one that has to do with disclosure.

But it still does not give the flying public enough protection. That is why we need this amendment.

This amendment has been endorsed by the Consumers Union, Travelers United, the Consumer Federation of America, and Flyers Rights.

We expect when we buy a ticket on an airline that we will get that as quickly as possible. Glitches occur, but if it is something that is in the control of the airline, I think we should expect to be put on another airline to get to our destination as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chair, 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 Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 79 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. DENHAM. 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 V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. FEDERAL AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 14501(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''paragraphs (2) and (3)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3) and (4)'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (3) through (6) respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A State, political subdivision of a State, or political authority of 2 or more States may not enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision having the force and effect of law prohibiting employees whose hours of service are subject to regulation by the Secretary under section 31502 from working to the full extent permitted or at such times as permitted under such section, or imposing any additional obligations on motor carriers if such employees work to the full extent or at such times as permitted under such section, including any related activities regulated under part 395 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(B) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the provisions of paragraph (1).'';

(4) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated) by striking ''Paragraph (1)—'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (2)—''; and

(5) in paragraph (4)(A) (as redesignated) by striking ''Paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (2)''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall have the force and effect as if enacted on the date of enactment of the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–305).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, real quickly, let me just explain what the

F4A Denham amendment does. This clarifies the intent of the 1994 FAA bill; thus, how it got its name, the F4A.

It created one Federal regulatory standard for meal and rest breaks or hours of service for interstate freight and passenger motor carriers. This was originally in the FAA bill of 1994. It also included piece rate.

Now, we have passed this issue several times from the House over to the Senate—a very good bipartisan bill—but while we have had great bipartisanship in the past, to get greater bipartisanship, and to work with labor, we actually took out the piece rate issue.

Now, this bill only deals with meal and rest—the same as that piece of it that was in 1994 where Congress, where this body actually reported out saying: ''State economic regulation of motor carrier operations causes significant inefficiencies, increased costs, reduction of competition, inhibition of innovation and technology, and curtails the expansion of markets.''

This is about interstate commerce, making sure that you can drive a truck transporting goods from one State to another without having challenges going from a patchwork of States across the entire country.

We want these professional drivers to be safe, meaning if you get tired, take a break. What we don't want to do is say, at 2 hours, you need to pull over immediately—on the bridge, on the highway, wherever you are at, creating an unsafe condition.

Stop at the rest stop. Stop at the truck stop. Stop when it is convenient, when it is safe, and when you are tired.

We want to give these professional drivers flexibility in interstate commerce. That was in 1994. That was the law of the land until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reconvened and changed some of these motor carrier laws. The amendment and the Federal Standard only apply to interstate. What you do in your own State is up to your State.

But interstate, going across State lines, which the Constitution enumerated to the Federal Government in Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Commerce Clause. Interstate hours of service regulations would continue to be regulated by the States. But this has already been proven by the U.S. Department of Transportation who wrote the rule that this is the safest way for interstate commerce.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I rise today in support of this amendment offered by Mr. DENHAM, Mr. CUELLAR, and myself. Trucking companies and truck drivers are the backbone of our Nation in terms of transportation, and certainly, much of the San Joaquin Valley that I represent.

Agricultural products, fruits, nuts, and vegetables that are put on American's dinner tables every night are grown in the San Joaquin Valley, and they provide an important part of our sustenance.

Many of these truckers have one or two trucks, and they are literally small-business people. Sadly, because of the recent court decisions that were noted by the author of this amendment, these companies that operate across State lines have been exposed to unfair litigation that have been costly, and I know of cases where major motor carriers have gone out of business because of this.

The amendment would clarify that when operating across State lines, meals and rest break requirements will be governed by Federal law, not a patchwork of conflicting State laws. That just makes good common sense. This is consistent with action taken by the Congress—as was noted—in 1994, to provide uniform rules across the country for safety purposes.

Some of my colleagues have claimed time in opposition saying this amendment would overturn protections like minimum wage and vacation. This amendment in no way impacts minimum wage or vacation, or those issues that have been raised in this fashion. It is simply not true.

This amendment, I believe, is prosafety, proworker, and proeconomy. The fact is, we have been dealing with this issue for a number of years, and it is time that we finally avoid the confusion and strengthen this measure out.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chair, I offered a narrow fix for this in what was true interstate commerce because of the potential confusion between Federal hours of service and State hours of service, and that was rejected.

□ 1600

This is an incredibly broad preemption. It is not as stated. For instance, we just heard you have to pull over, no matter where you are. No. If you don't take your rest break, you have to be paid, but you don't have to stop and pull over.

Beyond that, this would preempt paid rest breaks, paid meal breaks, paid sick leave, paid family leave, payment for time detained at a loading dock, payment for anything other than a flat rate by the load.

This is an extraordinary preemption that we have here. The drivers are already exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act. So they can't get overtime. If we wipe out the State laws and there is no existing Federal law, truck drivers are really getting it stuck to them here.

In fact, this amendment would expand Federal preemption over trucking operations to include, for the first time, wages and working conditions, something Congress never contemplated in 1994.

It is opposed by the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, the largest trucking organization; the Teamsters; American Association for Justice; and numerous safety groups. This is not as it is being presented. This is overly broad, and it should be opposed.

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

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO).

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Denham amendment, which would overturn a Federal court decision that determined that California meal and rest break laws apply to truckers.

On July 4, 2014, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that trucking operators in California must allow for 30-minute meal breaks after 5 hours of work and a 10-minute rest break after 4 hours worked. This meal and rest break is very reasonable, when you consider that truck drivers can be subject to 14 hours of on-duty time.

This amendment would not only preempt California's law, but would also preempt laws in 21 other States and territories that guarantee meal and rest breaks.

This amendment is further harmful as it includes broad preemption language, as Mr. DEFAZIO stated, that would prohibit State and local governments from enacting laws that ''impose any additional obligation on motor carriers.'' This preemption would attack State minimum wage laws, sick leave laws, family leave laws, and other laws that protect truck drivers' pay and benefits.

Mr. Chairman, States should be allowed to set these important standards for truck driver working conditions as they see fit for the health and safety of their workers and for our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to oppose the Denham amendment, and I include in the RECORD letters of opposition from the Teamsters, American Association for Justice, Truck Safety Coalition and others, and the National Employment Law Project.

TEAMSTERS LETTER OPPOSING DENHAM AMENDMENT REGARDING TRUCK DRIVER WAGE AND BENEFIT LAWS

This week, the US House of Representatives will consider legislation to reauthorize funding for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The trucking industry is trying to hijack that bill. They want to insert language which takes away almost any protection truck drivers are granted under state law. This includes destroying the right to paid sick leave, paid vacations, FMLA, state guarantees of a lunch or rest break during a shift, and worse.

The language states the following:

''A State, political sub-division of a State or political authority of 2 or more States

may not enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision having the force and effect of law prohibiting-employees whose hours of service are subject to regulation by the Secretary under section 31502 from working to the full extent permitted or at such times as permitted under such section, or imposing any additional obligations on motor carriers if such employees work to the full extent or at such times as permitted under such section, including any related activities regulated, under part 395 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.''

Say you're a trucking company who doesn't want a driver taking a few hours off for a doctor's appointment this week. Now you're in luck! Under this provision, the driver isn't working to the ''full extent permitted'' under the minimal federal rules, so they lose any state protections guaranteeing them the right to go to the doctor!

What happens if that driver needs to take extended state-protected FMLA? Taking time off under state FMLA laws would mean that driver is not working to the ''full extent'' they otherwise could be under the federal rules, so it's not allowed!

What if a state decides that a truck driver should get paid while they wait in line for hours on end to drop off their load? Well, that's an additional obligation being put on the employer, and that won't be allowed either!

The House must not include this anti-safety, anti-worker provision in the FAA bill. This provision would overturn any state's law that goes above the bare minimum federal rules for truck drivers. No state could demand that drivers need to get paid for non-driving time or take action against companies who misclassify their drivers as independent contractors. Any state laws that raise wages or protect the working conditions of drivers would immediately be overturned. It refers to these state laws as ''additional burdens'' being placed on motor carriers and says that they need to be done away with. States couldn't even give drivers time off to go vote! What's worse, all these changes are made retroactive to 1994. All of the progress states have made over the past two decades would evaporate overnight.

Truck crashes are up 45% from 2009. Injuries are up 57%, and deaths from those crashes are also up 28%. Now is not the time to push drivers even further by taking away protections that make sure they are well-rested and alert.

We urge you to OPPOSE the Denham amendment (amendment #140 as filed with the rules committee) if it comes up on the floor during consideration of the FAA bill H.R. 4.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL P. LOESCHE,
Legislative Representative,
International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

[From the American Association for Justice]

PROTECT TRUCK DRIVERS AND HIGHWAY SAFETY: OPPOSE PREEMPTION OF STATE PROTECTIONS IN THE FAA REAUTHORIZATION

AAJ strongly opposes the Denham amendment to H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. This amendment preempts state and local labor regulations, laws, and court decisions, many of which have been on the books for decades, protecting commercial truck drivers. What was originally offered to just preempt state labor protections, commonly known as the ''meal and rest break'' protections, morphed into something much broader and much worse in that it now preempts ANY ''additional obligation on motor carriers.'' Therefore, this amendment will provide for a sweeping exemption for commercial trucking drivers from being covered by all state and local wage and hour laws, including, but not limited to meal and rest break laws, paid sick leave, minimum wage, sick pay, jury duty, disability and medical leave, and even worker's compensation laws.

The Denham amendment would deny truck drivers, including many who exclusively work only within their home state, from state protections. Included in these protections is meal and rest break laws that allow truckers to take a lunch break and/or a rest break after driving on the road for a certain number of hours. In most cases, these breaks are no more than a ten-minute rest or a half hour lunch and often only occur when an employee works a full day, still allowing the employer the flexibility to determine when and how they are taken.

Meal and rest break protections are especially important for highway safety. Commercial truck drivers are a class of workers whose fatigue has been a consistent and proven cause of highway injuries and deaths. Commercial truck drivers often operate trucks exceeding 26,000 pounds and typically work up to 14 hours a day, which puts other drivers and pedestrians at serious risk of injury or death. In fact, nearly 4,000 people die in large truck crashes each year, with driver fatigue being the leading cause.

Protecting highway safety should be a top priority of Congress. Oppose the Denham Amendment.

By preempting state laws that protect workers, this amendment should be opposed because of the following:

The Denham amendment provides a sweeping exemption for motor carrier drivers from being covered by State and local wage and hour laws, including meal and rest break laws, paid sick leave, minimum wage, sick leave, jury duty, disability and medical leave, and even worker's compensation laws. It should be noted that the Federal government has NO policy on many of these protections including sick leave, paternity leave, or family leave meaning, that if these workers are exempt from coverage under State law, and there is no Federal law, they are left without any protections. In addition, the amendment prohibits any additional obligations on motor carrier employers—which gives these employers a blank check to continue the current unsustainable models of driver compensation and also pre-emptively stops any future reforms to improve driver wages and working conditions at the State and local level.

This is a clear violation of states' rights. This amendment would eliminate each state's ability to protect their workers and citizens, an area which has historically been recognized as part of a state's police powers. Under the 10th amendment, there has always been a presumption against preemption of state laws that protect the welfare, safety and health of the public, including a state's labor laws. If this amendment is adopted, Congress would be overturning hundreds of state laws that have provided its workers, including truck drivers, with employee protections they need to carry out their work in a safe and productive manner.

Congress has rejected numerous attempts to preempt similar state meal and rest protections in the past, repeatedly declining to overturn the ability of states to govern the work and safety conditions of their workers in this area. In addition, the Department of Transportation also opposed meal and rest break preemption in 2014, arguing that ''there is a presumption against preemption in areas of traditional State 'police powers' or control, and that labor laws are a clear area of traditional State control. Currently, twenty states have versions of these types of protections on the books which would immediately be wiped out by this amendment, including laws in CA, CO, CT, DE, IL, KY, ME, MA, MN, NE, NV, NH, NY, ND, OR, RI, TN, VT, WA, and WV.

If preempting meal and rest break laws in twenty states was not bad enough, the new Denham amendment is broader, preempting state employment and labor laws in ALL 50 States. Some of the state laws that would be impacted by this overly broad amendment are: minimum wage, sick pay, jury duty, disability, medical leave and even worker's compensation laws. If this Denham amendment passes, truck drivers, who frequently avail themselves of worker's compensation benefits based on the precarious nature of their job, will no longer be covered by their state worker's compensation laws. This is an atrocious and unfair attack on one class of workers.

Under Federal law there is no available remedy to a worker if a trucking company chooses to break the law and refuse a worker to take a meal or rest break. State laws, on the other hand, like the one in California, impose a monetary fine on the employer equal to one hour's pay if the employer violates the law. Therefore, if this amendment is adopted there will be no remedy and thus no incentive for trucking companies to allow drivers to take breaks, creating a serious public and highway safety issue. It should be noted that these breaks are not mandatory and are instead at the discretion of the individual driver.

By eliminating the incentive for trucking companies to follow the law and allow their truckers to take breaks, this amendment would result in a greater likelihood of crashes due to fatigue. Nearly 4,000 people die in large truck crashes each year and driver fatigue is the leading cause. This amendment not only harms the safety of commercial truck drivers, but the motoring public and pedestrians at large.

The amendment would also overturn state laws that require workers to be paid for all hours worked at the agreed upon minimum rate. Instead, companies would be allowed to only pay drivers for the time they spend driving, despite the fact that drivers are required to spend a great deal of time performing non-driving duties in the fulfillment of their employment such as pre and post trip inspections, maintenance and loading and unloading.

The amendment would preempt state law that limits the number of hours a regulated driver may work including state disability discrimination and workers' compensation provisions where an employer has discretion to return a driver to work with limited work hours following an accident or illness. Moreover, the amendment would eliminate the right to take any leave under state versions of the Family and Medical Leave Act or allow reasonable accommodation to provide an employee time off of work for prayer or religious practice under state religious discrimination laws.

The amendment applies retroactively: If wiping out worker and truck drivers' existing rights weren't bad enough, this amendment applies retroactively and would therefore wipe out lawsuits, settlements, and judgments won by truck drivers for employer violations going back to 1994. That's 23 years of jurisprudence and judgments that held trucking companies accountable for breaking the law and violating their employees' rights. The retroactivity provision is an affront to states' rights and state courts.

APRIL 18, 2018.

Re Preemption of State Rights in FAA Reauthorization.

Hon. MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to remind you of our continued opposition to the inclusion of any language in the FAA reauthorization bill that would preempt state regulations that protect commercial drivers. These essential, longstanding laws were specifically designed to reduce worker fatigue and to protect workers and the public from workplace crashes, injuries, and deaths.

As you know, previous Congresses have rejected such preemption language, commonly known as the ''meal and rest break'' provision, time after time because it would overturn the ability of states to govern the working conditions of their truck drivers. This amendment would deny truck drivers, including many who never leave that state, from taking the lunch break and/or a rest break which they are granted under state law. In most cases, these breaks are no more than a ten-minute rest break or a half hour break for lunch. They often only occur when an employee works a full day and the employer typically retains flexibility to determine the manner in which their employees take these breaks. Twenty states have versions of these laws on the books which would immediately be upended, including laws in CA, CO, CT, DE, IL, KY, ME, MA, MN, NE, NV, NH, NY, ND, OR, RI, TN, VT, WA, and WV.

In addition to being bad policy, Congress has not had a single public hearing on this issue or any meaningful discussion and analysis of its merits. This fundamental change to surface transportation policy clearly falls within the jurisdiction of a surface transportation bill, and yet it was rejected during the last highway bill. It has no place in any legislation reauthorizing of the FAA.

We urge you to continue to reject any language overturning basic state protections for truck drivers as you consider FAA reauthorization legislation. We greatly appreciate your support for protecting American workers and look forward to working with you to safeguard these important state laws.

Sincerely,

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters;
American Association for Justice;
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association;
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety;
Truck Safety Coalition;
Road Safe America;
Parents Against Tired Truckers;
Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways;
Center for Auto Safety;
Consumer Federation of America;
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association;
SMART–TD (UTU);
KidsAndCars.org;
Trauma Foundation.

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW PROJECT

Vote ''NO'' on Denham Amendment to H.R. 4

Congressman Denham has introduced an amendment to the Federal Aviation Administrative Authorization Act, (FAAAA) that would prohibit states from enacting or enforcing any law or regulation that imposes on interstate motor carriers any obligation beyond that covered in the so-called ''hours of service'' regulations under federal law.

The amendment provides that ''A State, political sub-division of a State, or political authority of 2 or more States may not enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision having the force and effect of law prohibiting employees whose hours of service are subject to regulation by the Secretary under section 31502 from working to the full extent permitted or at such times as permitted under such section, or imposing any additional obligations on motor carriers. . . .'' While the amendment specifically overrules state rest and meal breaks provisions, its broad language would reach even farther and deny truck drivers the protections of a wide range of state and local labor standards that have protected them for decades.

The bill represents an enormous overreach by the federal government and overrules decades of court precedents confirming that truck drivers are entitled to basic minimum and prevailing wages, paid sick days, and to be properly classified as employees. It would carve truck drivers out of traditional workplace protections like unemployment compensation and workers' compensation as well as more recent standards that states and localities, have seen fit to afford their residents.

This big government overreach is the latest phase of the corporate ''preemption'' strategy, backed by industry front groups like ALEC and conservative donors like the Koch Brothers, that seeks to go over the heads of state and local governments to roll back a wide range of broadly popular worker protections. This sweeping rollback would reverse that eighty years of worker protections and leave truck drivers more vulnerable to long hours and abusive working conditions.

Here are some examples of how the law would affect millions of truck drivers across the country:

Workers compensation and truck safety. Truck drivers have the highest number and rate of fatal occupational injuries of any occupation in the United States. They also have the second highest rate of all occupations for non-fatal serious injuries and illnesses. Yet this amendment would deny workers' compensation benefits to all drivers and deny states the right to establish safety and hazardous cargo controls, under the guise of providing uniform federal law.

Minimum wage. At a time when Congress has kept the federal minimum wage frozen at just $7.25 since 2009, more and more states have been stepping in to fill the void. Currently, 31 states and more than 40 localities have approved minimum wage increases above the current federal level of $7.25, affecting the pay of 15 million workers. But the amendment would strip truck drivers of these minimum wage protections.

Independent contractor abuses. Worker misclassification is a pressing issue for truck drivers across the country, and across the country, courts and administrative agencies are finding, applying state laws, that truck drivers have been illegally treated as independent contractors by the companies. The amendment would reverse these decisions and allow companies to continue to violate the law.

Paid family leave and paid sick days. Currently, the District of Columbia, 9 states (Connecticut, California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Vermont, Arizona, Washington, Rhode Island and Maryland) and dozens of local jurisdictions extend paid sick leave to workers. And California, New Jersey, New York and Washington State provide paid family leave to workers in those states. The amendment would take away that benefit from truck drivers in some of the highest trucking-dependent states in the country.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time remains on each side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, let me just say, Mr. DEFAZIO has said this is very broad. It is very, very succinct. Title 49, section 31502 is the law. The regulation is 40 CFR 395.

This is very, very tight compared to 1994, when the Democrats had control of the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. Mr. DEFAZIO, thankfully, supported it back then as a very broad measure dealing with all of these different issues. Now we are just dealing with meal and rest breaks only.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) on this very bipartisan measure.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, again, overall, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and the ranking member for bringing the FAA bill in. But I also support the Denham-Costa amendment because, again, it is a narrow fix on this, and it is only dealing with the interstate itself.

Again, this is a bill that we want to provide some sort of uniformity on. And that is all we are asking for is uniformity. If it crosses State lines, we are asking for that type of uniformity. Again, in the industry, those drivers cross State lines multiple times per day.

So I would ask that you support the Denham-Costa amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN).

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks to preempt important State-level protections that help ensure truck drivers are treated fairly and that they are able to do their jobs safely.

This language would not just erase existing meal and rest break requirements for truckers, it would affect all State and local wage and hour laws, with adverse implications for everything from workers' compensation to the minimum wage. Such changes would be deeply harmful, and I urge my colleagues to oppose them.

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

If you simply pick up a load in the Port of Los Angeles and drive 10 miles, that is deemed interstate commerce.

The problem I was trying to solve with a narrow amendment version was to say if someone is coming in from Nevada, crosses the State line, there would be confusion. That is truly interstate commerce.

What would apply?

The Federal hours of service, State hours of service, et cetera.

There could be a narrow fix to this issue. This is a preemption. If you read the law, basically, from working to the full extent permitted or at such times as permitted under such section, or imposing any additional obligations on motor carriers if such employees work to the full extent or at such times as permitted under such section.

So this would be a preemption in all 50 States of whatever additional conditions they have put in place.

Many truck drivers are horribly abused already. We have done away with detention time, and we have put time limits on when they can drive, for safety reasons. They are sitting at some warehouse facility for hours, earning nothing, unless we can have States with additional laws. If we aren't going to have Federal detention time, perhaps States can help with these problems. We do not want abused, tired truck drivers out on the road. We want them to be able to earn a living wage.

I have met with drivers out of the port numerous times who are in these endless deals to theoretically buy their truck that they never get to buy, and some of them are not even taking home $100 a week and working many, many hours. We need to stop these abuses. This is only going to make things worse.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. 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. DENHAM).

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, 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 California will be postponed.

VACATING DEMAND FOR RECORDED VOTE ON AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 67 to the end that the Chair put the question de novo.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

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

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MISS GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN OF PUERTO RICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 81 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. 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 V, insert the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall begin a study of international air cargo services among the United States and Central American, South American, and Caribbean Basin countries, that—

(1) analyzes the supply of and demand for air cargo transportation services among the United States and Central American, South American, and Caribbean Basin countries;

(2) analyzes the supply of and demand for air cargo transportation services between—

(A) the United States, Central American, South American, and Caribbean Basin countries; and

(B) Africa and Europe;

(3) identifies the busiest routes in terms of cargo capacity and frequency of air service;

(4) identifies any air carrier or foreign air carrier hubs in Central American, South American, and Caribbean Basin countries at which a significant amount of air cargo is sorted, handled, or consolidated for transportation to or from the United States;

(5) identifies any air carrier or foreign air carrier hubs in the United States at which a significant amount of air cargo is sorted, handled, or consolidated for transportation to or from Central American, South American, and Caribbean Basin countries.

(6) identifies any significant gaps in the air cargo services or cargo air carrier networks—

(A) among the countries described in paragraph (2)(A);

(B) between such countries and Africa; and

(C) between such countries and Europe; and

(7) assesses the possible impact of the establishment of an air carrier hub in Puerto Rico at which air cargo is sorted, handled, or consolidated for transportation to or from the United States, including the impact on—

(A) the employment rate and economy of Puerto Rico;

(B) domestic and foreign air transportation of cargo;

(C) United States competitiveness in the air transportation of cargo;

(D) air cargo operations at other airports in the United States; and

(E) domestic air carrier employment.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study described in subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITION.—The term ''Caribbean Basin countries'' has the same meaning given the term ''Caribbean Basin country'' in section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 4 and, of course, the amendment that I am supporting and sponsoring today. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for providing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of this simple yet very important amendment that Congressman DON YOUNG has joined me in sponsoring.

A lack of reliable data on which Congress can make informed decisions is a recurring problem for Puerto Rico. The bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, established by PROMESA, unanimously recognized this problem, back in 2016, and made numerous recommendations that were designed to include Puerto Rico in Federal statistical programs.

My amendment to H.R. 4 is consistent with the Task Force's recommendations to remove regulatory burdens inhibiting commerce between Puerto Rico, the U.S. mainland, and international markets.

Puerto Rico needs to reactivate and diversify its economic base in order to emerge not just from the current disaster situation, but to have stable, long-term economic growth.

My amendment simply seeks to evaluate Puerto Rico's potential as an air cargo hub and to obtain recommendations as to how to best achieve that potential. It does not change the current statutory regime over air cargo operations on the island. It simply seeks to provide the hard data required to make a sound decision about it.

It provides for evaluating the competitive situation in the Caribbean region, not just relative to Puerto Rico, but to other foreign and continental U.S. airport hubs serving it so that it also serves to provide a better picture for the overall future competitive environment in the region.

Puerto Rico has the necessary infrastructure in three international-capable airports with ample space and ports. The island also has a privileged geographic location that gives it high potential as a cargo hub between the Caribbean and northern South America, Europe, and Africa, as well as being at the southeasternmost corner of the U.S. domestic air transportation network.

The Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association, the largest business and employer organization on the island, supports this amendment and the potential development of the island as an air cargo hub. The island's pharmaceutical manufacturers would also benefit from Puerto Rico becoming an air cargo hub.

Mr. Chairman, it is the private sector and private investments that will play the leading role in rebuilding our island's economy. This is now, more than ever, critical as we continue to recover in the aftermath of the hurricanes.

The island of Puerto Rico's jobs are American jobs, and we look for new opportunities to grow our economy. This amendment will provide the data to evaluate what would be the capacity for developing this kind of business activity and what its potential impact would be on the local and national economy.

I want to thank Chairmen Shuster and LoBiondo for their support and guidance, and I urge that this amendment be adopted as part of this reauthorization bill.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I do support the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). Without objection, the gentleman is recognize for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico.

This amendment requires the U.S. Government Accountability Office, or the GAO, study air cargo traffic in the Caribbean, including an assessment and data collection. This data and assessment are needed to help assess Puerto Rico's role as a cargo hub for international traffic. I look forward to seeing what the GAO reports.

Therefore, I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Chairman, this bill will provide data that is important for the due recognition in terms of the capabilities of the island for the near future, and I hope this bill will pass and give Puerto Rico the opportunities we need to fulfill the opportunities in the region and the States.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 84 OFFERED BY MRS. COMSTOCK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 84 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mrs. COMSTOCK. 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 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SPACEPORTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STATE SPACEPORT CONTRIBUTIONS.—It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) State government-owned and -operated spaceports have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements to the national space launch infrastructure, providing the United States Government and commercial customers with world-class space launch and processing infrastructure that is necessary to support continued American leadership in space;

(2) State spaceports play a critical role in providing resiliency and redundancy in the national launch infrastructure to support national security and civil government capabilities, and should be recognized as a critical infrastructure in Federal strategy and planning;

(3) continued State and local government investments at Federal and non-Federal launch facilities should be encouraged and to the maximum extent practicable supported in Federal policies, planning and infrastructure investment considerations, including through Federal-State partnerships;

(4) there is currently no Federal infrastructure investment program funding or encouraging State and local government investment in spaceport infrastructure, unlike Federal grant programs to encourage continued investment in all other modes of transportation, including aviation, highways, ports, and rail, which limits opportunities for the Federal government to leverage and coordinate infrastructure investments with State and local governments;

(5) Federal investments in space infrastructure should enable partnerships between Federal agencies with state spaceports to modernize and enable expanded 21st century space transportation infrastructure, especially multi-modal networks needed for robust space transportation that support national security, civil, and commercial launch customers; and

(6) States that have made investments to build, maintain, operate, and improve capabilities for national security, civil, and commercial customers should be commended for their infrastructure contributions to both Federal and non-Federal launch sites, and encouraged through a variety of programs and policies to continue these investments in the national interest.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

"CHAPTER 515—OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS

"Sec.
"51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports.

"§ 51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall identify, within the Office of Commercial Space Transportation, a centralized policy office to be known as the Office of Spaceports.

"(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office of Spaceports shall be to support, promote, and enable infrastructure improvements at Federal Aviation Administration-licensed spaceports in the United States.

"(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Office of Spaceports shall—

"(1) support licensing activities for launch sites;

"(2) develop and implement policies that promote infrastructure improvements at licensed public launch sites;

"(3) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to licensed public spaceports;

"(4) promote United States licensed spaceports within the Department; and

"(5) strengthen the Nation's competitiveness in launch infrastructure and increase resilience for the Federal Government and commercial customers.

"(d) RECOGNITION.—In carrying out the functions assigned in subsection (c), the Secretary shall recognize the unique needs and distinctions of spaceports that—

"(1) launch to orbit; and

"(2) are involved in suborbital launch activities.

"(e) DIRECTOR.—The Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation of the Federal Aviation Administration shall designate a Director of the Office of Spaceports.

"(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term 'spaceport' means a launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

"(2) The term 'public spaceport' means a launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration and is owned or operated by a State or local governmental entity, including political subdivisions of a State or local government.".

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters of title 51, United State Code, is amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

"515. Office of Spaceports ..... 51501".

(c) REPORT ON NATIONAL SPACEPORTS POLICY.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) A robust network of space transportation infrastructure, including spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration, is vital to the growth of the domestic space industry and America's competitiveness and access to space.

(B) Non-Federal spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration have significantly increased the launch infrastructure of the United States through significant investments by State and local governments, which have encouraged greater private investment.

(C) These spaceports have led to the development of a growing number of orbital and suborbital launch sites that are available to the national security, civil, and commercial space customers at minimal cost to the Federal Government.

(D) The Federal Government, led by the Secretary of Transportation, should seek to promote the growth, resilience, and capabilities of this space infrastructure through policies and through partnerships with State and local governments.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to Congress a report that—

(A) evaluates the Federal Government's national security and civil space launch demands and the needs of the United States and international commercial markets;

(B) proposes policies and programs designed to ensure a robust and resilient orbital and suborbital spaceport infrastructure to serve and capitalize on these launch opportunities;

(C) reviews the development and investments made by international competitors in foreign spaceports;

(D) makes recommendations on how the Federal Government can support, encourage, promote, and facilitate greater investments in infrastructure at public spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(E) considers and makes recommendations about how spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration can fully support and enable the national space policy.

(3) UPDATES TO THE REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) update the previous report prepared under this subsection; and

(B) submit the updated report to Congress.

(4) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In preparing the reports required by this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with individuals including—

(A) the Secretary of Defense;

(B) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(D) interested persons at spaceports, State and local governments, and industry.

(d) REPORT ON SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE MATCHING GRANTS.—

(1) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study regarding spaceport activities carried out pursuant to chapters 509 and 511 of title 51, United States Code, including—

(A) an assessment of potential mechanisms to provide Federal support to spaceports, including the airport improvement program

established under subchapter I of chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, and the program established under chapter 511 of title 51, United States Code;

(B) recommendations for potential funding options, including funds that may be collected from launch providers or launch customers; and

(C) any necessary changes to improve the spaceport application review process.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study described in paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall consult with sources from each component of the launch process, including interested persons in industry and government officials at the Federal, State, and local levels.

(3) USER-FUNDED SPACEPORTS.—In reviewing funding options, the Comptroller General shall distinguish between spaceports that are funded by users and those that are not.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 84 OFFERED BY MRS. COMSTOCK

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment No. 84 be modified in the manner that I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 84 printed in part A of House Report 115–650 offered by Mrs. COMSTOCK:

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SPACEPORTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STATE SPACEPORT CONTRIBUTIONS.—It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) State government-owned and -operated spaceports have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements to the national space launch infrastructure, providing the United States Government and commercial customers with world-class space launch and processing infrastructure that is necessary to support continued American leadership in space;

(2) State spaceports play a critical role in providing resiliency and redundancy in the national launch infrastructure to support national security and civil government capabilities, and should be recognized as a critical infrastructure in Federal strategy and planning;

(3) continued State and local government investments at Federal and non-Federal launch facilities should be encouraged and to the maximum extent practicable supported in Federal policies, planning and infrastructure investment considerations, including through Federal-State partnerships;

(4) there is currently no Federal infrastructure investment program funding or encouraging State and local government investment in spaceport infrastructure, unlike Federal grant programs to encourage continued investment in all other modes of transportation, including aviation, highways, ports, and rail, which limits opportunities for the Federal government to leverage and coordinate infrastructure investments with State and local governments;

(5) Federal investments in space infrastructure should enable partnerships between Federal agencies with state spaceports to modernize and enable expanded 21st century space transportation infrastructure, especially multi-modal networks needed for robust space transportation that support national security, civil, and commercial launch customers; and

(6) States that have made investments to build, maintain, operate, and improve capabilities for national security, civil, and commercial customers should be commended for their infrastructure contributions to both Federal and non-Federal launch sites, and encouraged through a variety of programs and policies to continue these investments in the national interest.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

"CHAPTER 515—OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS

"Sec.

"51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports.

"§ 51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall identify, within the Office of Commercial Space Transportation, a centralized policy office to be known as the Office of Spaceports.

"(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Office of Spaceports shall—

"(1) support licensing activities for launch sites;

"(2) develop policies that promote infrastructure improvements at licensed public launch sites;

"(3) provide technical assistance and guidance to licensed public spaceports;

"(4) promote United States licensed spaceports within the Department; and

"(5) strengthen the Nation's competitiveness in launch infrastructure and increase resilience for the Federal Government and commercial customers.

"(c) RECOGNITION.—In carrying out the functions assigned in subsection (b), the Secretary shall recognize the unique needs and distinctions of spaceports that—

"(1) launch to orbit; and

"(2) are involved in suborbital launch activities.

"(d) DIRECTOR.—The Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation of the Federal Aviation Administration shall designate a Director of the Office of Spaceports.

"(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) SPACEPORT.—The term 'spaceport' means a launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

"(2) PUBLIC SPACEPORT.—The term 'public spaceport' means a launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration and is owned or operated by a State or local governmental entity, including political subdivisions of a State or local government.".

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters of title 51, United State Code, is amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

"515. Office of Spaceports ..... 51501".

(c) REPORT ON NATIONAL SPACEPORTS POLICY.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) A robust network of space transportation infrastructure, including spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration, is vital to the growth of the domestic space industry and America's competitiveness and access to space.

(B) Non-Federal spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration have significantly increased the launch infrastructure of the United States through significant investments by State and local governments, which have encouraged greater private investment.

(C) These spaceports have led to the development of a growing number of orbital and suborbital launch sites that are available to the national security, civil, and commercial space customers at minimal cost to the Federal Government.

(D) The Federal Government, led by the Secretary of Transportation, should seek to promote the growth, resilience, and capabilities of this space infrastructure through policies and through partnerships with State and local governments.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to Congress a report that—

(A) evaluates the Federal Government's national security and civil space launch demands and the needs of the United States and international commercial markets;

(B) proposes policies and programs designed to ensure a robust and resilient orbital and suborbital spaceport infrastructure to serve and capitalize on these launch opportunities;

(C) reviews the development and investments made by international competitors in foreign spaceports;

(D) makes recommendations on how the Federal Government can support, encourage, promote, and facilitate greater investments in infrastructure at public spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(E) considers and makes recommendations about how spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration can fully support and enable the national space policy.

(3) UPDATES TO THE REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) update the previous report prepared under this subsection; and

(B) submit the updated report to Congress.

(4) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In preparing the reports required by this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with individuals including—

(A) the Secretary of Defense;

(B) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(D) interested persons at spaceports, State and local governments, and industry.

(d) REPORT ON SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE MATCHING GRANTS.—

(1) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study regarding spaceport activities carried out pursuant to chapters 509 and 511 of title 51, United States Code, including—

(A) an assessment of potential mechanisms to provide Federal support to spaceports, including the airport improvement program established under subchapter I of chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, and the program established under chapter 511 of title 51, United States Code;

(B) recommendations for potential funding options, including funds that may be collected from launch providers or launch customers; and

(C) any necessary changes to improve the spaceport application review process.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study described in paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall consult with sources from each component of the launch process, including interested persons in industry and government officials at the Federal, State, and local levels.

(3) USER-FUNDED SPACEPORTS.—In reviewing funding options, the Comptroller General shall distinguish between spaceports that are funded by users and those that are not.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

Mrs. COMSTOCK (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the modification be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The ACTING Chair. Is there objection to the original request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Chairman, my bipartisan amendment reflects several policy recommendations that have been proposed in various forms over the last several years, including Representative BRIDENSTINE's Space Renaissance Act.

State spaceports have become increasingly important elements of our national space launch infrastructure, with States like Virginia, Florida, and Alaska contributing hundreds of millions in infrastructure improvements to launch sites to better support NASA, DOD, and commercial launch.

State spaceports like the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at Wallops Island in Virginia, which launches Orbital ATK's Antares and Minotaur rockets, have provided new, low-cost capabilities for NASA, Defense, and commercial users, while also improving resiliency and responsiveness. The recent NASA Reauthorization Act, which passed the House Science Committee by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote last week, included language urging NASA to fully leverage such State spaceport investments to meet infrastructure demands to support national missions.

As we now consider this FAA Reauthorization Act, it is also important to note that the FAA currently plays a critical role in licensing and working with these spaceports as they grow their infrastructure and capabilities to support a variety of missions. This amendment will help recognize the important role of these spaceports to our national launch infrastructure, establish an office of spaceports to better coordinate licensing, policy, and technical support for spaceports, as well as direct two important reports—one by the Secretary of Transportation and another by GAO—to address policy issues facing spaceports in our growing launch market.

The amendment is supported by a bipartisan group of my colleagues from Virginia, Maryland, and Florida and is supported by Virginia Space, Space Florida, and the National Association of Spaceports, among others.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, even though I support the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment being offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia.

This amendment would create within the FAA Commercial Space Transportation Office an office of spaceports, a centralized policy office that will support and promote infrastructure improvements at FAA-licensed spaceports.

This amendment also requires a report to Congress evaluating the Federal Government's national security and civil space launch demands, and offers recommendations on how we can further support and promote greater investment in commercial space infrastructure. It also requires the Comptroller General to study spaceport activities in the U.S.

Commercial space transportation and enabled industries includes satellite and ground equipment manufacturing, satellite services and remote sensing, and distribution industries. In 2015, the size of the global space industry was estimated to be $335 billion; the size of the U.S. space industry was approximately $126 billion, which includes $89 billion in revenues generated by satellite services, manufacturing, ground equipment, and launch services.

The commercial launch of satellites is particularly important as these technologies offer us a range of services from television and radio broadcasts to high-speed internet and weather forecasting.

This amendment will strengthen the Nation's competitiveness in this nascent industry and offer us a better understanding of how we can maintain a robust and resilient network of space transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. COMSTOCK).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 87 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. LYNCH. 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 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ____. INSTALLATION OF OVERFLIGHT NOISE MITIGATION DEVICES.

To reduce the impact of overflight noise on local communities, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall engage and cooperate with air carriers to identify and facilitate opportunities for the air carriers to retrofit aircraft with devices that mitigate noise, including vortex generators.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their hard work, and also Mr. LARSEN as well.

I have to confess that mentally in my mind I have a list of Republicans I wish wouldn't run for office again, but I am proud and happy to say that, Mr. SHUSTER, you are not on that list. I just want to congratulate you on your good work not only on this bill, but in the past on a lot of issues that affect not only the constituents in your district, but also people across this country. Thank you for your service.

I was hoping that I might come to the floor today to talk about ways that we might prevent terrorists and criminal organizations from registering aircraft in the United States. There is a Department of Transportation Inspector General report that is well known to Members here that basically lays out the case for more closely scrutinizing the registration of U.S. aircraft. They came up with a few glaring examples that I will mention here.

Recently, it was discovered that Hezbollah, through a front person, also from Lebanon, registered an aircraft here in the United States with no landing permit. In addition, we had another aircraft registered through the FAA through Wells Fargo Bank, which we understand was located in Tripoli International Airport in Libya, with no landing permit, just hours before the U.N. Security Council met to approve a no-fly zone over that country.

Similarly, we had an aircraft owned by the brother of Ghana's president but registered by the Bank of Utah, which mysteriously appeared in Tehran, Iran, in 2014, bearing an American flag emblem. This occurred, obviously, in the midst of U.S. and international sanctions. Prohibiting the travel of U.S. aircraft to Iran was the law at that point. The FAA could not explain who was operating the plane or who owned it, and the lack of transparency and accountability in the FAA's registration system is a serious national security threat.

Now, there was a time when Democrats and Republicans could work on amendments like that and they would

be accepted. I am still mystified as to where the opposition came from.

Also, public health and safety demands that the FAA take immediate steps to mitigate the impact of concentrated flight paths which come in and out of major airports around the country. They have got a new system called a NextGen RNAV system that concentrates the flights over very narrow strips of neighborhoods and in the areas adjacent to those airports. And we can do a lot, Mr. Chairman, to mitigate that damage. But that is not in this bill.

What I am here to talk about is retrofitting aircraft with noise mitigation devices known as vortex generators. These devices are lightweight and divert wind from the vents on the underside of an aircraft's wing to significantly reduce noise during descent. European carriers such as Lufthansa, British Airways, and Air France have already adapted their older Airbus aircraft with these devices, and new models now come equipped with them. My amendment, which is cosponsored by several of my colleagues on the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, would ensure that American air carriers are following suit.

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

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend and, actually, my classmate, Mr. LYNCH. You, myself, and JOE WILSON are the last of the special election eight that came in 2001, so with me leaving, it will just be up to you and JOE WILSON. But I appreciate working with you.

I appreciate the intent of your amendment. Again, I reluctantly oppose it because of my high regard for you and the work you have done here. I might add too that what you are talking about, the registration—your amendment, I am familiar with it; I think it might have had some unintended consequences. But I also believe that what they do in Oklahoma City at the registry would put some language in this bill to change that process out there. I intend to go out and see it firsthand, because there are problems out there with the way they operate out there in Oklahoma City. Again, I understand what you are talking about.

But I do rise, reluctantly, to oppose the amendment. The amendment would require the FAA to undertake a very unclear task, I believe, facilitating opportunities for air carriers to install noise reduction devices. If you come onto the House floor with an FAA bill, the number one amendment that we have—many, many amendments that we have deal with noise. So it is a problem out there. But the air carriers do have an incentive to, again, operate and reduce the noise of their aircraft, and each new generation of aircraft continues to reduce the noise.

I know that in Connecticut, I believe, Briggs & Stratton has a facility up there, United Technologies, and they were talking about a jet engine that will reduce noise by as much as 70 percent. Again, technology. A lot of smart people are out there trying to figure out innovative ways to reduce noise on these aircraft. Having the FAA involved in these air carrier business decisions, I believe, would stifle the innovation and would set back that development.

But again, I thank the gentleman for his leadership. I am well aware of the issue. I at this point would urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts.

It would direct the FAA to engage and cooperate with airlines to identify and facilitate opportunities for them to retrofit their aircraft with devices that mitigate noise. Air traffic noise is an extremely important issue to those who live in communities surrounding our airports. This noise can be destructive to the well-being of the residents of these communities. This amendment would go a long way toward mitigating future noise issues around our airports.

I support this amendment and ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chair, 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 Massachusetts will be postponed.

□ 1630

AMENDMENT NO. 88 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 88 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

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:

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ____. GLOBAL-SCALE PROBABILISTIC CONVECTION GUIDANCE.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall develop global-scale probabilistic convection guidance capability.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, 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, this amendment is a simple one. The entire text reads as follows:

The FAA Administrator shall develop global-scale probabilistic convection guidance capability.

In plain English, this means that the FAA would be required to develop the capability to predict where convection occurs so that aircraft can avoid it, if possible.

Atmospheric convection is thought to induce a significant proportion of turbulence experienced by commercial aircraft, and that turbulence, even if only moderate, can lead to passenger and crew injuries and can result in high insurance costs for airlines.

The FAA has been doing a commendable job of developing the capability to produce probabilistic forecasts of domestic oceanic convection over a 36-hour timeframe, but work remains to be done to improve this capability globally.

The FAA would like to pursue further work in this area and has the hope of possibly achieving this capability by the end of 2020. In order to support this effort, I believe Congress should fully authorize the development of this important capability, and after doing so, it should adequately appropriate funds to accomplish the mission. Should this amendment pass today, I am committed to fully supporting the FAA's work in this arena through my seat on the Appropriations Committee.

I know we would all like a smooth flight in and out of D.C. each week. Let's extend that possibility as often as possible to the American public seeking to cross an ocean or other continents on their travels. If you want your constituents to have smoother flights, I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment, but I do oppose it.

This amendment would require the FAA to develop a global-scale guidance system related to convection activity. The FAA already has extensive resources for obtaining necessary weather information for safe flight operations, including thunderstorm information, lightning, and so on. Additionally, the FAA is currently engaged in such weather-modeling development and is actively working towards deploying such capability in the future.

However, this amendment will likely require significant budgetary resources

from both the FAA and NOAA, and, unfortunately, the brevity of this amendment and the lack of details results in a vague mandate that may distract the FAA and NOAA from their ongoing efforts. If the intent is to improve forecasting efforts, then let's not distract them from those efforts they are currently involved in.

For these reasons, I urge all my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, 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 rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 96 OFFERED BY MR. ZELDIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 96 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mr. ZELDIN. 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:

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. MANDATORY USE OF THE NEW YORK NORTH SHORE HELICOPTER ROUTE.

(a) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall provide notice of, and an opportunity for, at least 60 days of public comment with respect to the regulations in subpart H of part 93 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) TIMING.—The public comment period required under paragraph (1) shall begin not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) PUBLIC HEARING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing in the communities impacted by the regulations described in subsection (a)(1) to solicit feedback with respect to the regulations.

(c) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall initiate a review of the regulations described in subsection (a)(1) that assesses the—

(1) noise impacts of the regulations for communities, including communities in locations where aircraft are transitioning to or from a destination or point of landing;

(2) enforcement of applicable flight standards, including requirements for helicopters operating on the relevant route to remain at or above 2,500 feet mean sea level; and

(3) availability of alternative or supplemental routes to reduce the noise impacts of the regulations, including the institution of an all water route over the Atlantic Ocean.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my bipartisan amendment to address the deeply flawed North Shore Helicopter Route, which is impacting communities throughout Long Island, especially my constituents on the North Fork.

The FAA's North Shore Helicopter Route, which was made mandatory through an FAA bureaucratic edict in 2010, represents everything that is wrong with our unaccountable Federal bureaucracy. It lacks fairness, transparency, and common sense. It is not a bright idea to mandate aircraft traffic bound for the tip of an island to make its transition over land when multiple all-water routes which mitigate the noise impact are available.

In addition to being ill-conceived and misguided, what makes this FAA mandate so extremely unfair is that it shifts the majority of air traffic in the area over Long Island's North Fork, which does not have a busy airport or helicopter pad, and, thus, doesn't get any of the economic benefit that the air traffic brings to neighboring communities on the South Fork that have an active seasonal airport.

To close these loopholes and address this unfairness, I offer this critical amendment that will force the FAA to reassess the North Shore Helicopter Route and work on replacing it with a true all-water route over the Atlantic Ocean.

This amendment also requires the FAA to hold public hearings on the North Shore Helicopter Route in the communities impacted by this flawed route and open up a public comment period so the people who live with aircraft noise season after season can have a voice.

The FAA has, for years, ignored my constituents and the law since long before I was even in Congress. By continuing to extend the North Shore Helicopter Route through emergency authority, the FAA has been waiving the requirements in the Administrative Procedure Act and other Federal laws and regulations that require public comment and the consultation of the impacted local governments before any major regulatory decisions are made.

I represent a district that is almost completely surrounded by water, so it is common sense that aircraft departing New York City bound for airports on the East End of Long Island can reduce noise by following true all-water routes.

My amendment also requires the FAA to enforce its own rules regarding altitude restrictions for the aircraft following this flawed route. This is not just an issue in my district, but also impacts residents who are impacted by noise in Nassau County and Queens. That is why I have partnered with my Democratic colleagues, Representatives GRACE MENG and TOM SUOZZI, on this amendment.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York.

This amendment directs the FAA Administrator to offer a public comment period and public hearing with respect to the New York North Shore Helicopter Route and would then be required to review the applicable regulations related to the route and assess the noise impacts on communities and the availability of alternative or supplemental routes to reduce those impacts.

I oppose it on the grounds that it is really not good policy to legislate on noise in a piecemeal fashion, addressing each region and each airport one by one. That is not the best way to address air traffic noise. The community has been aware of this issue for some time and certainly of the occasionally unreasonable exposure to helicopter noise reported by residents in urban areas.

The Aviation Subcommittee held a roundtable on this in October of 2011 to explore this issue, and perhaps it is time to re-up that roundtable to get some movement on this issue.

Further, I have concern about possible unintended consequences of legislative proposals that could lead to the redistribution of aircraft noise. Although well-intentioned, such proposals have social justice ramifications and often can end up distributing noise over socially economically disadvantaged communities. We have to make sure that noise is distributed equitably if we are going to make these decisions.

I would be happy to work, and I think on our side we would be happy to work with the gentleman and the cosponsors to try to address these concerns by talking directly with the FAA, but I have to oppose taking the solution towards a legislative resolution.

I ask my colleagues to oppose it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, first off, with respect to my colleague on the other side of the aisle, it is very important for my constituents to have a voice.

What is important to note here is that this route was extended by the FAA, put in the Federal Register, in the middle of a weekend. No one told me. No one told any of the local governments. There was no public hearing. There were no public comments accepted. Actually, the FAA, in this case, went out of their way to ensure that my constituents had zero voice whatsoever. That is under the current Federal law.

Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding and rise in support of his amendment.

Again, this amendment does address the concerns of the people on Long Island. As the gentleman pointed out, this was put in place without public comment, without talking to the folks that live and have to live under these

overflights, so I applaud him for his efforts and commitment to his constituents on this issue. Again, he has worked tirelessly for the last two Congresses on this issue and been a tremendously effective advocate.

I thank the gentleman for his continued leadership, and I thank him for his amendment and encourage Members to support Mr. ZELDIN's amendment.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his support of this amendment, for doing everything in his power to ensure that my constituents have a voice, that they are heard, that they are represented, that they are able to provide their public comments, that they are allowed to have a hearing with the FAA. It really is very much appreciated by the residents of my district.

And to my colleagues, Congresswoman GRACE MENG, Congressman SUOZZI, for everyone on the other side of the aisle who is showing leadership in supporting this effort, it is much appreciated, understanding that this was literally jammed through, in the Federal Register, without all sorts of not just courtesies provided, but worse, actually muzzling the voice of the people that they couldn't even share any—any—of their comments whatsoever.

Summer after summer, the quality of life of East End residents has suffered due to the persistent issue of this noise. The FAA and Department of Transportation have sole jurisdiction over the aircraft routes that have impacted these communities, but from the route's planning to its continued use, they have flat out ignored the residents directly affected. I am urging all my colleagues to vote ''yes'' 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 New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 97 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 97 printed in part A of House Report 115–650.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. 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 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 543. STUDY ON DIVERSITY OF CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE OF FAA.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the diversity of the cybersecurity workforce of the Administration in order to develop recommendations to increase the size, quality, and diversity of such workforce, including cybersecurity researchers and specialists.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the study conducted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of such study.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 839, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that will direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the diversity of the cybersecurity workforce of the FAA in order to develop recommendations to increase the size, quality, and diversity of such workforce.

Every day, Federal departments and agencies across our Nation face a barrage of cybersecurity attacks that threaten our national and economic security. An attack in 2006 forced the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to shut down one of its air traffic control systems in Alaska. Another attack that possibly involved malicious hacking and phishing targeted 75 airports in the United States in 2013.

Now, in recent years, the FAA has taken concrete steps to improve cybersecurity protection mechanisms; however, Congress needs to ensure that the FAA has the ability and resources to implement cybersecurity protocols across all segments of the National Airspace System.

The mission of the FAA is ''to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world,'' and one of the five values of the agency to execute on that mission includes, in their vision statement: ''People are our strength. Our success depends on the respect, diversity, collaboration, and commitment of our workforce.''

□ 1645

According to CyberSeek, a national program of National Institute of Standards and Technology in the Department of Commerce, in 2017, the U.S. employed nearly 800,000 people in cybersecurity positions. However, that same report goes on to add that approximately 350,000 jobs remain open in the cybersecurity space.

To ensure that FAA continues to safeguard the world's safest and most productive aviation sector, Congress needs to ensure that the FAA has all of the tools necessary to ready its workforce.

According to the FAA 2015 Performance and Accountability Report, the agency has over 45,000 employees who have diverse educational and career backgrounds. So when we look at our air traffic controllers, researchers, maintenance specialists, safety inspectors, and mechanical and electrical software engineers, innovative solutions to national cybersecurity challenges will come from a diversity of perspectives.

That is why my amendment will study the needs of the existing cybersecurity workforce of the FAA, and help identify and address any gaps that exist, and ensure that the size, quality, and diversity of such workforce at the FAA keep pace with the rapid technological advancements in the aviation sector.

I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member PETER DEFAZIO for their strength and their leadership. And I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership and emphasis on skills development and training.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although 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, I thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment. It is a good amendment. The cybersecurity workforce will play a greater role in the aviation industry in the years ahead.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage all of my colleagues to support Mrs. LAWRENCE's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle for his support.

Our skilled trained workforce is one of the greatest challenges we have in America in supplying a workforce that is going to address the skilled needs of our workforce. If we don't address it and be proactive, it is going to be creating a challenge not only to filling jobs, but creating the workforce that will get the job done.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to pass this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 115–650 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 42 by Mr. DEFAZIO of Oregon.

Amendment No. 60 by Mr. ROHRABACHER of California.

Amendment No. 63 by Mr. KING of Iowa.

Amendment No. 78 by Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois.

Amendment No. 79 by Mr. DENHAM of California.

Amendment No. 87 by Mr. LYNCH of Massachusetts.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 223, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 155]

AYES—192

Adams
Aguilar
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Esty (CT)
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Upton
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Yarmuth

NOES—223

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Bost
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Emmer
Estes (KS)
Faso
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lewis (MN)
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Russell
Rutherford
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—13

Black
Blackburn
Carson (IN)
Gowdy
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Noem
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Wilson (FL)

□ 1716

Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Messrs. McHENRY, HILL, GOODLATTE, STEWART, BRADY of Texas, COHEN, GOHMERT, and GRAVES of Georgia changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. CORREA, KIHUEN, and SERRANO changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The Chair advises all Members to stay close to the floor. The next series of votes will be a 2-minute vote. Please stay close to the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 37, noes 375, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 156]

AYES—37

Aderholt
Bass
Beyer
Brady (TX)
Calvert
Davidson
Duncan (SC)
Garrett
Gohmert
Harris
Higgins (NY)
Hultgren
Hunter
Kelly (MS)
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lieu, Ted
Lowenthal
Lynch
McClintock
Moolenaar
Peterson
Poe (TX)
Posey
Raskin
Rohrabacher
Rooney, Thomas J.
Royce (CA)
Schiff
Schweikert
Sherman
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Walters, Mimi
Webster (FL)
Wilson (SC)

NOES—375

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Gianforte
Gibbs

Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
LaHood
Lamb
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (MN)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mitchell
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Speier
Stefanik
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—16

Black
Blackburn
Carson (IN)
Cicilline
Costello (PA)
Gowdy
Gutiérrez
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Noem
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1720

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

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) 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 172, noes 243, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 157]

AYES—172

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Arrington
Babin
Banks (IN)
Barr
Barton
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Budd
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cramer
Crawford
Culberson
Curtis
Davidson
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Estes (KS)
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
King (IA)
Knight
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Posey
Ratcliffe
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce (CA)
Russell
Rutherford
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Wagner
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)

NOES—243

Adams
Aguilar
Amodei
Bacon
Barletta
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
Denham
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gianforte
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Krishnamoorthi
LaHood
Lamb
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Mast
Matsui
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—13

Black
Blackburn
Carson (IN)
Gowdy
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Noem
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1727

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 92, noes 323, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 158]

AYES—92

Aguilar
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Beyer
Bonamici
Bustos
Capuano
Carbajal
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Connolly
Cooper
Crist
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeLauro
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Ellison
Eshoo
Fortenberry
Gabbard
Gohmert
Gonzalez (TX)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Harris
Herrera Beutler
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jones
Kaptur
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kind
Kinzinger
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Matsui
McCollum
McGovern
Moore
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Raskin
Rohrabacher
Ruiz
Rush
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Tonko
Tsongas
Vela
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Wilson (SC)
Yarmuth

NOES—323

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bera
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Cárdenas
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Cheney
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Espaillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gomez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (MN)
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McEachin
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Price (NC)
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruppersberger
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—13

Black
Blackburn
Carson (IN)
Gowdy
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Noem
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1732

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

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. SPEIER changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) 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 222, noes 193, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

AYES—222

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Bost
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Emmer
Estes (KS)
Faso
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grothman
Guthrie
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (IA)
Kinzinger
Knight
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lewis (MN)
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce (CA)
Rutherford
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert

Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)

NOES—193

Adams
Aguilar
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Courtney
Crist
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Esty (CT)
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Krishnamoorthi
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rosen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Yarmuth
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—13

Black
Blackburn
Carson (IN)
Gowdy
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Noem
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1735

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 227, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

AYES—187

Adams
Aguilar
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Costa
Courtney
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Esty (CT)
Evans
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gottheimer
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Harris
Hastings
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Lamb
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rosen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wenstrup
Yarmuth

NOES—227

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Bost
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Emmer
Estes (KS)
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Handel
Harper
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lewis (MN)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce (CA)
Russell
Rutherford
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—14

Black
Blackburn
Carson (IN)
Gowdy
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Noem
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1739

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

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chair, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes

155 to 160. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Rollcall 155, on H.R. 4, DeFazio Amendment, vote "yea."

Rollcall 156, on H.R. 4, Rohrabacher/Bass Amendment, vote "nay."

Rollcall 157, on H.R. 4, S. King Amendment, vote "nay."

Rollcall 158, on H.R. 4, Lipinski Amendment, vote "yea."

Rollcall 159, on H.R. 4, Denha/Costa Amendment, vote "nay."

Rollcall 160, on H.R. 4, Lynch/Meng Amendment, vote "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chair, I was not present for the following votes because I chose to remain in my congressional district in Miami for an important district event.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall Vote No. 155; "no" on rollcall Vote No. 156; "no" on rollcall Vote No. 157; "no" on rollcall Vote No. 158; "no" on rollcall Vote No. 159; and "yes" on rollcall Vote No. 160.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMUCKER) 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. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

IRAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOSTAGE-TAKING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4744) to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 2, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

YEAS—410

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
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
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—2

Amash
Massie

NOT VOTING—16

Babin
Black
Blackburn
Comstock
Fortenberry
Gabbard
Gowdy
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Noem
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1747

Mr. COOK changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF "UNITED STATES CAPITOL GROUNDS: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FREDERICK LAW OLMSTEAD'S DESIGN FOR DEMOCRACY" AS A HOUSE DOCUMENT

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 118, 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 Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 118

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

SECTION 1. UNITED STATES CAPITOL GROUNDS: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FREDERICK LAW OLMSTEAD'S DESIGN FOR DEMOCRACY.

(a) PRINTING AS HOUSE DOCUMENT.—The book entitled "United States Capitol

Grounds: Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmstead's Design for Democracy'', prepared by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, shall be printed as a House document under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing.

(b) STYLE; BINDING.—The book described in subsection (a) shall be printed in such style, form, and manner and with such binding as the Joint Committee on Printing may direct, in consultation with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

(c) NUMBER OF COPIES.—In addition to the usual number of copies, there shall be printed for the use of the Architect of the Capitol the lesser of—

(1) 5,000 copies of the book printed under this section; or

(2) such number of copies of the book as does not exceed a total production and printing cost of $400,000.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS AND HERO OF WAFFLE HOUSE MASS SHOOTING

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with members of the Tennessee delegation and with the Congressional Black Caucus to honor the victims of a deadly mass shooting at a Waffle House in Antioch, Tennessee, early on the morning of Sunday, April 22.

The four young, promising lives that were lost were Joe R. Perez, DeEbony Groves, Taurean C. Sanderlin, and Akilah DaSilva.

Fortunately, James Shaw, Jr., was also in the restaurant to confront the shooter and to take away his weapon with his bare hands, probably saving the lives of 16 other people.

Let us honor all of the victims and our hero, James Shaw, Jr., with a moment of silence.

CONGRATULATING THE DELAWARE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, along with my colleague Congressman JOHN FASO, an outstanding group of young women from Delaware Academy in Delhi, New York. The Delaware Academy Girls' Varsity Basketball team won this year's New York State Class D Basketball Championship. It was an intense game with a last 3-point shot from Logan Bruce that carried the team into overtime.

The game finally ended in the first overtime with Delaware defeating Franklinville with a score of 54–51. This is Delaware Academy's first basketball State title and the first State title in any of the women's and girls' sports. The Delaware team, known as the Bulldogs, has 14 superior talented athletes:

First, the three-point shot, which was made by Logan Bruce, Olivia Wakin, Kaitlyn Finch, Brenna Gioffe, Julia Burns, Aileen Nealis, Hannah Baxter, Anna Post, Reagan Bracchy, Meredith Mable, Caroline Grace, Cella Schnabel, Sophia Wakin, and eighth grader Sylvia Liddle.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to have my colleagues join me in congratulating this outstanding, talented group of women and their coaches: Todd Bruce, A.J. Mucciaro, and Tom Gliddon, on becoming New York State champions for the first time.

As a former starting center for my high school girls' basketball team, I am just so proud to say: Go, Bulldogs.

DEMOCRATS HAVE A BETTER DEAL ON HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this week, Democrats are highlighting our ''Better Deal'' that we are offering the American people.

One area where this Republican Congress has given the American people a bad deal is healthcare. Because of their repeated attempts to repeal and undermine the Affordable Care Act, uncertainty has plagued our health insurance markets, leading insurers to flee and premiums to go up.

Republicans included in their tax law a provision that will take coverage away from 13 million people and hike premiums by more than 10 percent annually.

The Trump administration is also making every effort, Mr. Speaker, to unravel vital consumer protections through rulemaking. Now many who were finally protected under the Affordable Care Act will again be vulnerable to discrimination and to higher costs for comprehensive coverage.

That is the Republican approach, unfortunately, to healthcare: higher costs, lower coverage, and, yes, an age tax, and a return to the days when insurers could deny coverage based upon preexisting conditions.

Democrats are offering a better deal: stabilizing markets, bringing down premiums, making prescription drugs more affordable, and protecting Medicare and Medicaid, which are the Republicans' next targets.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 28.

In the 30 years I served as a community pharmacist, I saw prescription drugs save lives. However, I have also seen these same drugs, coupled with addiction, ruin careers, ruin families, and ruin lives. Today, 89 people die in the United States every day from prescription painkiller overdose.

Prescription drugs have become the target of theft and abuse, and it is critical that we do everything we can to combat the epidemic by safely disposing of unused medications. That is why I encourage you to go through your medicine cabinets, find any unused prescription medications, and bring them to your closest take-back location.

The DEA website allows you to easily search the closest collection site. By disposing of your unused medications, you are saving lives in your community.

Again, National Prescription Take Back Day is April 28.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last weekend was the 30th anniversary of Global Youth Service Day. I spent Saturday morning at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey to meet with around 50 young people who had volunteered their day to serve others.

Of course, young people have always been great leaders, but with social media and other technologies connecting people like never before, the power of diverse young minds coming together has taken on a new dimension.

Young people are comparing notes across the country and around the world, and they are doing something to change the course of history. Young people are leading marches, they are running for office, and they are putting their minds and bodies to the service of others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Community FoodBank of New Jersey and the young people across this country who participated in the 2018 Global Youth Service Day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM ALLEN ''AL'' NEWMAN

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, William Allen Newman, 64, received his reward in Heaven on February 15, 2018, after a brief illness.

He was the loving husband for 43 years of Lucia Woodward Newman. He was born on February 24, 1953, in Sumter and was a son of the late Lonnie

Cullen Newman, Sr., and Frances Pollard Newman.

Al attended Bethesda Church of God where he was the bass player for the praise team. He also played in the band known as ''Chief Complaint.''

Al was the administrator of Northwoods Senior Living, which was a ministry for people with chronic or similar illnesses. He spent his life in ministry serving others.

He graduated from Southern Methodist College with a degree in Christian ministries. He graduated from Wilson Hall in 1971. He spent his life working with the visually handicapped, mentally challenged, and the underprivileged, trying to make a difference in their lives.

Join me in welcoming William Allen Newman into Heaven.

□ 1800

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH 2018

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Financial Literacy Month, which is celebrated every year in April.

Whether it is purchasing your first car, getting a job, going to college, starting a family, or even saving for retirement, it is imperative that Americans of all ages have the capacity to make sound financial decisions. That is precisely what I have been fighting for these last two decades.

In the Ohio Statehouse, I successfully spearheaded legislation requiring all public high school students to complete a financial literacy class prior to graduation. Now I am proud to continue this important work in the Halls of Congress.

Working with the Jump$tart Coalition and serving as the co-chair of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, I had the opportunity to recently host and honor students during Financial Literacy Day on the Hill.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking all of our colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to join us in Financial Literacy Month.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Small Business Committee, I am proud to stand with owners and entrepreneurs in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who embody the spirit of American enterprise.

As such, and in honor of National Small Business Week, beginning Sunday, I am proud to recognize two small businesses in my district that have recently achieved significant milestones in their respective industries.

Crossing Vineyards and Winery of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, was named a top 50 Irish-owned small business and will be honored at the Irish Small Business 50 Awards in Philadelphia.

Additionally, Sabre Systems of Warrington was recently contracted by the United States Air Force to develop a cutting-edge antenna that would be more difficult to detect, further strengthening our military at home and abroad.

I am proud of these local small businesses and so many others in my district, Mr. Speaker. We must do our part as elected officials to enable them to thrive and succeed in our diverse and global economy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JENNIFER RIORDAN

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Jennifer Riordan, who tragically lost her life on Southwest Airlines flight 1380 on April 17.

Mrs. Riordan was an incredible leader and an advocate in our community who loved out loud. I join her family and loved ones in celebrating her life and her commitment to building strong and loving communities.

Through her work at Wells Fargo and her philanthropic efforts, she was able to reflect the positivity of her beaming smile onto every community she touched. Her devotion to serving others made our city a better place and is both her lasting legacy and an example to all of us.

Our hearts break for her family and for everyone who had the good fortune of being in her presence.

I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Riordan's husband, Michael, and her two children, Averie and Joshua.

I hope that we can all honor Mrs. Riordan's memory by embodying her personal philosophy: be kind, loving, caring, and sharing.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

(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, April 28 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

This is an opportunity to dispose of those expired or excess drugs that you may have in your home so that they are properly disposed of instead of ending up in a landfill, waterway, or, more importantly, the hands of children or other dangers that could affect people's health negatively.

For information about that, check with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement Agency, or your local police or pharmacy to look for the information for where you should take your excess, expired prescription drugs so we don't have a health risk, the endangerment of our children, or risk it ending up in the wrong place in the environment.

Again, April 28 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Please participate.

BURN PITS CAUCUS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, while serving our country, many of our brave men and women were exposed to large plumes of black smoke and cancer-causing toxins from the burning of waste, chemicals, and plastics in burn pits. Now veterans from across the country who have no other risk factors are developing terminal cancer, leaving their families to wonder why, families of heroes like Jenn Kepner's, a 39-year-old Air Force veteran who died of pancreatic cancer late last year.

That is why today I am proud to announce the bipartisan Congressional Burn Pits Caucus, to help seek answers for our heroes exposed to burn pits. Representative BRAD WENSTRUP and I have started this caucus because bureaucratic red tape at the VA and the DOD is denying our veterans the answers they deserve and the care they need.

We can't afford to wait. I urge every Democratic and Republican alike to join the Congressional Burn Pits Caucus and start fighting for our veterans to get the care they need and deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PASTOR B.R. DANIELS, JR.

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Pastor B.R. Daniels, Jr.'s 25th pastoral anniversary at the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Fort Worth, Pastor Daniels attended Oscar Dean Wyatt High School. After graduating high school, he answered the call of duty and enlisted in the United States Army, where he faithfully served his country for 8 years. Pastor Daniels was honorably discharged in 1992 at the rank of Sergeant E–5.

In early 1993, when the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church was in search of a new pastor, Reverend Daniels was called to occupy the pulpit. The congregation knew right away that they had the right man for the job.

After 25 years, Pastor Daniels has certainly left his mark not only on the church, but he works closely with so many different groups in the city of Fort Worth and is on different commissions. He does a great job. His passion

and love for the ministry explain why so many follow his vision of hope.

QUIETER SKIES

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to comment very briefly on the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act, which provides long-term stability for our Nation's aviation community and critical investments in U.S. airports. I have many, many issues in my district that this bill, hopefully, will address.

Airplane noise is an issue that directly affects my constituents in the East Bay. I have convened meetings with Federal and local stakeholders to come up with a regional solution to airport noise in the bay area.

This bill will help us make progress to address noise pollution and ensure that my constituents can live under quiet skies. It would establish a pilot program for the Department of Transportation to give grants of up to $2.5 million to six airports for noise mitigation projects. That is so important.

Also, I am pleased to see that the bill includes language that would require the FAA to partner with higher education institutions to assess the health effects of white noise.

While these changes may not reduce airplane noise immediately, we are moving in the right direction. I look forward to working with the FAA to ensure my constituents affected by airplane noise are addressed in a timely fashion. This legislation is critical legislation to help support America's innovation in aviation technology and will ensure quieter skies for all.

DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, April 28.

While prescription opioids may be a short-term, safe treatment for extreme pain management, misuse and addiction can become a tragic side effect and are extremely common, unfortunately. Ohio is second in our Nation in opioid overdose deaths per capita.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs in 2015. About half of the people over the age of 12 who misused prescription pain relievers obtained the drugs from a friend or relative.

Americans of sound mind and body must do more to reduce this number and mitigate misuse by taking action. Please join your fellow citizens in participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, April 28. Proper disposal of drugs can save lives.

Remember that you can go to a collection site any day of the year to deposit unused or extra pills and prescription drugs. Get rid of them.

You can find a collection site near you by visiting takebackday.dea.gov.

Do your part to prevent accidental poisoning misuse and overdose today. Your vigilance matters.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ADRIAN MURFITT

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to remember the life of Adrian Murfitt, who went to Las Vegas on October 1 for the Route 91 festival.

Adrian had a love for fishing. He would spend months on a commercial fishing boat to catch and sell fish. When it was not fishing season, he would repair appliances, tinker with cars, and spend time with his friends.

Adrian was a very hard worker and decided to reward himself for a successful fishing season by traveling to Las Vegas. He loved to listen and sing country music with a voice that friends described as ''beautiful.''

He enjoyed his two dogs, Laika and Paxson, and always made sure to spend time with them. Adrian had many friends who remember him as being silly and goofy and wanting to make people laugh, no matter what.

I would like to extend my condolences to Adrian Murfitt's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

MEDICARE FOR ALL

(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, I rise to join my colleague and good friend Representative ELLISON and other members of the Progressive Caucus to say that healthcare should be a right for everyone in the United States of America.

I have proudly cosponsored the Medicare for All legislation for many years because I don't believe a person's economic status should have any bearing whatsoever on their ability to access quality and affordable healthcare.

The Affordable Care Act took us a long way toward that goal, and I am so proud of that vote. I am proud to join all of the Members here who are supporting it and to fight back against attacks from the Republican majority and the White House to dismantle it.

But we can't just play defense. We have to move toward ensuring greater access to coverage, greater affordability, stronger consumer protections, and higher quality healthcare services. That is why this bill is so important, and I think its time has come.

What Medicare for All would provide is universal coverage for everyone. This is something we should be taking up right now. I am proud to join my colleagues who are supporting it.

□ 1815

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TIQUE LEE CAUL

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Antioch, California, resident and friend, Ms. Tique Lee Caul.

Tique was a single mother, worked full-time, attended classes at Laney College, and served as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. She was a trailblazer and a woman who wore many hats. She also sat on multiple boards, including Toastmasters and Black Women Organized for Political Action.

She was a true stalwart of our community, active with volunteers in many efforts. She enjoyed supporting others in their personal transformation and goal attainment.

A mother of five beautiful children, a successful realtor, Tique was a shining light until the very end. She will be sincerely missed by her family, friends, everyone who knew her, and our community.

BETTER DEAL VERSUS RAW DEAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, almost 2 years ago, Presidential candidate Donald Trump said: ''We are going to win so much, you are going to get tired of winning.''

It has been 16 months since Republicans took control of the White House and Congress, and the only people who are winning are the wealthy and well connected. The rest of America is getting a raw deal.

The Republicans have failed to make healthcare more affordable. They have failed to invest in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure. They failed to lower the cost of living for working families, and they failed to drain the swamp. The rigged system that they promised to tear down is now bigger and stronger than ever before. The wealthy and well connected are making out like bandits while working people are asked to sacrifice more and more each day.

It doesn't have to be this way. Democrats are offering a better deal: a better deal to deliver better jobs, better wages for a better future; a better deal to raise incomes, lower the cost of living, and make sure the economy works for all Americans, not just those at the very top.

Let's give the American people a better deal than the raw deal they are getting from the Republicans.

MEDICARE FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to talk about Medicare for All, the importance of making sure that every American, regardless of income, can get the healthcare that they need. That will be our topic over the course of the next hour.

So I would like to invite to the podium to kick off our discussion the gentleman from California, Mr. RO KHANNA, a distinguished gentleman from the great State of California who has been a leader on economic justice, and justice in general.

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota for his leadership on so many issues, particularly on healthcare and the fight for Medicare for all.

I rise today to share a heartbreaking story so we understand what is at stake in this fight.

Sarah Fay Broughton was a young woman in San Jose, California. Sarah was going to work with special needs kids. At the age of 20, she came down with a simple sinus infection. Such a condition is usually managed by a primary care physician and an ordinary specialist. However, Sarah did not receive treatment because she could not afford health insurance.

Six months before she fell ill, Sarah applied for Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid system, but her paperwork kept getting lost. The county was so overwhelmed that her family went through three different caseworkers trying to get medical coverage, but each time they were told to start over. Like more than 28 million Americans without any healthcare, for Sarah, getting sick meant facing crippling medical bills and harassment by debt collectors.

So she ignored the pain, only going to the emergency room when it became too much to bear. By that point, the simple sinus infection had grown powerful, spreading to her brain, swelling it, and causing irreversible damage. It was simply too late. On the day Sarah passed away, her family received a letter saying that her Medi-Cal coverage had been approved. She was doing everything right, but the system failed her. Her life was cut short because the wealthiest country in the world has not yet prioritized healthcare.

The question is: Should a young woman who is 20 years old die of a simple sinus infection in the United States of America? If we care about the lives of people like Sarah, if we believe that healthcare is a basic right, then it is long past time to have Medicare for All. Every American should be guaranteed decent, basic healthcare from the day they are born.

This is not a political issue. This is a moral issue. It is an issue of human decency. It is an issue to make sure we don't have people who have simple conditions like Sarah be denied the care they deserve.

That is why I am so proud of my colleague KEITH ELLISON for leading the call for Medicare for All. I am proud to serve on the task force and encourage my colleagues to join him, PETER WELCH, and other voices in bringing to this country Medicare for All.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman again for his comments. We can talk about statistics. We can talk about the way the program is going to work. We can talk about all these things. But there is nothing that can replace the precious life of the young woman whom you talked about. She had people who loved her. She had people who knew her. She had everything to look forward to.

She just needed her society, her community, to step forward for her and to help her. And because we don't have the kind of healthcare system we could have, we weren't there for her. But in her memory, we have to be able to make it right for the young people and the people who are still with us. In her memory, we will fight for Medicare for All.

I thank the gentleman. Would the gentleman like to make any final comments?

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman saying that. I had a conversation with her mother and with the community, and people just feel: what a tragic loss. So, if there are things we can do here under your leadership and as elected Representatives, I hope we will—and we will—take seriously the consequence of the failure in our healthcare policy.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite to share a few remarks the gentleman from the great State of Vermont. As you can see from the course of this debate, Mr. Speaker, we have tremendous geographic diversity: California, Vermont. But we have one thing in common: we need a healthcare system that works for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), my good friend.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

We have the wealthiest country in the world, we have the healthcare system that is the most expensive in the world, and we have more costs and more people not covered than is at all necessary. The fact is, we have had as a goal in this country, since the Presidency of Harry Truman, a goal that all our citizens be covered and have access to healthcare.

And that dream made a solid step forward when Lyndon Baines Johnson was the President and Congress, on a bipartisan basis, passed Medicare, which provided healthcare protection for all Americans 65 and older and provided Medicaid for low-income children and families. We made a second step forward, unfortunately not on a bipartisan basis, with the passage during the Obama administration of the Affordable Care Act. That extended coverage to millions of Americans who otherwise never would have had access to care. It also made some significant improvements in how we deliver care.

We are continuing with that battle. Those are two solid steps forward. Medicare and Medicaid passed in the Johnson administration and the Affordable Care Act during the Obama administration. Yet we are still spending the most on healthcare with outcomes that are not the best and, in fact, in many cases, are not even in the top ten. So we are spending the most and getting the least.

The program for healthcare that has the most popularity in this country among Republicans, among Democrats, and among Independents is Medicare. The reason: all of us pay into the Medicare fund, and then when we are eligible at 65, we are all covered. It is simple. It is not a government-run program. It is financed by taxpayers, and taxpayers are the beneficiaries of that program itself. It makes sense. It has the confidence of the American people.

It also puts us in a position to try to control costs, not at the expense of throwing 24 million people off of the healthcare rolls, which is what would have happened had the repeal of the Affordable Care Act been passed; but by bringing down, for instance, the cost of prescription drugs, where something that was costing $7.50 suddenly cost $1,500 per pill because the owner bought up a company and then had a monopoly power and stuck it to the consumers.

I believe we should strive to get Medicare for every single citizen in this country. Would there be hard questions that we have to address? Sure. There are. But what we have now with this fractured system is young girls who, because they don't have access to healthcare, because the bureaucracy takes so much time to see if she is eligible for Medicaid, or Medi-Cal in the case of this young girl, they don't get access to care, and the tragedy of that situation is that this young woman lost her life.

Had there been healthcare where the parents weren't terrified about what that bill would be, about how they might have to take out a second mortgage, about how they would be bearing the burden of escaping the clutches of bill collectors, that person would have been able to get to a doctor in time to get limited care that would have taken care of what, at that point, was a very limited challenge.

So I thank my colleague (Mr. ELLISON) for convening this here tonight. And the goal that I believe we should have in this country is to have a healthcare system where everybody is covered and everybody helps pay for that system and is about affordable, quality care where the emphasis is on the patient and on the taxpayer.

By the way, this is not about making government run the healthcare. That is

the important thing to remember. If you are on Medicare or Medicaid or ObamaCare, you get to pick your doctor, you get to pick your hospital. This is about having the security of a system that works for you regardless of your income, regardless of your job status, regardless of your medical situation. It works in all the other industrialized countries of the world; it can work here.

By the way, the cost is starting to kill us. If we don't start dealing with the cost of healthcare, it doesn't matter whether it is the taxpayer who is footing the bill, the employer who is footing the bill on behalf of his or her employees, or the individual trying to reach into his or her pocket to pay. We have got to bring these costs down, and an organized system without a broken market, I think, is the way to go.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ELLISON very much, and I applaud him for his work.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague from Vermont for his comments. And if I can ask him a quick question.

If we are already paying the most in the world per capita, why aren't we getting the best healthcare outcomes?

Mr. WELCH. That is really a good question. But that example about that pill going from costing $7.50 to $1,500 means that the owner of that pill—and Martin Shkreli is the guy who did it; he is now in jail—was able to corner the market and then just make people who absolutely have to have that medication pay through the nose, and more than they can afford. That is an example.

We have all of these stops along the way where private profit is the motive. The market is about profit; it is not about having a system that is going to work and be affordable. I think that is a big reason.

Mr. ELLISON. That is a big reason. I want to thank the gentleman for his work. Let's keep working on this.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about Medicare for All tonight, H.R. 676. Mr. John Conyers carried the bill all these years, and I'd like to thank him.

But we are carrying the fight forward. It is important to note from the onset that I recognize, the Progressive Caucus recognizes, the Affordable Care Act made important steps, critical steps, for getting more people covered, and we must continue to fight for it.

We have to protect the Affordable Care Act. We have to do what we can to defend it. There are people in our Congress who want to just get rid of it. But the truth is, it actually helped many people. It helped bring coverage to people who hadn't had it. It helped bring real answers for families that needed it.

But we can look further down the line. We can think about a system in which everybody pays and everybody benefits. We could look forward to a system like that. We can look to a Medicare for All-styled system where we can say healthcare is a right for everybody.

This is not something that should surprise anyone. Education is guaranteed for everyone. Every schoolkid in America can go to a public school in the United States.

□ 1830

Fire services—you don't have to pay a separate contract to get the fire department to put out your fire. If you live in the city and there is a fire, you can call them, and they will help you. They are paid out of the taxes that we all pay. The police department, public works—we have systems in our society now that we pay for through our taxes and other sorts of things that we do to afford these services. Healthcare, I believe, is a service that we should look at in a similar light.

A Medicare for All system would decrease overall cost of healthcare for a multitude of reasons, but most importantly, because it would allow the government to negotiate decreases in the cost of care with service providers.

I think that my good friend, PETER WELCH, had an excellent example when it came to prescription drugs. There is a company called CorePharma that hiked the price of a DARAPRIM pill from $1 to $13.50 and watched revenues climb.

In 2015, CorePharma sold the rights to DARAPRIM to Turing, which raised the price to $750. So in a system like that, of course, whatever somebody can make more money doing, they are going to do. And yet, we don't have any real controls to make sure that they don't do it. It is the kind of thing that we have to step forward and address.

In 2012, for example, the average cost of coronary bypass surgery was more that $73,000 in the United States, but it was less than $23,000 in France. France has good healthcare. The world doesn't deny that—$73,000 for a coronary bypass surgery in the United States; $23,000 in France.

A Medicare for All single-payer system would lower administrative costs and nearly eliminate spending for competitive advertising, which doesn't really bring health to anyone. The U.S. spends about 18 percent of its GDP on healthcare, while Canada spends about 11½ percent on healthcare.

The United Kingdom, Britain, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the U.K. spends about 9 percent of its GDP on healthcare. Germany and France spend about 11 percent. We spend substantially more, and yet, we do not have the best outcomes in the world. We have to look at this system and whether it is working for the American people.

I just make this point because we really could join the rest of the world and have more affordable, more effective healthcare. It is not only countries like Germany, France, and Canada that spend less and get better outcomes than the United States. It is also New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, all have systems that are similar in style, and they cover more people and the people benefit from that.

Our systems like Medicaid and Medicare are some of the most popular systems out there. People tend to like it. Now, I am not saying they are trouble-free, but anybody who thinks there is some program made by human beings that is going to be absolutely perfect all the time, of course, they are going to be wrong.

But I guarantee you, I spent plenty of time in Montreal, Canada, Calgary, and I tell you, for all the Americans down south of the border who complain about Canadian healthcare, Canadians kind of like their healthcare. They don't want to switch with us; neither do the people in England. We need A Better Deal, and we can have one if we were to move forward.

Taiwan has a healthcare system that also is similar to Canada, New Zealand, Norway, and Denmark. We can do better than we are doing right now, and we should.

As I mentioned before, Medicaid and Medicare are popular. These are programs where people get the benefit of a healthcare system that is a system that we benefit from as a government of, by, and for the people, and millions of our constituents, from birth until death, benefit, and they support people with disabilities, having children, pregnant women, and seniors. They are wildly popular, and they actually have pretty low administrative costs and essential to the stability of our country.

It also makes sense that Americans must also support Medicare for All single-payer. Both a Harvard-Harris poll from 2007 and a 2018 Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that the majority of Americans support a single-payer healthcare system funded by the government. Yet some folks in this body want to actually cut Medicaid. They want to cut—they want to drain funds from the Medicare trust fund.

The fact is Americans all over this country, they think that many of our programs, whether it be the VA or Medicare or Medicaid, actually help a lot of people. These programs are popular, and yet, we continue to have to fight to protect them every day.

What if we just move forward instead so that more people can benefit from a program like a Medicare-style program? An expanded Medicare for All will create millions of good jobs. It is a program that would bring more people in; therefore, we need more healthcare professionals to cover folks, more nurses, more doctors, more nurse anesthetists, more folks to keep folks healthy, even more exercise professionals, because we know that in a good, solid, single-payer system, we would put an emphasis on preventative care and try to make sure people stay well, stay healthy.

Let me just say that cost savings for individuals is an important factor here. Medicare fraud isn't just a fringe idea that will help very few people. Medicare for All is good for business and

good for people. A single-payer system would lift the significant financial burden from businesses that currently fund the healthcare insurance for their employees and would largely eliminate the financial burden of illness, a leading cause of bankruptcy, and debt sent into collection.

Even with the Affordable Care Act, which substantially helped 28 million people, or about 9 percent of the Nation, still remain uninsured. I am grateful for the Affordable Care Act. It made substantial advances, but we still can do better.

A single-payer system is not just about ensuring that no person is uninsured. It is also about making sure that nobody is underinsured. Many people are underinsured. They face costs associated with their insurance that they just can't afford to handle, and that is also a substantial problem.

Underinsured individuals are less likely to obtain healthcare when they need it. They skip doctor visits, they avoid filling prescriptions, and they are more likely to end up in medical debt. We can have a system that can help us avoid these problems. Medical debt is one of the leading causes of personal bankruptcy in the United States.

If we were to set up a system that was focused more on health and wellness where we all could pay and then we can all benefit, it would make our society stronger, better financially and physically.

Now, Medicare for All would actually help reduce income inequality. One of the problems of the society we live in now is that we have really historic record inequality. The rich and the top 1 percent are far more wealthy relative to the rest of their countrymen and women than has been the case since the Great Depression, since the Guilded Age. You probably have to go back to the time when the Great Gatsby was written to actually see the level of inequality that we see today and marks the society that we live in.

In a time when we are facing these record levels of inequality, a single-payer system can also help level the playing field and help working people make a better go at this economy. Medicare for All would make sure that everyone would have the same access and level of care, regardless of their income, their job, or the community that they live in. A Medicare for All system would mean that people would be able to cover their medications, cover their bills. It would mean that they would be able to get what they need.

And if you compare this, what if we had a system—what if we did healthcare the way we do education, that you have to have a private—it is a private system and you couldn't go unless you could pay? The bottom line is that what we would end up with is a system that would be very unequal, educationally speaking. It would undermine our productivity. It would weaken our society.

If we were to have a Medicare for All system that would help make sure that everybody had a basic health benefit, and it didn't matter whether you had a job at the moment or not, didn't matter whether you—where you lived, then it would provide a platform for economic prosperity in the marketplace where people would work.

This would also make our society more equal when it comes to opportunity for people of color and racial minorities. Black and Hispanic Americans are more likely to be uninsured than others. The studies show a direct link between being uninsured and a higher mortality rate.

By the way, when people have died with a higher mortality rate, they don't just die. Often, they end up in the ER, which is one of the most expensive places to treat somebody. But what if they actually had the treatment that they needed, they had a regular doctor, they had the treatments they needed, they had ways to keep themselves healthy? African Americans and indigenous people tend to have lower life expectancies than White Americans, experiencing higher rates in most major causes of death: infant mortality, trauma, heart disease, and diabetes. Much of this is just related to the fact that healthcare access is not evenly distributed, and, therefore, the disproportionate impact is on people with the lower income.

Rates of unemployment are higher among African-American men and women than their non-Hispanic White counterparts, and job loss is more prevalent among minority groups. Getting employer-based coverage is not easy if you work a few part-time jobs you have to piece together rather than a solid full-time job.

So what do people do when that happens? You go without healthcare or you have gaps in your healthcare coverage, especially if you live in a State where things like expanding Medicaid are not preferred. If you are a Governor and your State legislature doesn't want to expand Medicaid, then the chances that you are going to experience these gaps in coverage and be uninsured are higher, and consequently, people's health outcomes are worse.

The U.S. healthcare system is ranked, when we look at it, among the worst among countries with advanced economies, despite the fact that we are among the ones that spend the most on healthcare. If we want to have more equality based on people's different racial backgrounds, if we want more opportunity for all, regardless of their race but based on income, and we want to make sure that this is a country where a middle class person, a working class person can do better, then the fact stands true that we have got to move to a Medicare for All style system.

Now, Medicare for All style system and drug pricing—very important topic to take up. We are one of the only countries in the world that doesn't in some way regulate the cost of prescription drugs. We talked a little bit about this before, using the examples of DARAPRIM, but it just seems to me that if we were to move to a system, a Medicare for All style system, an expanded better system, we could find ourselves in a situation where Americans could actually start affording their drugs. While prescription drugs are not covered by Canada's system, there are price controls for medications, so prescription drugs are often cheaper than they are in the U.S.

We have a drug pricing crisis in this country. American people know it. They live it every day. The worried parent struggling to pay their kid's insulin, a senior living on a fixed income who takes arthritis medication, and millions of working people who have to take medication at some point or another in their life, they know that we have a system that is uncontrolled and out of control.

In a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, over 50 percent of the people said that addressing this medication crisis would be one—should be one of the President's and Congress' top priorities. This should come as no surprise to us.

A majority of Americans are using prescription medication. For too many folks, people have to choose between paying their bills and getting the medicine that their family needs.

In fact, 92 percent of Americans support the Federal Government negotiating lower drug prices for folks on Medicare part D. Medicare part D is a very unfortunate program where it is written into the law that we cannot negotiate drug prices. This is an outrageous thing, and for people dedicated to free-market principles, the fact that you couldn't negotiate a price seems extremely ironic to me. It seems more like crony capitalism than free market.

Eighty-six percent of Americans support requiring drug companies to release information on how they make their drug prices. I think, while that is certainly something that we should know, it is not particularly difficult to figure out. They price based on as much as they can get. And 78 percent of surveyed Americans support lifting what drug corporations can charge for drugs for illnesses like cancer.

□ 1845

We must continue to fight to protect the ACA and fight for Medicare for All as a solution. We should, and we could, begin to tackle so many of our Nation's problems if we had a shot at good health and stable healthcare.

There is proof from our fellow wealthy nations that you can have a free market economy and you can have a national health insurance program that works. They are doing it in Canada; they are doing it in the UK; they are doing it in New Zealand; they are doing it in Taiwan; they are doing it in Norway, Denmark, and Sweden; and they are doing it all over the world. There is no reason why we can't do it

here, other than some people want to benefit while other people actually suffer.

There is an important debate going on in our country. There is an important conversation that we are having in communities all over. I hope that all across the United States, in church basements, synagogue basements, mosques, Quaker meeting rooms, VFW halls and union halls, in lodges and coffee shops all across America, wherever people gather, folks will get together and discuss our healthcare future as Americans.

There is a better way, and I think that it is right in front of us.

I was speaking about this issue with somebody who told me: Well, Keith, I mean, look, how are we going to pay for this?

I thought that was an interesting question, given that we just passed a Republican tax bill that carved about $1.5 trillion out of Federal revenue over the next 10 years. Some people have estimated it is even higher than that. Nobody was particularly worried about how we are going to pay for that. But the question is still a legitimate question. We do have to pay for things.

I think that, if we look at the fact that about two-thirds of all the healthcare spending now is public spending, we are two-thirds of the way there now. We need to figure out how we are going to come up with the rest. People will see the healthcare expenditures that they are already making be able to be part of how we will pay this. But the other part is a legitimate question.

I think that we can set out a system of a payroll tax or, perhaps, a tax on Wall Street trades. There are a number of things that we can do. And we also can squeeze costs out of the system.

We know that simply because you have got multiple insurance companies, multiple payers, that there is rampant waste in the system; and if we were to squeeze it out and we get efficiencies, we would be able to lower costs in the system. If we could control costs better, we would be able to have a world-class system, as other countries have, with excellent health outcomes and be able to still pay for it. It is not beyond our reach.

I can tell you that it has often been said that single-payer systems have long waiting lines. Well, not according to the data. One grant from the Commonwealth Fund looks at what percent of adults can get a same-day doctor's appointment when they are sick, counting systems like Canada, the United Kingdom, and the rest. And the fact is that in New Zealand, Germany, Australia, and the United Kingdom, people can get same-day doctor visits at a higher rate than in the United States. It is not the case that you have to have these long lines and you have to wait so long in every system.

Of course, the U.S. system will be an American system. We will design it for our own purposes. But it simply is not true that a single-payer system will have longer waiting lines. It is just not the case. People will say this, but it is not true.

The fact is that we need to have the debate. We need to have the discussion. We need businesses to say: Well, what would it mean to me if I didn't have to pay health insurance out of my business expenses?

Individuals have to ask: What would it mean if they never had to pay for copays, deductibles, things like that, if they could get eyes, ears, other types of coverages that they need, what would it mean if these things were possible? How would it impact our economy? Would it free people and allow them to be more creative and more innovative?

We have seen our country see a decline in small business development first in startups. Is this in part because people are locked into debt in jobs just so they can have insurance? I think there is certainly a possibility there.

At the end of the day, we have got to have a dialogue about how we can better serve the American people. Other countries around the world are doing it, and it is time for us to move forward in that direction, too.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIRST LADY BARBARA PIERCE BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members participating tonight may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege tonight to pay tribute to the life of a great Texan and a great American: Barbara Pierce Bush.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my colleague.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman for calling this Special Order hour to honor the life and legacy of his constituent, Barbara Pierce Bush, whom we lost last week. I am certainly proud to stand with my colleague from Texas to honor the life and the legacy of our former First Lady Barbara Bush.

From Rye, New York, to west Texas, to the West Wing, Mrs. Bush served her family and her country with integrity, strength, and grace. She, indeed, was a member of the Greatest Generation and spent her life in service to others.

It is incredible to reflect. She was only the second woman in our Nation's history to be both the wife and the mother of a United States President. Mrs. Bush joined Abigail Adams in an exclusive club of those who have advised our Nation's Chief Executives long before they reached the Oval Office.

In her capacity as First Lady, Mrs. Bush used her influence to enact positive change. Although her name was never on a ballot, the American people chose Mrs. Bush as a leader and as a role model.

Just yesterday, the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee marked up more than 50 bills that offer solutions to what is currently a significant crisis in our country dealing with deaths caused by opioids, a devastating epidemic that has touched literally every neighborhood in our Nation. Combating this crisis requires not only legislation, but compassion and understanding.

But years ago, in her work to help the most vulnerable, Mrs. Bush epitomized such compassion. I actually mentioned this at the start of yesterday's markup in committee. A significant part of Mrs. Bush's legacy will always be her simple embrace of a child with HIV/AIDS at a clinic at a time when the illness was not well understood and, I dare say, the illness was feared by most people in the country. This simple act, this simple embrace, to reach out and pick up a child at an HIV/AIDS clinic, helped to destigmatize HIV/AIDS in American culture. It was a seemingly small, but a powerful, gesture in 1989.

Then Mrs. Bush paved the way for acceptance of patients with HIV/AIDS, their families, and they were moved out of the shadows and could begin to look at treatment options. The world is vastly different today for the patient with HIV/AIDS because of that simple act of compassion evidenced by Mrs. Bush.

As Congress now considers how best to end the opioid crisis and other human dignity issues before us, I hope we can remember and follow Mrs. Bush's unwavering dedication to always do what is right.

I am certainly proud to join my fellow Texan from Houston honoring his constituent tonight and expressing our condolences to former President George H.W. Bush and the rest of the Bush family and celebrating the wonderful life of former First Lady Barbara Pierce Bush.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those remarks.

Barbara Bush and George H.W. Bush do exemplify all of the greatest character traits that made the Greatest Generation what it is and made this country what it is. It has been a privilege to represent the Bush family and to succeed George H.W. Bush in Congress, who was followed by Bill Archer.

I succeeded Bill Archer. He was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He succeeded George H.W. Bush. The Bush family is revered nationwide and admired and revered by all of us in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined tonight by my colleague from Dallas.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) to honor the life of Barbara Bush.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation for the leadership of Representative CULBERSON in setting this special time to give recognition to Mrs. Bush.

We honor the life and legacy of First Lady Barbara Pierce Bush, a great Texan and a great First Lady, a remarkable woman.

For her 92 years on this Earth until her taking her last breath on April 17, she demonstrated constant examples of radiant elegance, abundant courage, and brilliant intellect. When the news of her death was announced, people from every political party, religious faith, background, color, and creed mourned her with the Bush family.

She transcended the differences that are all too often exploited and gave us a living example of goodness that can bring people together as human beings. During times of trouble in the administration of both her husband and her son in Washington, she remained a beacon of hope, standing firm against the most horrific of storms. Even those who violently disagreed with the policies of both Presidents found comfort in the wisdom and compassion of Mrs. Bush.

I always admired Mrs. Bush's charisma, her true patriotism, and the leadership she demonstrated in advocating for stronger literacy programs. As our Nation's First Lady, Mrs. Bush made sure our young people were better off through her commitment to charitable causes and passion for service. She was a strong advocate for both civil and women's rights and policies during her husband's administration, which spoke volumes to her character and the legacy she leaves behind.

Four living Presidents, including her husband and her son, paid homage to Barbara Bush at the memorial service celebrating her life and legacy. Nearly 1,500 friends and admirers came to be with the Bush family and to say goodbye to a woman who had befriended many of them.

Hours after the internationally televised service concluded, she was laid to rest in a grave located on the grounds of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station. She was buried next to her daughter, Robin, who passed away from cancer when she was just 3 years old.

We all have been blessed to bear witness to a truly exceptional woman who embodied what she believed: those who have been blessed with abundance have a responsibility to assist those who were not as fortunate.

There are many whose lives were enhanced by the service, graciousness, and the love that First Lady Barbara Bush carried in her heart and soul.

Mrs. Bush took pride in her family and taught them to love and serve others. I hope her family can take solace in knowing that she is in a better place watching over them.

All of us will miss Barbara Bush. Her truthfulness, her fairness, her elegance, and her passion. The Nation and the world is a better place because she lived amongst us, giving all that she could without malice or animosity.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague is right. All of America is better because Barbara Bush has lived. All of us are better people for having known and admired Barbara Bush. She has been a source of inspiration to me, as I know she has been to my colleague from Dallas and the millions of Americans.

People from all over the world poured into Houston to celebrate her life and to pay tribute to her as she lay in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, people from all walks of life.

□ 1900

As my colleague, Dr. BURGESS, said, she, in a very simple gesture, with a patient who was ill with HIV, broke down the stigma that people felt, the fear people felt that HIV might be contagious. Barbara Bush just acted instinctively, as she always did, with courage and compassion, in hugging that young man that was ill and demonstrating to the world that no one needed to fear people who were ill with HIV. And now that disease has been contained and rolled back. It is a treatable condition.

She devoted her life to, as my colleague from Dallas said, helping those who were less fortunate.

Barbara Bush was born in 1925, June 8, in New York City. And as my colleague, Dr. BURGESS said, she was one of only two women in American history who was both a wife and a mother to a United States President. She was the wife of the 41st President, George H.W. Bush; and mother to the 43rd President, George W. Bush.

Barbara was only 18 years old when she married George Herbert Walker Bush in 1945. They had six children together over the course of their marriage.

As First Lady, she is best remembered for her untiring advocacy for universal literacy, and she founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

She first met George at a Christmas dance in Connecticut in 1941 when she was 16 and he was 17. George Bush asked a friend if he knew Barbara, and the two were officially introduced, but when the waltz began to play, they sat out the dance, because he did not know how to waltz. So they just spent their time getting to know each other.

As they spent more and more time together and fell in love, shortly after George's 18th birthday, they both became each other's first kiss.

Their engagement was officially announced in the newspaper in December of 1943. George was on leave during Christmas as a Navy pilot, and they were reunited over that Christmas in 1943. Two weeks later, on January 6, 1945, George and Barbara were married.

Barbara Bush told Time magazine in 1989 that: ''I married the first man I ever kissed, and when I tell this to my children, they just about throw up.''

While George was away at war, the two wrote letters to each other as their only means of communication. They were deeply and passionately in love, and she kept her sense of humor right to the very end.

In a letter to Barbara, George wrote, during the course of the war, he said: ''I have climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world, but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara's husband.''

In another letter dated December 12, 1943, George wrote to his darling Bar about his happiness in reading their engagement announcement in the newspaper: ''I love you, Precious, with all my heart. And to know that you love me means my life. How often I have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be ours some day, how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you.''

This letter was released shortly after her passing.

She was an extraordinary woman, an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON). I am honored to be joined tonight by my colleague from the 22nd District of Texas.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Texas Seventh, JOHN CULBERSON, for hosting this Special Order. And that is a special word, ''Special Order,'' because this is a very special lady, Barbara Bush.

Her husband, George H.W. Bush, and Barbara Bush were not native Texans, but they got there as fast as they could. The President embraced Texas right off the bat. He became involved in the oil and gas industry, black gold, Texas tea in those days. His wife, Barbara, became the epitome of a Texas woman, a straight shooter, what you see is what you get; black, white, no gray; family, family, family; love, love, love.

I will share two stories about her and her husband that show how much they loved life and what a great sense of humor they both had.

First of all, in 2000, their oldest son, George W. Bush, was elected to become our 43rd President. Only two families in our country's history had a woman who had a husband and a son elected to the White House: the Adams family and the Bush family.

Remember all this controversy, hanging chads, Florida, Florida, Florida. They persevered, and George Bush was elected our President. Naturally, the reporters were excited. They approached our First Lady and said:

''Mrs. Bush, in your heart of hearts, your wildest dreams, did you think one of your sons could become our President, hold the same office that your husband had for 4 years?''

Barbara, being straight-talking Barbara, said, and I am paraphrasing: Yes, sir. My boys watched their dad achieve the highest office in the world. They knew what it took. It took determination, focus, friends, faith. My sons saw that in their father. They knew what it would take, and so, yes, I thought one of my sons could become our President.''

Of course, then she gave the coup de grace, the classic Barbara Bush. She said: ''I have to be honest with you, though. I thought it would be my smart son,'' meaning Jeb Bush, not George W.

That comment was done out of true love, and that is what Barbara Bush was all about.

One other story about the President and their family. President Bush, as he got older, loved to skydive, Bush 41. When he turned 90, he skydived in Kennebunkport. He had pretty bad Parkinson's. He couldn't walk. When he landed, he kind of fell over and did what is called a face-plant.

Friends up there told me that Barbara was on our President for days before the jump saying: ''Do not do this. You are 90 years old. Don't jump out of a plane.''

But President Bush had said, when he turned 85, he would do it when he was 90. He kept his word.

You see the video. Barbara came down there, hugged him, kissed him, picked him up, loved him.

Back at the house, it wasn't quite the same. Apparently, she said over and over: ''You old man. I told you not to jump out of a plane. Look at your face. Your face is all cut up. Never ever do this again. It won't happen.''

Of course, the President smiled and said, ''I love you,'' and then moved on.

The next story about their love, their true love, came from their photographer back home in Houston, Texas. This man has been with the family for at least 40 years. The Bushes come in there every year for a big camera shoot.

The photographer said: ''It is getting kind of tough. The President has bad Parkinson's. He can no longer stand. That means for these shots, I have to have him sit in his wheelchair.'' And he hates that chair. If that chair pops up in a picture, he tears the picture apart.

So how does he deal with that fact of our President's attitude with his wheelchair?

He turns to the First Lady, who is 90 years old, and works her hard. They have to have the same height differential. He is about 6 feet tall, she is somewhere around 5–7, 5–8. He is above her. So in the shots with him in that chair, she has to be below him. It means she is squatting down. She is 91 years old and squatting down for a picture, in picture after picture.

The photographer told me, ''I moved her up to the left, had her squat down, to the right, back, left, over and over and over,'' a true workout for any human being, but especially a woman who is 90 years old.

And then he started laughing and said, ''Our President and his wife are still in love.''

How did he know that? At least 10 times during the course of that shoot, as our First Lady walked in front of our President, she would stop and say, ''Stop that, George. Stop that. Stop that, George.''

We all know what President Bush was doing with his beloved wife: He was saying ''I love you'' in the way that only Naval aviators can say.

That love resulted in a marriage for 73 years. And while Barbara left us last week, that love is still going strong.

Barbara Bush, President George H.W. Bush, and the entire Bush family, on behalf of the 850,000 Texans I work for in Texas 22, thank you, thank you, thank you for your example, your life, your patriotism, your love, and your family.

The world is a better place because of Barbara Bush. God bless her.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CULBERSON. America is a far better place because Barbara Bush lived. She has been an inspiration to all of us.

George H.W. Bush has been a leader in Texas. He started out his career as the Harris County Republican Party chairman and was elected to Congress in 1966, and a new district was created on the west side, the Seventh District.

When George Bush came into this House Chamber, he was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee. He served on the Ways and Means Committee for two terms. Then he ran for the United States Senate in 1970, and he ran against Lloyd Benson in that race, and then he moved on to become the United Nations Ambassador.

Then George Bush's successor in Congress, Bill Archer, who was elected in 1970, went on to become chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Archer served there from 1970 to 2001, when it was my privilege to succeed Bill Archer. And I joined the Appropriations Committee. Right now, I chair a subcommittee.

The United States is very, very fortunate in that another Texan has stepped up to serve as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman KEVIN BRADY, who joins us here tonight. He represents the Woodlands and the Eighth Congressional District.

As chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, he just successfully passed the largest tax cut in American history, which is already doing remarkable things to rejuvenate the American economy and to restore immense prosperity to this Nation coast to coast, something that I know George and Barbara Bush are immensely proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY). We are honored to have him join us tonight in celebrating the life of Barbara Bush.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CULBERSON not just for his leadership of this special tribute to Barbara Bush, but for keeping the legacy of President Bush and the Bush family alive in the eastern region in the district that he represented.

Mr. CULBERSON has now worked his way up into such a key position for our region, our State, and our country, advancing space in such a major way for the world, in my view, and then leading the effort for Hurricane Harvey relief, a record $146 billion for Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Irma, and some of the wildfires in California, all of which are the largest amount of disaster recovery and really the first prevention funds to help rebuild the levees and the dams, and all that can prevent these floods. I thank the gentleman for his leadership in that.

□ 1915

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barbara Bush. Our country mourns the loss of a truly incomparable First Lady.

For many of us, Barbara Pierce Bush is the original ''thousand points of light'' by her urging, her applauding, and, at times, insisting that we should all live up to higher standards when it comes to family, honor, and duty.

Barbara Bush deserves to be honored because of her dedication to making our world a better place, specifically, through her work as an advocate for adult and child literacy. The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, the leading advocate for family literacy in America, will continue her great work to give children and parents the skills they need for a brighter future.

I had the honor of representing Texas A&M at College Station when the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library was dedicated. It is a remarkable library in so many ways, as is President Bush and the First Lady.

But it was, to me, remarkable how much time and access the President and Barbara Bush gave to the young people of College Station and the region, bringing in leaders from around the country and the world; having deep discussions about freedom, about faith, about family, about leadership and service, all the things that made the Bush family so special.

One time, early on a Saturday morning, I was driving up to College Station to interview our applicants for West Point and the Naval Academy and the Air Force and Merchant Marine. We were doing it at the Corps of Cadets Center at Texas A&M. It was really early on a Saturday morning.

So we were on 290, and I am not really paying attention. I look up and I see this bluish green car just up ahead of me, and I notice the license plate says: ''Read 1.'' I thought, Read 1; that is amazing.

So as we drive past her—I may have been pushing the speed limit a bit—I noticed that famous white hair, and it was Mrs. Bush driving up to the library on a Saturday morning for some work or the other, probably focused on family literacy.

The Bush family is simply adored in Texas, and especially in the Houston region, for so many reasons.

I had a chance, as Congressman CULBERSON talked about, to be able to follow on the Ways and Means Committee, the seat that President Bush once held, that Chairman Archer once held, and now that I have the privilege to hold. So I always feel like I have a duty to uphold his standards, his legacy, his commitment to honor and duty on our committee as well.

When I won the seat on the Ways and Means Committee, President Bush reached out to say: Congratulations. Come down and visit.

Then, when I was fortunate enough to succeed now Speaker PAUL RYAN to chair the committee, his office called again and said: Come down. The President wants to visit about Ways and Means issues.

So I got a chance to visit with Mrs. Bush and the President, my good friend Chase Untermeyer, and others. We talked about tax reform and trade issues and Social Security and Medicare. Mrs. Bush was in the thick of things in those discussions, and that is my last memory of being able to visit with her in person.

Anyone who didn't leave a conversation with her better than when you started probably wasn't paying attention to the conversation.

So we are blessed. It is a remarkable legacy she leaves for her family, for Texas, for the United States and, really, for the whole world. So, surely, Heaven rejoiced as Mrs. Bush joined her Saviour, pearls and all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for blessing us with such a remarkable woman with a remarkable life and a remarkable family.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a resolution honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush.

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush

Whereas Barbara Pierce was born on June 8, 1925, in New York City;

Whereas Barbara Pierce became engaged to George Herbert Walker Bush and, while awaiting his return from combat during World War II, supported the war effort by working at a nuts and bolts factory in Port Chester, New York;

Whereas Barbara Bush was married to President George H.W. Bush for 73 years, and together they had 2 daughters, 4 sons, 17 grandchildren, and 8 great-grand-children;

Whereas as Second Lady of the United States, Barbara Bush became a passionate champion for family literacy and published ''C. Fred's Story: A Dog's Life'', which raised $100,000 for Literacy Volunteers of America and Laubach Literacy Action;

Whereas, in January of 1983, Barbara Bush joined the board of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and worked with Dr. Louis Sullivan to help raise $10 million for the school's first capital campaign;

Whereas First Lady Barbara Bush founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy in 1989, and over the course of 30 years raised more than $110 million to support family literacy programs in every State across America;

Whereas while serving as First Lady, Barbara Bush visited facilities for AIDS victims and held infected babies and hugged adults, and in so doing, helped erase the stigma of that disease;

Whereas, in 1991, Barbara Bush and other advocates worked for the passage of the National Literacy Act of 1991, which created the National Institute for Literacy and permitted the use of libraries and other municipal property as evening literacy centers for adults;

Whereas after leaving the White House, Barbara Bush continued to support a broad range of important organizations and causes, including AmeriCares, the Mayo Clinic Foundation, the Leukemia Society of America, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Boys & Girls Club of America;

Whereas three primary schools and two middle schools in Texas have been named for Barbara Bush, along with an elementary school in Mesa, Arizona, the Barbara Bush Library in Harris County, Texas, and the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine;

Whereas Barbara Bush shares the rare distinction with Abigail Adams of being both a wife to, and mother of, a President of the United States, and is also the mother of a Governor of Florida and a Governor of Texas; and

Whereas Barbara Bush was a truly great American, First and Second Lady of the United States, literacy advocate, author, mother, and ''Ganny'': Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its sympathies to the family of Barbara Bush; and

(2) honors the life of First Lady Barbara Bush and her contribution to the United States of America.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, as George H.W. Bush's successor, representing the Seventh District, as I said, I succeeded Bill Archer, I am keenly aware as well every day that I have the privilege of representing the Seventh District, that I have an especially high standard to live up to, the Bush standard of absolutely impeccable integrity, honor, and consistency.

The Proverbs tell us that our greatest possession on Earth is our good name, worth more than all the gold and the silver in the world. And by that measure, the Bush family—Barbara Bush, George Bush, the entire Bush family—are the wealthiest people on Earth.

In a memoir that Barbara wrote in 1994, looking back on their 50-plus years of marriage, she wrote that George and she were ''the two luckiest people in the world.''

She said: ''And when all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family, and friends. We have been inordinately blessed, and we know that.''

According to their granddaughter, Jenna Bush Hager, Barbara and George gave thanks every night for their blessings and for each other in their prayers. Each night before bed, George H.W. still said, ''I love you, Barbie,'' to his wife, according to Jenna.

When the Bushes first came to Texas, they settled in west Texas and went into the oil business.

We are privileged tonight to be joined by the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the Congressman representing Midland and Odessa, the Bushes first home in Texas, the gentleman from west Texas, MIKE CONAWAY. We are delighted to have him with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to come down here tonight to speak about Barbara Bush and the Bush family. As my colleague said, I represent Midland and Odessa, two communities that are linked to the Bush legacy through their living in Odessa for a while, then moving to Midland.

George W. Bush and I were business partners in the oil business for about 5 years. So while I had limited or no direct contact with his mom, I got to see the product of her childrearing by working with him on a daily basis for 5 years.

Mrs. Bush brought to the table that incredibly terrific blend of being a woman who was strong but compassionate, loved her family, stunningly protective of her family, yet steel-willed when she needed to be; didn't suffer fools well when they were doing things that she didn't like, but did it with grace and dignity in ways that all of us should try to aspire to do it.

They do leave a legacy in Midland. Midland still considers them their First Family. We have a museum in Odessa commemorating their home from when they lived in Odessa. We also have the Bush home in Midland that has been turned into a museum, and we are working hard to get that moved over to the Parks and Recreation Department so that it can be properly maintained and as a good example.

But I don't have a lot to say tonight that has not already been said, other than the fact that I am honored to be able to say these things and to just say that all of us should aspire to have the kind of legacy that Barbara Bush has left. She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother. All of those things she did with incredible excellence and style.

But she was also her own woman and leaves that legacy as well, of what strong women can do; what they mean to the strength of a family; what they mean to a community that she lived in. Whether it was Midland or Houston or here in Washington, D.C., as First Lady, she did it the right way every time. And our Nation is better for having had her.

I suspect that Abigail Adams has welcomed her with open arms, as being the only two women to be the wife of one President and a mother of another, and that is a pretty select group that Mrs. Bush and Abigail Adams, both of whom have had great impacts on the legacy of this country.

Again, thank you, Barbara Bush, for all that you did. I know her family grieves, but it is a bittersweet grief, knowing that a life lived really well for 92 years is something to be very proud of.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CONAWAY very much for his comments.

When Barbara and George lived in the Midland-Odessa area early in their marriage is when they lost their daughter, Robin. It, of course, is an unimaginable and unbearable loss to lose a child. But Robin was carried away by leukemia, and the Bushes devoted much of their lives to raise money for leukemia research, to defeat that terrible disease, to raise awareness of the disease, to give hope to others; because when they lost Robin in 1953, there wasn't really anything the doctors could do.

It is a great tribute to them both that they were so heavily involved in helping to raise money for cancer research to fight leukemia through the Texas Medical Center. MD Anderson, one of the greatest cancer hospitals in the world, is located in the Texas Medical Center on the edge of my district, and it has been my privilege as the chairman of a subcommittee on Appropriations to spearhead record increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health to help fight childhood cancers like leukemia. The Bushes were an integral part of that. They have done immeasurable good in so many ways and touched so many lives and inspired so many people all over the United States and throughout Texas.

I know that all of us in the Texas delegation, all of us across the country, are praying for the Bush family and share in their grief. But we also have the sure knowledge that Barbara Bush is in a better place; that she has been reunited with her daughter, Robin, and that she was at peace.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored tonight to be joined by my colleague from Houston, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who joins us here tonight to pay tribute to the life of this remarkable and extraordinary First Lady, Barbara Bush.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Houston for yielding, and I would like to address all of us on the floor tonight as my fellow Texans. That was a favorite of George W. Bush, the son of Barbara Bush, when he would greet us during his Presidency, which I had the privilege of being here in the United States Congress, and he would always greet me as his fellow Texan, and how proud we are to be able to call President George H.W. Bush and the extended family, and his wonderful First Lady, the matriarch, the first girlfriend, if you will, and as has been told over and over during the time of her memorial, the first man that she kissed. How proud we are to call both of them our fellow Texans.

Now we are standing here today to mourn Barbara Pierce Bush. And as I do that, let me, first of all, acknowledge President George H.W. Bush, and wish him a speedy recovery for him to regain his strength; for all of us watched as he sat in the viewing of her repose on that Friday, as he came and sat and remained for a period of time to greet the many people that came to honor her during that viewing. I was one of those who had the privilege to go and to pay my respects on that day.

But again, they are one of America's greatest families, although Barbara Pierce Bush would never acknowledge that by her attitude or the way she addressed people. She was just Mrs. Barbara Bush, a very humble but strong and firm and straightforward First Lady.

Barbara Bush was a descendant of the 14th President of the United States, Franklin Pierce; the wife of the 41st, George Herbert Walker Bush; and the mother of the 43rd, George W. Bush.

Of course, she finds her place in history for many, many reasons; but, of course, we take note of the fact there was only one other woman who was both the wife and the mother of a President of the United States, Abigail Adams. So that is a very high-ranking and honorable place to be.

Barbara Bush, the widely admired and fiercely loyal wife, mother, and grandmother, was born in Rye, New York, but she got to Texas as soon as she could. She met a dashing young George Herbert Walker Bush in Greenwich, Connecticut, at a school dance when she was 16 and he was a year older. What an amazing story. In fact, what an amazing love story.

Three years later, Barbara Bush married her sweetheart, and their love lasted for 73 years. I remember, as we mourned her last weekend, over and over again, the commentators would say, 73 years of marriage. That, alone, is a historic tribute to integrity and the beauty and the love of both of them. And, of course, they were married until she departed in death.

George and Barbara raised their family from west Texas to Houston. Of course, we know that he was a war hero and a remarkable set of action that he saw in World War II, and a miraculous recovery from when his plane fell, and, as well, miraculous in the fact that he survived; but, more importantly, the actions that took place as he pursued the enemy. He truly was a hero as well.

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Barbara Bush was plainspoken, but she had that wonderful white hair, pearl necklace and earrings. And so many in Houston, on the day of both her funeral and as well the day that we viewed her remains at St. Martin's Episcopal, as she lied in repose, she was there, and we were wearing pearl necklaces and earrings, just to be able to say she is someone that we admired, not for those external things, but for the goodness of her heart.

She was an early supporter of the civil rights movement, the equal rights movement, and we repeated over and over again that very famous story of her going to an AIDS clinic and picking up a baby and hugging and touching those individuals who were HIV infected, to let the world know that they needed love and comfort, and that we needed to fight for the cure and to recognize the humanity of those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Certainly she loved literacy, and that became one of her major efforts, and that is where, during her time in Houston, I would see her—often with her son Neil Bush—efforts dealing with literacy.

Her work and dollars came to places way beyond where she might expect them. Certainly a lot of work on literacy was done in my congressional district.

Barbara Bush raised more than $1 billion for literacy and cancer charities. And as my colleague has indicated, it was both in tribute and in recognition of the devastation of childhood cancer, leukemia, which she lost her firstborn to.

Barbara Bush recognized that education was the key that unlocked the door of human potential, and so her foundation, again, as I indicated, focused on family literacy.

I have met people who, through her literacy program, were able to restore their lives and to secure employment because they were then able to move forward because they learned to read. And, unfortunately, they learned to read after they finished all of their education. She understood the value of that.

As they came back to Houston, we were delighted to call them Houstonians, and as well we recognize what a valuable couple they were to us. And anything you asked them to do, from being with the Texans and supporting them and rooting them on and being with the Astros or the Rockets or any of our teams or any of our universities or anything that was needed, they were there.

So I am always amazed at the breadth and depth of Barbara Bush; how many people she touched, how many people loved her, how many people stood in line just to pay their respects.

We know her book with her dog, Millie, and her puppies, written during her White House years, was a best seller, as were her other books. And all of it was donated to charity.

We also realize that as she and her husband ended their service—and, by the way, she was by his side for being the representative in China, for being the CIA director, for being the Congressperson that previously overlapped the 18th Congressional District. Many of my constituents were his constituents, and so we have had a full circle of their wonderful service to this Nation.

On a personal note, I want to offer my tribute from my husband, Dr.

Elwyn C. Lee, because as a young man growing up, it was the Bush family who helped him go to Andover and opened his eyes to go to the same school that Mr. Bush, H.W. Bush, went to, and his years of finishing high school.

We know that when we got married, we received a gift from the Bushes. We just couldn't even imagine it, that they would even remember us. We sent them an invitation, they remembered, and they provided us with a very special gift.

They are very, very special people, and I speak in present tense because her spirit continues to thrive, and we are reminded of the charity, the love, and the standard bearer that she was for what is great about America.

We know that she is survived by her husband, their children—George, Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy—and that, as has always been said, she will join her firstborn Robin at her final resting place.

It is important to pay tribute to such a wonderful American, such a wonderful woman, and to be able to thank her for teaching us and to remind us what is important in life, and it is family, friends, and faith.

Thank you, Mrs. Barbara Pierce Bush. May you rest in peace, but let it be known that we will never forget your spirit, your strength, and what you did for America, and you gave it to us straight: Family, friends, and faith.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Barbara Pierce Bush, the matriarch of one of America's great families, and former First Lady of the United States.

Barbara Bush was a descendant of the 14th President of the United States, Franklin Pierce; the wife of the 41st, George Herbert Walker Bush; and the mother of the 43rd, George W. Bush.

Barbara Bush, the widely admired and fiercely loyal wife, mother, and grandmother, was born June 8, 1925 in Rye, New York.

Barbara Pierce met the dashing young George Herbert Walker Bush in Greenwich, Connecticut at a school dance when she was 16 and he was a year older.

Three years late Barbara Pierce married her sweetheart and their love lasted for 73 years, until she was departed from her beloved by death.

George and Barbara raised their family mainly in West Texas, where they settled after the end of World War II and where the future President went into the oil business.

Barbara Bush was a plainspoken woman who was instantly recognizable with her signature white hair, pearl necklaces, and earrings.

Mrs. Bush was an early supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, Planned Parenthood, the Equal Rights Amendment, and was a tireless champion of many charitable causes, especially literacy.

Barbara Bush raised more than $1 billion for literacy and cancer charities.

Barbara Bush recognized that education was the key that unlocked the door of human potential.

Literacy was Barbara Bush's special cause, which led her to establish the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Shortly after the end of her husband's presidential administration, the Bush Family returned to Texas, and all Houstonians were lucky to call her and her husband, George H. W. Bush, the 41st president, our neighbors and dear friends.

Barbara Bush's books include an autobiography and one about post-White House life.

Her children's book about their dog, Millie, and her puppies written during her White House years was a best seller, as were her other books.

In 2001, when George W. Bush took office, Barbara Bush became the only woman in American history to live to see her husband and son elected president.

Barbara Bush lived a full life and will be remembered in American history, alongside only Abigail Adams, for the impact her life had on this country.

Barbara Bush is survived by her husband and their children George, Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy. She will join her first born, Robin at her final resting place.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Barbara Pierce Bush, the Former First Lady of the United States.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Houston for joining us tonight to honor the life of this great woman, Barbara Pierce Bush, who, as my colleague mentioned, was a national leader in literacy, focused her efforts as First Lady on building literacy in the United States, and, in fact, in a televised event, an event that really, I think, symbolizes who Barbara Bush was and how big her heart was and the way she treated everyone that she met.

It was an event celebrating the bicentennial of the Constitution where Barbara Bush met a man named J.T. Pace, who was a 63-year-old son of a sharecropper, who had only recently become literate and able to read.

And he was scheduled to read the Constitution's preamble out loud in front of a large audience, Barbara Bush instinctively understood that he was very, very nervous. She quietly slipped up alongside him and asked him if she could help him read it out loud while standing next to him.

Mr. Pace was very grateful and said, yes, of course. And soon they went up on stage together and began reading out loud the preamble of the Constitution.

As Barbara Bush detected that Mr. Pace became more comfortable in reading in public, she continued to lower her voice until only his voice could be heard. And he suddenly realized that he was reading the preamble to the Constitution in front of this huge audience on his own.

Well, it brought tears to his eyes because Barbara Bush had stood alongside him, understood his fear and anxiety, had lifted him up, and given him the confidence that he needed to complete the task, and allowed Mr. Pace to find his own voice.

She was an extraordinary woman, and I feel humbled every day to represent the Bushes, to be their Congressman, to follow in his footsteps, to follow in her footsteps, and to do my very best to live up to the very high standards that they set for all of us as Americans, and especially as public servants.

Every day that I have this privilege, I remember the standard that she set for all of us, the standards that she set for her family.

Her granddaughter, Jenna Bush Hager, explained why her Ganny was given the nickname ''The Enforcer.'' Jenna explained that there were a few simple rules that her grandmother followed: Treat everyone equally; don't look down on anyone; use your voice for good; and read all the great books.

Barbara loved her family more than anything else on Earth. As she liked to tell people repeatedly: In the end, when all the dust is settled, when all the crowds are gone, the things that matter most are faith, family, and friends.

She was abundantly blessed. In fact, her most prized possession was a painted cow, because when her husband, George, saw that Barbara had swooned over the painted cow statues installed around Houston in 2001, he decided to surprise her with one. But as the former President paced a warehouse full of colorful works of cows painted by local artists with his longtime chief of staff Gene Becker, President Bush could not decide which one his wife would like best.

So he bought a blank one, and, as he expected, Mrs. Bush turned it into a family art project.

They had the white cow placed on the lawn of the family seaside home in Kennebunkport, Maine, and in the years since, she and George had each of their 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 8-and-counting great-grandchildren decorate the cow with handprints and autographs, and it became her most prized possession because it symbolized their entire family and their deep bond of love and affection for each other.

Barbara Bush taught that humor, wit, and grace were the best accessories that a woman could wear. Jenna Bush Hager shared that her Ganny embodied uniqueness and authenticity, from her mismatched Keds, her pearl earrings, to her snow white hair.

Barbara Bush always stressed the importance of internal beauty because, as she said, your looks will fade, but your kind words and the way you make people feel will be remembered by people forever, and you are measured by the love of those around you and how you have loved them.

Her family members stated that she was the glue that held them all together. In a eulogy by her son Jeb, he stated that his mom was his first and most important teacher. She taught him to, ''sit up, look people in the eye, say please and thank you, quit whining and stop complaining, and eat your broccoli.''

The little things that she taught turned into bigger life lessons. ''Be

kind, always tell the truth, never discourage anyone. Serve others, treat everyone as you would want to be treated, and love your God with all your heart and all your soul.''

At Barbara's funeral, Jeb Bush told a story of the last time his mother was in the hospital. He said that his father, in Jeb's opinion, probably got sick on purpose just so he could go visit Barbara.

When George went into her room, he had a breathing mask over his face, a hospital gown. His hair was uncombed—in fact, standing straight up—and as he walked into Barbara's hospital room and held her hand, Barbara opened her eyes, took one look at him, and said, ''My God, George, you are devastatingly handsome.''

She kept her sense of humor and her perspective and her joy and love for her family right to the end.

When Jeb asked her how she felt about dying, Barbara stated that she knew that Jesus was her Lord and savior. She said she did not want to leave her husband, but she knew she would be in a beautiful place.

We know that Barbara is now reunited with her daughter Robin, who passed away when she was 3 due to leukemia. And as George W. Bush said at the end of his mother's life, although ''Laura, Barbara, Jenna, and I are sad, our souls are settled because we know hers was.''

We are all blessed as Americans, we are certainly blessed as Texans, as Houstonians, to be neighbors, to be friends, to have known this great good woman and this extraordinary family, the Bush family, that has exemplified everything that has made America great: integrity, duty, courage, commitment, self-reliance, religious faith, devotion to family, the benefits of hard work, and remembering that your good name is your most valuable possession worth more than all the gold and silver in the world.

And truly by that measure, the Bushes are the wealthiest people on Earth, and we are all so very fortunate to have known them, to have learned from them, to be inspired by them, as I continue to be every day as the Congressman from the Seventh District of Texas.

Every day that I represent this extraordinary district and these amazing people in Houston, who all stepped up and helped each other during Hurricane Harvey—and the Bushes were right there helping their neighbors and friends—every day that I have the privilege to represent this great city in this wonderful and amazing place, the Congress of the United States of America, I will always remember the standard of integrity that the Bush family left for me and for all of us. And I will work very, very hard to continue to make Barbara and George Bush and the Bush family and all Houstonians proud of my work on their behalf, because we are all abundantly blessed to have had Barbara Bush as First Lady, as a role model and a mentor, but we know that she is in a better place and is reunited with her daughter Robin. And as George W. said: We are all sad for the loss, but our souls are settled because we know hers was.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to honor former First Lady Barbara Bush—Barbara Bush had unparalleled style and grace. Not only was she our First Lady, but a fiercely loyal wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

As a fellow Texan, I am proud of her leadership for our country and her unparalleled commitment to childhood literacy. Her leadership while in the White House was impactful and her work for her foundation has helped countless children. I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Bush on a few occasions and am saddened to hear of her passing.

While she may no longer be here with us on earth, we can be certain she is with our Heavenly Father—her memory will continue to live in the hearts and minds of the American people.

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HONORING THE LIVES OF SERGEANT NOEL RAMIREZ AND DEPUTY TAYLOR LINDSEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening with a saddened heart to honor Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey of the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office, who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty on April 19, 2018, in a senseless, evil, and cowardly act, with complete disregard and respect for law enforcement officers and life itself.

While I no longer represent Gilchrist County here in Congress, my wife, Carolyn, and I operated two of our veterinary businesses there. It is the epitome of an idyllic American town that espouses the values of America, God, country, and family. Our thoughts are with the entire community as we recover from this tragedy.

Sergeant Ramirez was born on June 30, 1988, in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating high school in Puerto Rico with honors, he began his career in law enforcement.

During his service to the people of Gilchrist County, he played an active role in recruiting new members to the Gilchrist team to grow what he liked to call ''the family'' in the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office.

He was a medalist in the First Responder Games in both basketball and weight lifting, but more importantly than that, he was a loving and dedicated father and husband.

He is survived by his wife, Gigi; their two children, Noel Lito and Zoey; along with his parents and family.

Deputy Taylor Lindsey was born on June 30, 1992, in Gainesville, Florida, and graduated from Gainesville High School. Deputy Lindsey joined Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office in 2013, where he began his lifelong dream to be a law enforcement officer.

From a young age, he wanted to be a law enforcement officer, and he couldn't say ''patrol'' so he called it ''P-trol,'' and he went on to fulfill that dream. He worked there for 3 years.

While quiet at first, he was quick to laugh, and those who worked with him can tell you a favorite Taylor Lindsey story.

Deputy Lindsey is survived by his parents, his family, and his girlfriend, Kristin Hite.

John 15:13 reminds us there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for their friends. Both officers gave the ultimate sacrifice and epitomized the meaning of service before self. Our lives and our community, our State and, in fact, our Nation are better because of their service.

Rest easy, gentlemen. We now have your watch.

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

NUTRITION PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 30 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, the House Agriculture Committee marked up and approved H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

Along with the critical farm supports, the farm bill also authorizes and provides funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, and formerly called food stamps. SNAP is the primary Federal nutrition assistance program for those in need and ensures that no American goes hungry.

As a young, married man, I saw the value and the importance that a Federal nutrition program, such as SNAP, provided when times got tough. Coming from central Pennsylvania, I always say that the worst part of growing up in a rural area is that everyone knows your business. By the same token, the best thing about growing up in a rural area is that everyone knows your business. And when times get tough, neighbors always help neighbors in need.

And that is how I think about SNAP. No matter if you lived down the longest rural country lane or in the middle of New York City, SNAP is about neighbors helping neighbors.

Despite the rhetoric that has been espoused by some over the past few weeks and months about the nutrition title, I would like to discuss this important legislation, what H.R. 2 actually proposes to do to improve SNAP.

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture Committee has held 21 bipartisan hearings on SNAP, while hearing

from 81 witnesses. We have done our homework. We have heard directly from those who are impacted the most. We also had not one amendment from my Democratic colleagues to the Nutrition Title during the committee markup.

It is a sad legislative process when not only do critics dismiss the 21 hearings, but they also fail to engage in the constructive amendment process to improve the bill where they see shortcomings. Republican Members acted to improve this bill, introducing 20 amendments in committee.

Let me address work requirements and job training. And, clearly, I think we can all agree that putting individuals on a path to prosperity, helping them get better access to what I like to call skills-based education, is the best way to assist an individual, to assist a family to achieve food security. I am hard-pressed to find anyone who would disagree with that.

Much has been made by some about work requirements, though. These work requirements have been on the books as a part of SNAP and, previously, the Food Stamp program since 1971, even though some States chose to waive them for many able-bodied adults who did not have dependents at home. In other words, some States have been circumventing work requirements.

I like to say it as circumventing providing access to opportunity for the people who are the most vulnerable, the people who need it most, the people who are living under financial stress. Some States have been circumventing those work requirements for adults who are work capable and don't have children for years.

H.R. 2 strengthens and streamlines these work requirements for able-bodied adults. These folks are work capable. This bill also makes a historic investment into SNAP Employment and Training, and also an existing law, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, that this body, in a bipartisan manner a number of years ago, passed as a reauthorization to the Workforce Investment Act.

By coupling these work requirements with job training activities, we can encourage a pathway out of poverty and, quite frankly, a pathway to long-term self-reliance.

While education and training and the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act already exist, H.R. 2 provides States with a significant investment: tools and options to move people forward, to provide people an opportunity for upward mobility.

Upward mobility really is the American Dream. It is a dream of opportunity. And for too long, many have not had those tools within reach. H.R. 2 does some tremendous improvements to be able to restore that pathway to opportunity. For some people, it may be for the first time in their lifetime.

This isn't about burdening the States. It is about helping SNAP recipients. Those are people—our neighbors, our friends, our relatives—who are living in difficult, challenging financial times. Some of it is long term, may be living in poverty for generations—intergenerational poverty. But for many, it is short term, as a result of bad luck or bad planning. Whether it is unemployment or underemployment, these individuals deserve an opportunity to move forward and to move upwards.

It is about helping SNAP recipients climb the economic ladder and closing the skills gap. We know that the skills gap, Madam Speaker, is all too real for so many Americans who wake up in the morning and are wondering how they are going to make ends meet, how they are going to pay bills.

They see the job openings that are there, estimated to be close to 6 million today and growing, the number of jobs. I am not talking about jobs that require bachelor's degrees, 4 years, or 6 years, or anything like that. These are jobs that largely require skills-based education.

It may be a matter of supportive employment, which, by the way, H.R. 2 supports, where you can actually start earning a paycheck by going to work to be trained through apprenticeships, supportive employment. These are jobs that require maybe a certification, some experience or on-the-job training. All that can lead to pathways to greater opportunity.

It is about giving the opportunity to poor people, the people who are living in challenging financial circumstances, folks that you would consider poor. It gives them the opportunity that they deserve to achieve not just food security, but economic prosperity.

These new changes only apply to able-bodied adults who do not have children or dependents with disabilities. For children, it is for those under the age of 6. Therefore, the vast majority of SNAP recipients, children, the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women, or individuals with young children will not be impacted by these changes.

People ages 18 to 59 who are able-bodied deserve a pathway to upward mobility, Madam Speaker. We don't provide them that today. But with these changes with the farm bill, with H.R. 2, we give them that hope, and we give them a pathway to upward mobility.

There are challenges for different groups. We are talking about able-bodied folks who are ages 18 to 59. We all know folks who fall into that category. They may be family and friends and neighbors. Certainly, as Members of Congress, we all have constituents who have folks in those age groups that have fallen on hard times or are struggling financially, and they need food security. We provide that with H.R. 2, the farm bill 2018. But more importantly, we provide them a pathway to opportunity through providing better access to more effective education and training.

We recognize the challenges. For those who are 18 to 29, and especially depending on their life circumstances, you are just working your way into the workforce, it is extremely challenging, and there are issues that are out there that may have to do with transportation. That is a fairly frequent one with younger individuals. Certainly, the lack of work experience, of being able to leverage what skills they have are, unfortunately, impacted by what skills they don't have—that skills gap.

With what we do with this farm bill, we actually guarantee a training slot for each one of these individuals across the country, and we require case management. The case management that can be provided by those case managers helps people deal with those barriers that may be out there that stop people from making the most benefit out of the job training opportunities and the educational opportunities that will be provided.

We are not talking about creating any new bureaucracies. It is about working with any willing and able partner that is in this business today, all of those agencies—called One-Stop Centers or CareerLink offices under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act—that can help with this. It could be nonprofits.

One of my favorite nonprofits that does just tremendous workforce development is Goodwill. They provide case management, and they have helped—I think the last number I looked at in 2016, they assisted over 300,000 people, some of them with special needs, to be able to get the skills to be able to fill that skills gap.

And so we recognize the challenges of 18 to 29, but also let's look at the other end of the spectrum of folks whom we consider work capable, 50 to 59.

□ 2000

It is very difficult if you lose your job during that age group, for many reasons, to be able to break back into the workforce. Sometimes employers are just looking to hire folks a little younger who they can pay a lower rate, or are unable to pay for the wisdom and experience, unfortunately. I think investing in that wisdom and experience is a good investment for employers, but many can be reluctant to do that.

So we know that those individuals also need some extra help of breaking back into the workforce. This bill does that. This bill provides them that opportunity to have at least 20 hours of training a week. It also can be working 20 hours, and you wouldn't do the job training.

But for so many, helping them retool all that experience in that age group to be able to find a new opportunity, to be able to take all the experience that you have developed and break into that workforce, that group would benefit.

Madam Speaker, let me talk about categorical eligibility.

I know that some have also questioned the proposed changes to what is known as broad-based categorical eligibility. We actually eliminate that.

Under the current law, SNAP recipients are deemed eligible by qualifying for a noncash TANF or State-funded benefit. What does that mean?

Well, that means that if I hand you, literally, today—no matter what your income is, no matter what your assets are—if I hand you a brochure about SNAP benefits and you take that from me, that makes you SNAP eligible, even though your income may be very, very comfortable at supporting your needs and the needs of your family.

If I provide you information and you exercise that information to call a SNAP hotline, an 800 number, that makes you eligible for SNAP benefits, despite that your income might be very, very comfortable and well above the income requirements to be SNAP-eligible.

Why is that a problem?

Because every dollar that is utilized inappropriately—and that is what happens under those scenarios—takes food out of the mouth of people who are truly eligible, truly food insecure, truly hungry. We need to dedicate ourselves to making sure that every dollar is used appropriately.

We don't take all the efficiencies, certainly, out of the SNAP program. We actually retain two other categorical categories. One is based on cash assistance. But the bottom line, those other two categories, those two application processes, which are more efficient, absolutely—less paperwork, that is not a bad thing—but at the same time, we know that with these folks' incomes and assets, they are SNAP eligible. We know that they are truly experiencing food insecurity.

So, under this bill, categorical eligibility will remain for low-income households that are determined eligible for cash assistance or ongoing services such as child care, transit, counseling. They are still in place. They are a part of H.R. 2.

In short, SNAP recipients will continue to receive benefits as long as they meet the modernized asset test limits proposed in the bill. Those asset test limits, by the way, are modernized. They are brought into the 21st century. They have been around for decades, and they have prevented truly hungry people who are experiencing food insecurity from being eligible for SNAP benefits.

For the first time, we have changed that so the most vulnerable, actually, are able to save some money and have some money. We are not going to punish them for having up to $2,000 in savings. It is a big change.

In terms of total assets, in the past, if your assets were $3,000, you were eligible for SNAP. At $3,001, we take the rug and pull it right out from underneath you. We are going to take that to $7,000 and we are going to index it to inflation, Madam Speaker.

For those folks who have a person who is an older adult, elderly, or a disabled person with a disability in the household, we are going to take that from $5,000 to $12,000.

For people who are struggling financially, paycheck to paycheck, right now what our government does under the current SNAP program is if you have a vehicle that is worth $4,650 or less, you are eligible. If it is $4,651 in value, you are not eligible. We pull the rug right out from underneath you. We take that to a $12,000 value, in terms of vehicles.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of what we have done for the first time. Really since the Great Society created these poverty cliffs, where we fixed those. We have taken those poverty cliffs away. We have indexed them to the Consumer Price Index increases so that they reflect the realities of what people are struggling with financially. Without this farm bill, without H.R. 2, those poverty cliffs will continue, Madam Speaker. It is time to end the poverty cliffs.

Let me deal with reporting issues. The nutrition title has never been about money. In this whole process, we have never talked about the costs—we have looked at good policy—but, rather, providing good policy that provides the best food security for vulnerable individuals. That has been our goal, and that is what we have achieved with H.R. 2. The nutrition title has zero sum program funding, and the overall budget impact is neutral.

You hear all these outrageous claims. And I don't know where this political speak is coming from, although November is coming. Election time is bearing down upon us, I guess, because there are some in this Chamber for whom it is all politics now. They will throw hungry people under the bus for the purpose of politics in November.

We shouldn't do that, Madam Speaker. This is work that we all need to be very serious about. I recognize that every bill can be improved. I was very disappointed that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle here offered no amendments during the markup process, because I believe that they have got some great ideas. I would hope that they would work with us when we bring this to the floor in a couple of weeks. We will continue to refine this.

There were some ideas that were mentioned, but more came in the form of criticisms and complaints during the farm bill markup in committee. It would have been better if it had been put forward in serious thoughts as amendments. A number of them I would have supported. But we have opportunities to improve.

That said, to help with program integrity, there are also a number of proposals in the bill that will help combat waste and fraud.

Waste and fraud in this farm bill is estimated to be annually in the neighborhood of $700 million. Madam Speaker, do you know how many hungry children we could feed with that $700 million that is wasted or fraudulently taken and used by folks who aren't eligible for the program?

The impact that we could have with that $700 million would just be amazing, actually, and the amount of folks who are experiencing food insecurity could find food security and they could find greater opportunity as a result of that.

So the nutrition title does work to better serve eligible children and adults and older adults who are food insecure by making program integrity improvements to prevent as much fraud and abuse as possible. Fraud and abuse of any amount takes food support away from our most vulnerable citizens. Fraud and abuse, again, is estimated to be $700 million annually.

H.R. 2 addresses that. It incentivizes States, as they administer the SNAP program, to deal with it. All savings realized through the program integrity improvement are reinvested in nutrition title programs to better address food security. It is a win-win. Where States identify fraud and abuse, States will be able to retain 50 percent of the savings that they secure.

Let me be clear, though: we expect them to invest that within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, in order to further address the needs of their citizens in their States experiencing food insecurity.

Today, we heard firsthand details from local law enforcement about alarming fraud that occurred in Jacksonville, Florida, related to SNAP. Unacceptable. I am so thankful the law enforcement in Florida have identified that, made those arrests, and are prosecuting.

Between 2012 and 2017, there were some 22,000 fraudulent SNAP transactions that totaled some $3.7 million in taxpayer dollars. That is $3.7 million, Madam Speaker, that, if used appropriately and without fraud, would be able to meet the food insecurity needs of our citizens that are truly in need. They are at risk of hunger.

These individuals created nonexistent businesses and accepted EBT payments with no legitimate product in return. 198 individuals have been accused of selling EBT benefits. Those are the electronic benefit cards that we use with the SNAP program today. Even worse, a number of these transactions involved the purchase and exchange of illegal drugs.

Again, as a strong supporter of nutrition assistance and helping those who are truly in need, this kind of activity is entirely unacceptable. We take measures. We incentivize States to be able to identify, stop, and recover that waste, fraud, and abuse. Again, we have them retain 50 percent of what they are able to get, but we require them to invest that back into making sure the food insecure people in our country—men, women, and children—do not go hungry. This kind of activity is entirely unacceptable and only underscores the need for more accountability and modern reforms to the law.

Madam Speaker, if I could inquire as to how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, let me just deal with some of the rumor mongering that is happening within this Chamber.

One of the things I hear is that the nutrition title of the farm bill results in a significant number of individuals from receiving SNAP. Frankly, Madam Speaker, that is absolutely false. Actually, without this change, a significant number of families experiencing food insecurity will continue to not be eligible for the needed nutritional support they have, being food-insecure families.

The 2018 farm bill and nutrition title updates the archaic asset test that prevented hungry families from accessing SNAP for decades. In fact, Madam Speaker, many of these asset values have not been changed since the 1970s. We change them and we index them to inflation.

This update to the asset test will allow individuals and families experiencing food insecurity to have more in savings, assets, the value of their vehicle, without affecting their SNAP eligibility.

Additionally, for Active-Duty military households, SNAP's income determination will, for the first time, provide an exclusion of up to $500 monthly of their basic housing allowance.

We have a number of folks serving Active Duty who are military and joined late in life and came with a spouse and kids. It is very difficult for them to live on what the salary would be of an entry-level member of our military. This is the first time that we address that issue in this farm bill, H.R. 2, that will be on the House floor in a few weeks.

There is a criticism out there that the nutrition title creates an excessive and unneeded new government bureaucracy to implement the SNAP employment and training.

Madam Speaker, that is false. The farm bill nutrition title grants States the flexibility to provide services to best meet the needs of their State. While it provides an education and training slot for everyone who wants one, the States already have the springboard in place available through a combination of SNAP education and training, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and State programs.

Under this proposal, States are granted the flexibility needed to provide services that best meet the needs of their States. There is no one-size-fits-all mandate. SNAP education and training leverages willing and able partners—I have mentioned many of those already this evening—One-Stop CareerLinks, community colleges, State human resources service. Also, local, State, and national employers, where someone who is food insecure and living in poverty could have the access to be able to do an apprenticeship. They could go to work and be trained through this program.

□ 2015

Finally, Madam Speaker, there are some who have said that more than a million people will come off SNAP over the next 10 years. It has been presented as a negative thing. We are talking about folks who will be coming off because they have achieved greater opportunity.

We are talking about some folks who perhaps are on there just because they took a SNAP pamphlet or called an 800 number. And if those folks are truly eligible, they just need to do the application; they show the income; they meet the asset test; and they will have SNAP. Those families, those kids, will not come off SNAP. They will have the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Part of those, though, that I think the CBO talked about are folks who truly do have a higher income and are really not eligible for this program, and those folks will come off if they choose not to fill out the application or they fill out the application and they are not eligible. But many of that million-plus that CBO talked about that will be coming off SNAP, it is because they have gotten good jobs; it is because they have taken advantage of the education and training programs that we are now providing greater access to under this 2018 farm bill and, specifically, the Nutrition Title.

Helping our fellow citizens to be able to achieve greater opportunity, to achieve the American Dream, to prosper, to have a living wage, that is not a bad thing. That is something that we should celebrate.

Madam Speaker, we are going to bring this farm bill to the floor here in a couple of weeks. I hope all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will take the opportunity to read it, to actually see what is in it. I look forward to working with them to help in any way in terms of helping them with that process, and I look forward to successfully passing farm bill 2018 out of the House of Representatives in the weeks to come.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 27.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 447. An act to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 27, 2018, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

4689. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Joseph P. DiSalvo, United States Army, 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.

4690. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of 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.

4691. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Kenneth E. Tovo, United States Army, 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.

4692. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the National Defense Stockpile Annual Materials Plan for Fiscal Year 2019, and for the succeeding four years, FYs 2020-2023 pursuant to Sec. 11(b) of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act, 50 U.S.C. 98h-2(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4693. A letter from the Director, Division of Longshore & Harbor Workers' Compensation, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act: Maximum and Minimum Compensation Rates (RIN: 1240-AA06) received April 24, 2018, 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.

4694. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designed Facilities and Pollutants; North Dakota; Control of Emissions from Existing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units [EPA-R08-OAR-2017-0698; FRL-9976-58-Region 8] received April 25, 2018, 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.

4695. A letter from the Management Analyst, Office of the Comptroller, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates [Public Notice 9450] (RIN: 1400-AD71) received April 25, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4696. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the annual report pursuant to Sec. 2(9) of the Senate's Resolution of Advice and Consent to the Treaty with the United Kingdom Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Doc. 110-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4697. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2017 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4698. A letter from the Chief, Branch of DFS, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Black-Capped Vireo From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2016-0110; FXES11130900000 178 FF09E42000] (RIN: 1018-BB79) received April 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4699. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing Policy and Support, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Textual Descriptions of Critical Habitat Boundaries for Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Fishes, Clams, Snails, Arachnids, Crustaceans, and Insects [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0008; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA81) received April 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4700. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Fortieth Hart-Scott-Rodino Annual Report, pursuant to Sec. 7A of the Clayton Act, Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4701. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Rules of Practice for Protests and Appeals Regarding Eligibility for Inclusion in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Verification and Evaluation Database (RIN: 3245-AG87) received April 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

4702. A letter from the Reg. Dev. Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revise and Streamline VA Acquisition Regulation to Adhere to Federal Acquisition Regulation Principles (VAAR Case 2014-V001) (RIN: 2900-AP50) received April 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on 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:

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 4743. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115–655). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2121. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to revise regulations to specify that certain funds shall not be taken into account when calculating any supplementary leverage ratio for custodial banks, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 115–656). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5076. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to extend the examination cycle for certain insured depository institutions; with an amendment (Rept. 115–657). 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. BERA (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 5624. A bill to facilitate the efforts of States to establish auto-enrollment systems to enroll certain individuals in health insurance coverage, 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. BERA (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 5625. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to align open enrollment periods for Exchange plans with the deadline for filing Federal income tax returns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 5626. A bill to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 5627. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the environmental quality incentives program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 5628. A bill to establish a demonstration program under which the Drug Enforcement Administration provides grants to certain States to enable those States to increase participation in drug take-back programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 5629. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and Food Security Act of 1985 to enact reforms to farm subsidies and crop insurance called for in President Trump's budget for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 5630. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to clarify that an acquisition that tends to create a monopsony violates the Clayton Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 5631. A bill to prohibit employers from requiring employees to enter into covenants not to compete, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 5632. A bill to prohibit agreements between employers that directly restrict the current or future employment of any employee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 5633. A bill to repeal debt collection amendments made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GAETZ (for himself, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. HANDEL, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SOTO, Mr. POLIS, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 5634. A bill to increase the number of manufacturers registered under the Controlled Substances Act to manufacture cannabis for legitimate research purposes, to authorize health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide recommendations to veterans regarding participation in federally-approved cannabis clinical trials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 5635. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to impose restrictions under the Medicaid program with respect to opioid prescriptions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 5636. A bill to designate additions to the Flatside Wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. TURNER,

Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 5637. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the unlawful disposal of fetal remains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5638. A bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5639. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a grant program to make grants for the establishment or expansion of job training programs for communications tower service, construction, and maintenance; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5640. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program under such Act to serve whole milk; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 5641. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve health care in rural areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 5642. A bill to amend the Clayton Act with respect to mergers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN:

H.R. 5643. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from taking any action relating to the licensing, planning, development, or construction of a nuclear waste repository until the Director of the Office of Management and Budget submits to Congress a study on the economic viability and job-creating benefits of alternative uses of the Yucca Mountain site; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 5644. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H. Con. Res. 119. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 849. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Office of Technology Assessment should be reestablished; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H. Res. 850. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day, honoring workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace, and recognizing the importance of strengthening worker health and safety protections; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. POLIQUIN):

H. Res. 851. A resolution recognizing the Independent Transportation Network of America on the occasion of providing 1,000,000 rides to older and visually challenged people of the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 852. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 3, 2018, as a ''National Day of Reason'' and recognizing the importance of reason in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H. Res. 853. A resolution calling upon the people of the United States to recognize International Chart Day on April 26, 2018, in celebration of charts and infographics of all types; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SIRES, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Res. 854. A resolution affirming a commitment to elevate the voices, leadership, and needs of historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities in the effort to end sexual violence and support all survivors of sexual violence, including immigrant survivors, survivors with disabilities, survivors of color, survivors of child sexual abuse, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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. BERA:

H.R. 5624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 5625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 5626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 5629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 5631.

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 . . .''

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 5632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States, which states:

The Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 5633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 5634.

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. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 5635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 5636.

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 needfull rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Supreme Court's Commerce Clause precedents and under the Constitution's grants of powers to Congress under the Equal Protection, Due Process, and Enforcement Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 5639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 5640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 5641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. ROSEN:

H.R. 5643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 5644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 233: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 350: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 490: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 502: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 545: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 681: Ms. CHENEY.

H.R. 756: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 757: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 771: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 889: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 913: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1017: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1057: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1212: Mr. FASO and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1229: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. BASS, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1239: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1270: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1316: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1318: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 1405: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1406: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1438: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 1659: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1676: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1683: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1783: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1828: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1836: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1902: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 1972: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 2069: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2079: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 2150: Mr. COSTA, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.

H.R. 2152: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 2309: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2315: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2317: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. VELA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WALZ, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2319: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 2327: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 2345: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2351: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2392: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 2417: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2495: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2566: Mr. KHANNA, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POCAN, and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 2797: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 2856: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2886: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2920: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 2996: Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 3111: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3303: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 3331: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3378: Mr. BANKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3415: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 3545: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 3596: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 3605: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 3642: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 3645: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 3692: Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 3832: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 3875: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3894: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 3931: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 3980: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4098: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4099: Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MEEHAN, and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 4229: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 4265: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4379: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 4426: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 4505: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 4530: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4635: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BOST, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 4691: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 4693: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 4742: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4747: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 4800: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 4808: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4815: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. BASS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RICHMOND, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 4819: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 4825: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 4841: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 4846: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 4897: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 4916: Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 4953: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 5047: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 5121: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 5129: Ms. ESTY of Connecticut and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 5132: Mr. MESSER, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 5141: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BERA, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MESSER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. KINZINGER, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 5171: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 5191: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 5197: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 5199: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 5221: Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 5241: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 5244: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 5248: Mr. DUNN, Mr. YOHO, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 5282: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 5291: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 5292: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5329: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 5337: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 5339: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5353: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 5383: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 5385: Mr. EVANS and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 5414: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 5417: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 5510: Ms. NORTON and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5512: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 5517: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BACON, and Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 5526: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 5547: Mr. NUNES and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 5561: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 5572: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 5578: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 5593: Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 5606: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 5610: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 5612: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 13: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H. Res. 220: Mr. POE of Texas.

H. Res. 274: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H. Res. 307: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H. Res. 463: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H. Res. 763: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MAST, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Res. 774: Mr. STEWART and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H. Res. 789: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. EMMER.

H. Res. 825: Mr. RASKIN.

H. Res. 835: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 848: Mr. BERGMAN.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 No. 68

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who made the light to shine in the darkness, shine now in our hearts. Forgive us for our transgressions in thoughts, words, and deeds, as You cleanse us from all sin.

We thank You for Your many blessings, for music and laughter and poetry and color.

Lord, strengthen our Senators. Provide them with help in times of need, power for moments of weakness, and hope for the years to come. Lift our lawmakers above suspicion and fears so that they will be Your ambassadors of peace to our Nation and world.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS AND THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we confirmed yet another well-qualified nominee to the Federal bench. Now Kyle Duncan of Louisiana can get to work serving on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. His qualifications are truly impressive, but his sterling reputation among colleagues and peers was an even greater testament to Mr. Duncan's fitness. I am glad that the Fifth Circuit will benefit from his expertise.

Speaking of well-qualified nominees, the Senate will vote today on the President's choice for Secretary of State. We will consider an outstanding nominee. Fortunately, we have the votes, and later today we will confirm Mike Pompeo as our Nation's 70th Secretary of State.

We have been discussing Director Pompeo's abundant qualifications all week. In a little over a year, the Senate has had two opportunities to assess his considerable qualifications.

Last January, a bipartisan supermajority of us saw fit to confirm him as CIA Director, and his performance in that role—exemplary by all accounts—has given us even more compelling cause to confirm him to serve as our chief diplomat.

He has earned the trust and the confidence of the Commander in Chief by providing top-notch counsel on critical issues and helping to lead ongoing efforts to lay the groundwork for negotiations aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. Along the way, he deepened his reputation for fairness and discernment.

I am glad President Trump has nominated this distinguished leader to be America's chief diplomat, and I am glad a bipartisan majority of Senators will vote to confirm him today.

It is just too bad that Director Pompeo's confirmation process has offered such a prime example of the historic partisan obstruction that my colleagues across the aisle are visiting on the Senate. All fair observers agree that Mike is up to the job. Here is how the Washington Post—not known as a bastion of Republican thinking—titled their editorial, simply: ''Confirm Mike Pompeo.''

But despite all this, Democrats on the Foreign Relations Committee almost took the unprecedented step of voting him out with an unfavorable recommendation. That attempt to play politics with our Nation's security fortunately failed. But even so, according to the Senate Historian, he became just the second Secretary of State nominee in recent memory to clear a committee by a margin of only one vote. The only other time that has happened in all of the Senate's history was also at the hands of Senate Democrats during the Trump administration. Once they got here on the floor, they were also the only two Secretary of State nominees in history who needed cloture to receive confirmation votes.

Let me say that again. From the founding of the Republic until 2017, the Senate never required cloture to confirm a Secretary of State. Now we are at two, both in this administration. I guess Senate Democrats are in a history-making mood, because over the past 15 months, they have embarked on a partisan campaign to block, obstruct, and delay President Trump's nominees that is, quite simply, without precedent in American history.

Let's put things in perspective. In the first 2 years of the last 6 Presidencies combined—the first 2 years of the last 6 Presidencies combined—the Senate subjected nominees to a total of 24 cloture votes during the last 6 Presidencies during the first 2 years—24 cloture votes.

Add up President Carter's first 2 years, President Reagan's first 2 years, and so on, through Presidents Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Obama and there are 24 total cloture votes on nominees.

For President Trump? There are 88 and counting, just 15 months into his term. By the end of the day, it will be 90—90 cloture votes on nominees. This is partisan obstruction elevated to an art form, and every one of us has seen it firsthand.

It is not just high-profile nominations. Scores of unobjectionable choices for all kinds of posts have languished on the Senate calendar. It took

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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months and months and several deadly accidents to persuade Senate Democrats to stop obstructing a fully qualified nominee to lead the Federal Railroad Administration.

Or take the example of district court judges. With only one exception, we have had to file cloture on every single district court nominee. It doesn't matter if every Democrat on the Judiciary Committee supported the nominee. It doesn't matter if every Democrat in the whole Senate supports the nominee. No matter what, our colleagues across the aisle are insisting on obstruction, for no apparent reason.

Here are some of the final vote totals for these district judges: 96 to 1; 98 to 0; 97 to 3; 95 to 0; 96 to 0; 98 to 0, once again; 100 to 0.

Back in January, it took more than a week of the Senate's time to confirm four district court judges, and not one Senator voted no on any of them—a whole week to do four district judges, and not one Senator voted no on any of them.

Our problem is not the qualified personnel before us. Our problem is that nearly half of the Senate has decided that resisting for the sake of resistance is more politically advantageous than doing right by this institution or by our constituents. This, regrettably, is where we are: Democrats chewing up hours of Senate time on nominees that literally no Senator opposes.

I understand that my friends on the other side have a number of disagreements with the President. That tends to happen in politics, but that is no excuse at all for this historic obstruction of noncontroversial nominees. It is bad for the Senate. It is unfair to the American people.

That is why I support Senator LANKFORD's efforts to enact the very same rules change—the very same rules change—that a large and bipartisan majority agreed to back in 2013, when the Democrats were in the majority here in the Senate. It would empower the Senate to process nominations more quickly while preserving ample opportunity for debate. It is precisely the rules change that my friend the Democratic leader supported back in 2013. I joined in that bipartisan effort, along with a number of my fellow Republicans. It passed 78 to 16—78 to 16. The White House may have changed hands, but the last time I checked, fair is still fair, and common sense is still common sense.

So Senator LANKFORD is giving my Democratic colleagues their very own chance to show that principled convictions matter more than political convenience. I am proud to back his proposal. I am glad to see the Rules Committee advance it to the floor yesterday. There is no reason why every Senator shouldn't be able to join us.

Otherwise, until our Democratic colleagues put aside their historic obstruction, Republicans continue to do our duty and process the President's nominations, one way or the other. Let me repeat that. We are processing these nominations, one way or the other.

After Mike Pompeo, I filed cloture on Ric Grenell's nomination to serve as Ambassador to Germany. We will vote on this confirmation later this afternoon.

So why don't we turn over a new leaf together and start rebuilding the comity and customs that ought to define our work here.

Just yesterday, the Rules Committee held a very productive meeting that took a step in that direction. Colleagues from both sides of the aisle took a serious look at what we can do as a body to more efficiently fulfill our responsibilities in the appropriations process. That follows on a productive meeting I had with the Democratic leader, the Appropriations chairman, and the ranking member a few days ago.

So I am hopeful about the prospects of moving forward together. We need to keep this momentum going and extend it—not just to appropriations but to nominations. This Congress has already made great progress implementing a pro-growth, pro-opportunity agenda for the middle-class, including historic tax relief for families and small businesses, but there is a lot more to do.

That is how the Senate should be spending our time—exchanging ideas and fighting for the American public.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to complete my remarks on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, there is no excuse for the delays in the confirmation process except sheer partisanship. It amounts to an ongoing partial government shutdown, and it definitely hurts the American people. Such obstruction is not worthy of the Senate, and the resulting judicial vacancies do great harm to the judicial system.

These are not my words but the words of the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, when he chaired the Judiciary Committee in 2014. Judicial vacancies today are 60 percent higher than when he expressed those concerns back then. Vacancies are 52 percent higher than what he said was a ''disaster for our Nation's overburdened courts.''

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts labels some judicial vacancies as judicial emergencies because of their duration and impact on caseloads. On March 12, 2012, the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, said that 35 judicial emergency vacancies would cause the administration of justice to suffer at every level. Today, there are 72 judicial emergency vacancies, more than twice as many as Senator DURBIN warned about.

To be fair, I have to say that the leftwing groups that are such faithful allies of Senate Democrats are no better. In July 2012, for example, the Alliance for Justice proclaimed that 76 vacancies demonstrated ''an overall and ongoing vacancy crisis in the federal courts.'' Today, vacancies are 88 percent higher than the crisis level, and all we hear from the Alliance for Justice are calls to oppose and obstruct even more. Judicial vacancies today are 74 percent higher than when the Brennan Center for Justice said the Senate was not meeting its obligation to the American people.

If high judicial vacancies harm the judicial system and prevent Americans from seeking justice, why aren't Democrats and their leftwing allies leading the effort to confirm judicial nominees today? If Democrats once said that 79 vacancies constitutes a crisis, why are they silent about 143 vacancies today?

Today we face the highest judicial vacancy total since June of 1991, after Congress had created dozens of new judgeships. It is crystal clear why this dire situation confronts us today. The process for appointing Federal judges, after all, has only three steps: nomination by the President, consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a decision by the full Senate.

The first step in the judicial appointment process is Presidential nominations. President Trump has made more judicial nominations than his predecessors of both parties at this point, so he is not the problem—as you can see from that chart.

The second step is consideration by the Judiciary Committee. Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY has held a hearing on 75 of those nominations—more than under previous Presidents, so the Judiciary Committee is not the problem.

That leaves the third step right here on the Senate floor. Even though President Trump is ahead of the nomination

pace, and the Judiciary Committee is ahead of the hearing pace, the Senate's confirmation pace is half what it was at this point for the past five Presidents.

March 20, I spoke here about some of the below-the-radar obstruction tactics Democrats are using to make this part of the process as time-consuming and cumbersome as possible. Let me offer a brief review. Democrats once complained about U.S. district court nominees being reported from the Judiciary Committee on a party-line vote. That is happening at a rate of more than four times as great today.

Democrats once criticized the failure to cooperate in scheduling floor votes for judicial nominees. So far, Democrats have forced the Senate to take separate votes to end debate, called a cloture vote, on 96 percent—96 percent—of President Trump's judicial nominees. The Senate has been forced to take 16 times as many cloture votes on President Trump's judicial nominees as under the last 12 Presidents combined at this point. You heard me right. The Senate has been forced to take 16 times as many cloture votes on judicial nominees as under the last 12 Presidents combined at this point. That is every President since the cloture rule was first applied to nominations in 1949.

In 2014, with a Democratic President, Democrats said that every time the minority refuses to cooperate in scheduling confirmation votes, every time the majority leader is forced to initiate the cloture process, the Senate is forced to take up scarce floor time, when we know these nominees will be confirmed. Today, Democrats are using that and other tactics on a scale this body has never seen before.

Democrats once objected to voting against confirming U.S. district court nominees who were supported by their own two Senators. At this point, President Obama's confirmed district court nominees had received a total of zero negative votes—zero. President Trump's district court nominees have received 73 negative votes—73. Think about that. Think about the unfairness of it.

Each of these, and more besides, is a tactic that Democrats once condemned but are today pushing to record levels of obstruction. Even more important than seeing where we are and how we got here is understanding why the Democrats and their leftwing allies are working so hard to prevent President Trump from appointing judges.

I have served in this body and on the Judiciary Committee for nearly 42 years. I have participated in the confirmation of half of all article III judges who have ever served in this country, from the beginning. In all that time, the conflict over judicial appointments has never been over judicial nominees; it has always been over judicial power. The vacancy crisis we face today is a consequence of the broader, ongoing conflict over the kind of judge America needs on the bench.

America's Founders gave us a system of government that includes a judiciary with a role defined by three important principles. First, as Founder James Wilson put it, the people are masters of the government. Second, the Constitution is the primary way that the people set rules for government. Third, among those rules is the separation of powers into three coequal but different branches.

Judges acting consistent with these principles, what I have called impartial judges, fit the design of our system of government and the liberty it makes possible. Judges who depart from those principles, what I have called political judges, are at odds with that design and undermine our liberty. President Trump is committed to appointing impartial judges, while those working so hard to obstruct his his nominees favor political judges.

President Obama led the way in the quest for a political judiciary. First, as a Senator evaluating judicial nominees and then as a President choosing them, he said judges decide cases based on their empathy, their vision of how the world works, their core concerns, and their deeply held beliefs. If judges make decisions on their personal views, then it is no wonder the Democrats want so badly to know a judicial nominee's personal views.

I will never forget the confirmation hearing for Chief Justice John Roberts in 2005. Democrats pressed him to commit, in advance and under oath, to particular results in different categories of cases. They asked repeatedly: Whose side will you be on? Political judges take sides, even before cases come before them, because their main objective is to ensure that the favored side wins and that the preferred political interest is served.

We see this in plain view today. Democrats observe a judicial nominee's personal views, or his legal views on behalf of a client, and insist that those views will dictate his judicial views. This is why many Democrats will oppose any nominee who has conservative personal beliefs or who has advocated for conservative clients. To them, there is no difference between politics and law.

Democrats oppose judicial nominees because of their personal views, even when the American Bar Association—which has never been accused of being conservative—gives those nominees its highest rating. The appeals court nominee confirmed this week, for example, received that rating only after the ABA considered, in its words, his ''compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias, and commitment to equal justice under the law.''

In their heart of hearts, those who favor political judges have no problem with judicial minds being closed or biased so long as that leads to results they like. They seek politically correct results by any judicial means.

That judiciary is very different from the one contemplated by the Founders of this great country. That judiciary is very different from the one described by the oath of judicial office, by which a judge commits to do justice without respect to identities or interests. That judiciary is very different from the one that makes our liberty possible.

The liberty we enjoy is by design, not by accident. That design requires judges with a limited and defined role. Impartial judges support the liberty our system of government was designed to provide while political judges undermine it. Impartial judges take the law as it is and apply it fairly to decide cases, leaving decisions about what the law should be to the American people and their elected representatives. Political judges take decisions about what the law should be away from the American people, manipulating the meaning of statutes and the Constitution to follow their own views and their own agenda.

The conflict over judicial appointments is, and will remain, a conflict over judicial power and, therefore, a conflict over the system of government crafted by America's Founders. Remember the three principles I mentioned earlier. Impartial judges allow the American people to remain the masters of government; political judges become the masters of the people. Impartial judges follow the rules the American people put in the Constitution; political judges change the meaning of those rules to suit their own ends. Impartial judges respect the separation of powers while political judges breach it.

The unprecedented obstruction of judicial nominees today is a tool in the campaign for an increasingly politicized judiciary. The rhetoric of that campaign is all about desirable objectives, all about good intentions. I close with the words of Daniel Webster, who represented two different States in the House and represented Massachusetts in the Senate before serving as Secretary of State under three different precedents. He said:

> Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

That is Daniel Webster. Let me repeat that again because Webster is one of the greatest people who ever served in this government.

> Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

America needs impartial judges so that the American people can be the masters of government and so that liberty can thrive.

Let me go over that quote again from Daniel Webster. I will end with this.

Daniel Webster said:

Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

Some of those Founding Fathers really knew what they were talking about, and Webster was certainly one of them in many respects.

All I can say is that we have a chance to work together to do what is right and in the best interest of the American people. I intend to see that we do that, and I hope we can because this country is worth it. Our system of government is the best this world has ever seen, and I want to see it continue to be.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

SPECIAL COUNSEL LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I watched the President on TV this morning, and like most Americans, so many Americans, I was aghast. The President seems to live in an alternative reality. He says things that are patently false, and he thinks that just by saying them, they become true. With the number of 180-degree turns—direct contradictions to what he has said before—the name-calling, and blaming, if you watched the President this morning and the way he acted, it was so unbecoming of a President, unbecoming of a democracy.

We believe in truth. People may have different value systems, but to just make up things as he goes along and to, without blinking an eye, contradict things that he said that were exactly the opposite a few hours, a few days, a few weeks ago is not who any President of any party of any ideology should be.

What the President said this morning was embarrassing to America, to democracy, and to any American who prizes truth.

One of the things the President said this morning was that he has decided not to be involved in the Russia probe but may change his mind. That is why it is so good this morning that the Judiciary Committee is marking up bipartisan legislation that will protect Special Counsel Mueller from political interference.

From the very beginning, Special Counsel Mueller's investigation has been about following the facts of how a foreign, hostile power interfered with our free and fair elections—the wellspring of our democracy. That investigation must be allowed to proceed safely from the President's heavy hand. The President can't make this go away by name-calling. He can't dispute facts. He can't dispute the fact that Russia's interfering in our election is very dangerous and must be investigated no matter where it leads.

It is so abundantly clear from the President's remarks this morning and from so many other things he has said that he has little regard for the rule of law. He seems to have this view that the purpose of the Justice Department is to protect his interests and persecute his enemies. That is not a democracy. The purpose of the Justice Department is to defend the rule of law, and no man or woman is above the law. It is not, simply, to go after his friends. He is angry when the Justice Department does something he doesn't like even though it is following the law. Again, that is not the hallmark of our democracy.

I am so proud of our Judiciary Committee and Chairman GRASSLEY in their rising to the occasion—proposing and hopefully passing legislation that says we will protect the rule of law and that we will protect our democracy by not allowing the President to fire the special counsel at will because he simply doesn't like the results he comes up with.

Again, the Judiciary Committee, this morning, makes us proud. It rises to the occasion to tell the President that he cannot tamper with the very wellsprings of our democracy and that he will pay a bipartisan price if he does.

I particularly praise Chairman GRASSLEY. We have worked together on many things, and we have had our differences on many things, but this morning he is rising to the occasion. History regards such moments very favorably. I hope we will get a large vote this morning.

APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Madam President, while we are speaking about bipartisanship, there is another bit of good news. There are two shoots of bipartisanship springing up today—the Judiciary Committee's action on preventing the President from firing Mueller and an agreement between Senator SHELBY, Leader MCCONNELL, and me to try to begin moving appropriations bills the way we used to—in a bipartisan way.

We had a very good meeting yesterday in which we laid out the parameters of how to do this. We talked about not letting extraneous amendments disrupt the process. We talked about doing our job the way it used to be done—doing all of the appropriations bills this year and doing them in a bipartisan way, having the chairs and ranking members of the subcommittees work together to craft a bill that both sides can be happy with even though neither side will be happy with everything in it.

I hope that it moves forward. I pledge to the Members of this body and to the American people that I am committed to making that process move forward in a fair, bipartisan way and to trying to restore some of the semblance of bipartisanship that we used to have in this place and bring it back to actual action and reality, not just verbiage.

VA SECRETARY NOMINATION

Madam President, we just received word that the President's nominee to be the next Secretary of the VA has withdrawn his nomination. The allegations swirling around the nomination of Dr. Jackson were troubling and raised lots of questions, but the real blame here falls on the administration for once again being sloppy and careless in the vetting process. Dr. Jackson didn't go through a careful vetting. Some of these things might have been discovered beforehand, and he wouldn't have had to go through the process he went through.

The Veterans' Affairs Committee did the right thing. They didn't seek to go after Jackson; people came to them. When people come to them—particularly military folks—with serious and troubling allegations, they have an obligation to investigate. I salute Chairman ISAKSON and Ranking Member TESTER for pursuing those allegations.

Dr. Jackson went through a maelstrom, and he should tell his patient, I guess, the President, that he, the President, caused this problem by not properly vetting, by making these decisions on the fly, by making sure they don't count.

Our obligation above all is not to any one individual but to the millions of veterans in America. They deserve a department that treats them well. They deserve the best healthcare, and we need someone to run the VA who is up to the job.

I hope the President learns his lesson. I hope the next nominee is thoroughly vetted before he or she is sent to the Congress. Most of all, I hope our veterans can get the kind of leader they deserve.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, finally, on another matter—healthcare—next week, health insurance companies will begin to announce their initial proposed rates for 2019 in each State across the country. When they do, every American should remember that President Trump and congressional Republicans have spent the last 1½ years trying to sabotage our healthcare system in a way that would increase costs and decrease access to quality healthcare.

It is true that last summer the Senate Republican effort to repeal our current healthcare system and gut Medicaid—an effort that would have left tens of millions uninsured and raised costs on millions more—ended, thankfully for the American people, in failure.

Despite that legislative failure, President Trump, his administration, and congressional Republicans have

committed several other acts of sabotage—raising premiums and hurting healthcare—all, it seems to me, for a political vendetta.

For a long time, the President refused to guarantee that the administration will honor the cost-sharing program, which reduces premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for low-income Americans. He eventually canceled payments for that program, causing major uncertainty and confusion in the markets.

Then, Republicans repealed the healthcare coverage requirement as a part of their tax bill and put nothing in its place. The CBO projects that repealing the coverage requirement could cause rates to increase by as much as 10 percent and result in millions more people without insurance. So if you can't get insurance, Mr. or Mrs. American, or if your premiums are going up, you know who caused it—the President and congressional Republicans by sabotaging the law that a majority of Americans want to see stay on the books.

Making things worse, earlier this week, the comment period ended for a proposed Trump administration rule that is perhaps the most radical sabotage of our healthcare system yet—a rule that would expand the availability of junk insurance plans. These junk insurance plans would force higher premiums on people with preexisting conditions, impose an age tax on older Americans, and once again could subject Americans to the devastating effects of medical bankruptcy, which too many people go through now. Many plans might not cover essential services, such as prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health services.

Each of these actions taken by President Trump and Republicans in Congress will raise costs and reduce access. We are truly living under TrumpCare today, with no effort by the President or congressional Republicans to make it better.

Unfortunately, starting next week, the American people could well see the devastating consequences of 1½ years of healthcare sabotage reflected in the 2019 rates.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Finally, Madam President, I would like to add a word about an event taking place today in Montgomery, AL. Today in Montgomery, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, victims of lynching, and African Americans who have been victimized by White supremacy, will open its doors.

I read about the new memorial in the newspaper. It was touching. It was moving. So many innocent people were lynched for no reason—walking behind a White woman, other kinds of things like that. Having read and watched the accounts about the memorial, it will be a harrowing experience. Much like the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, it forces visitors to confront the human toll of racism, America's original sin. And it allows each county to get a replica of a list on a block—sort of like a tombstone—of who was lynched. So maybe those counties can look into their souls, too, and do better, as we all can, at trying to eliminate racism.

America's original sin is racism and the vast and terrible numbers of African Americans who were brutally murdered for simply being Black. This museum forces us, as Martin Luther King did, to look into the mirror and see what the country has done wrong and move to correct it.

I truly salute all the folks who put this wonderful, wonderful museum together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I would like to make a very short comment with regard to the distinguished minority leader's remarks this morning.

In the midst of his remarks, Mr. SCHUMER mentioned something that I think is terribly important. Yesterday, the Rules Committee—and the distinguished Senator used to be the chairman of the Rules Committee. I think I was ranking member at that particular time. He spoke of an agreement to move appropriations bills. I want to thank him for that, and also Senator DURBIN, who indicated that as of yesterday.

We did reach an agreement in a bipartisan way to do something about filing cloture 86 times and other things going on and reducing that time period. We will get to that.

The breakthrough could be an agreement that Mr. SCHUMER has agreed to with regard to appropriations bills. If we can do that, we might be able to get back to the regular order that both of us experienced when we first came to the Senate. Many Members here have not experienced that.

Mr. SCHUMER. The majority, I think.

Mr. ROBERTS. Yes. Consequently, I want to thank you for that. And I know Senator SHELBY is eager to do the 12 appropriations bills, and I know Senator DURBIN is as well. I think that one statement in the midst of your comments, sir, is terribly important, and I want people to be aware of it, and I thank you.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you. I appreciate very much the remarks of my friend from Kansas. I hope these sprouts of bipartisanship can grow into mighty oaks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I take this time because I know that shortly we are going to be voting on Mr. Pompeo's nomination as Secretary of State, and I want to explain to my colleagues why I cannot support his nomination.

As I said in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his nomination hearing, I appreciate Mr. Pompeo's public service throughout his career—his service in the military and his service in Congress and as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I also appreciate the fact that he is willing to serve our Nation in this most important post as Secretary of State.

In the United States, we urgently need a confirmed Secretary of State, but it is our responsibility in the U.S. Senate to advise and consent on the President's nominations and to act as an independent branch of government.

I must state that we are in this urgent need because of Mr. Trump's abrupt dismissal of our former Secretary of State in the midst of many international challenges. In my view, though, Mr. Pompeo is not the right person. I reached that conclusion by his actions and his rhetoric.

If Mr. Pompeo is confirmed, he will be the top diplomat for the United States. He must be an independent voice in the White House. I have questions as to whether he will be that independent voice. He needs to engage our allies. That is how our diplomacy works. He has to be the loudest voice for diplomacy in our national security, in the use of our tools, and the military needs to be a matter of last resort.

I was reminded of this challenge for America when President Macron addressed the joint session of Congress yesterday. President Macron pointed out that the United States established multinational world order in the aftermath of World War II, which is embodied in the transatlantic partnership, and we, the United States, must lead in order to preserve that national security blanket. So it is incumbent upon the Secretary of State to work with our allies—particularly our European allies but all of our allies.

As just one example, when I look at Mr. Pompeo's record in regard to the nuclear agreement with Iran, during that discussion as to whether we would have diplomacy, it was Mr. Pompeo who said that the solution rests with 2,000 sorties to destroy the Iran nuclear capacity. That is not diplomacy. That is not leading with diplomacy. Now he is espousing that, if necessary, we should pull out of the agreement if we can't change it, even though Iran is in compliance with the agreement. That is not diplomacy, and that is certainly not working with our European allies.

Yesterday, we heard President Macron assert that it is critically important that that agreement move forward if Iran is in compliance. Yes, we can build on it, but to walk away from it would be wrong.

Another example that gives me great concern is Mr. Pompeo's position in regard to the Paris climate talks. I know we all have different views about climate and what our individual policy should be in order to deal with the realities of climate change, but one thing should be clear: that we want to be in

the discussions with the international community.

In regard to Iran, Mr. Pompeo would isolate us from our European allies, but in regard to withdrawing from the Paris climate talks, he would isolate America from every other nation in the world. We would be the only nation not a part of that discussion. Let me remind my colleagues that the commitments made in Paris are only enforceable by us. There is no international enforcement mechanism.

Words matter. A top diplomat needs to engage a very diverse global community. Mr. Pompeo's words unfortunately make it very challenging for him to be able to have the confidence of the international community.

He associated American Muslims with terrorism by stating that their perceived silence in condemning attacks ''has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit.'' I know that after each of the horrible terrorist activities we have seen in America, Muslim leaders in Maryland and Muslim leaders around the world have stood up and said that they condemn in the strongest possible terms those terrorist acts.

That should have no space. Unfortunately, those types of comments give space to those who are promoting a form of nationalism that allows for hate-mongering, and that cannot be tolerated in our country.

The LGBTQ community is rightly concerned. I go to Mr. Pompeo citing verbatim the following passage from a sermon castrating members of the LGBTQ community.

> America has worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.

That type of language should have no place for someone who wants to be the top diplomat of America.

So I have come to the conclusion, based upon the necessity of the Secretary of State to engage the national community, to provide leadership and the use of diplomacy, that based upon those—my priorities, policy priorities, not politics or partisanship—that I cannot support Mr. Pompeo for Secretary of State.

I want to conclude with this. I have had the chance to lead the Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I have been a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee my entire 12 years in this institution. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and its leaders have had a long tradition of bipartisanship, of recognizing the independent role of the legislative branch and the critical role played by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and we are always stronger when we act in unity.

That is a tradition of our committee. I want to just point out that I don't question anyone's motives on how they vote on the nominee for the Secretary of State, but I have great confidence that we in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will continue the great tradition we have established as an independent voice and as a voice that tries to work in unity in the best interest of our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, it was an honor for me to speak in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this month in support of my Kansas friend and colleague, Mike Pompeo, as the President's nominee for Secretary of State. I come to the floor to urge all of my colleagues, despite the previous remarks, to vote in favor of this uniquely qualified nominee in such a vital role in our administration's Cabinet.

The point I would like to make, as we go into the very important topics we have to discuss on an international basis, is that we need Mike Pompeo, and we need him now.

As our Nation's most senior diplomat, Mike, I know, will be forthright, will be forceful and thoughtful and, yes, he will be diplomatic. He will give the President and the Congress very candid counsel. He is a man of his word.

Now, I say all of this because I think I, at least, have the credentials to know Mike and to know who he is and what he is about because I have known him for more than a decade, first as a friend and a business leader, then as a congressional colleague, and most recently as a leader of our intelligence community. We had some long talks before he accepted that offer by the President, and I thought he was very well suited.

Mike will represent American ideals and values backed by the strength of leadership of the free world—yes, the free world and the allies that have been referred to by my colleagues across the aisle. The point is, whenever there is a void, the world pays a price. That is why we need Mike, and that is why we need him now.

I am going to again urge all of my colleagues—all of those who voted in support of his intelligence post last year and those who now have the opportunity to support this extremely qualified candidate—to vote yes and to send our senior diplomat to work on the many challenges that face our Nation.

NOMINATIONS AND THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Madam President, now, let me talk a little bit about bipartisanship and what I have stated with regard to my friend and colleague, the minority leader. I have encouraging news. We met yesterday in the Rules Committee and voted to reduce postcloture debate from 30 hours to 8 hours for certain nominations. I am not sure we have the 60 votes to pass that, but it is something at least we are moving toward with regard to the problem of having 86 cloture votes and delaying the time; that is, 3 months, by the way, with regard to time lost that we could have been working on other issues.

We still have to consider this change to the rules on the Senate floor, but in the course of our debate, the minority whip, Senator DURBIN, who is an appropriator par excellence, has supported Chairman SHELBY's commitment to do all 12 appropriations bills—how long, how long, how long has it been since we have done appropriations bills and voted on amendments on appropriations bills?

The leadership has apparently decided to recommend that we actually return to being a Senate voting on amendments. Many Senators, as I said earlier, do not even know what it is like to serve in a functioning Senate. They hardly know what it is like to operate under regular order, where bills are referred to committee, amended, brought to the floor, debated, amended, and then passed when appropriations bills were on time. Goodness knows we need to get back to that.

Members of the Appropriations Committee, without this agreement—prior to this agreement—were standing on the sidelines, wounded cardinals, if you will, with a shrinking slice of the discretionary pie. So thank you to the minority whip and thank you to the leadership on both sides for our efforts to get back to regular order.

Now you can take one step further and vote for Mike Pompeo, a qualified and honorable candidate to serve as Secretary of State. Most of the statements I have heard—I have not paid too much attention to the colloquy on the floor or the statements on the floor—but people who have reservations have a ''while I'' speech: while I understand his qualifications, while I understand he has a great background, first in his class at West Point, and while I, and while I, and while I.

Then, there is the catch: But then, on the other hand, I have some concerns. Most of the concerns are in regard to whether Mike Pompeo can be diplomatic. I know him. He can be forceful—sometimes he can be a little stubborn, but he can be forceful. He is well qualified for the job and, yes, he can be diplomatic.

So I hope we can take this step toward a bipartisan Senate and take one further vote and vote for Mike Pompeo, who is certainly qualified. I say that because the cloth of comity in this Senate is pretty threadbare. We have a situation where we need to return to a sense of comity and at least some bipartisanship. Certainly, it would be also to set aside personal and partisan concerns and vote for Mr. Pompeo.

As I said again, we have a void right now. We have a good man to be Secretary of State. I urge my colleagues to vote yes, and let's put a few threads back into the cloth of comity in the Senate and recommit to being the world's greatest deliberative body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise to express my strong opposition to President Trump's nomination of Mike Pompeo to be the next Secretary of State. There are many reasons to oppose this nomination, but the main reason for me is pretty straightforward. Mike Pompeo is completely unfit to serve as America's chief diplomat.

During his time as a public servant, Mike Pompeo has embraced a variety of views that betray America's values. Whether it is his support for interrogation techniques that amount to torture, his preference for war over diplomatic solutions, or his hateful, blatantly discriminatory views about Muslim and LGBTQ Americans, Mike Pompeo's confirmation would degrade America's diplomacy and erode our moral standing on the world stage.

Let's start with his evolving position on torture. In 2014, then-Congressman Pompeo praised the interrogators who used torture as ''patriots'' and ''heroes,'' but when seeking confirmation to become CIA Director, Mr. Pompeo suddenly said he would ''always comply with the law'' prohibiting torture.

When asked if he would comply with a request from the President to use torture, he said he couldn't ''imagine being asked to do so.'' Never mind that as a candidate Donald Trump boasted about his desire to bring back waterboarding and ''a hell of a lot worse.'' In his later written answers, Mr. Pompeo suggested he could support bringing back waterboarding and other torture techniques if he thought they were necessary.

So, first, Mike Pompeo was for torture, but when he wanted to be CIA Director, he miraculously changed his position. Now he thinks the United States should reserve the right to torture people in the future. This position undermines our core values as Americans, and that alone should disqualify him from being America's Secretary of State, but there is more.

Mike Pompeo's hawkish views could quite literally lead us into another war. Just look at his views on Iran. The Iranian Government is a bad actor, no doubt about it. That is why the Iran nuclear deal was so important. It is easier to counter Iran's bad behavior if it has no nuclear weapons than it would be to keep Iran in check if it could threaten the region and threaten the world with a nuclear bomb.

The deal with Iran imposed strong limits and intrusive inspections on Iran's nuclear program so it cannot develop a nuclear weapon, and our intelligence community tells us it is working. That is very important to the security of our allies and the security of the whole world.

The Iran nuclear deal is a negotiated solution designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, and it was accomplished without resorting to military action. The deal is the product of putting diplomacy first. That is good for the security of the United States, good for our allies, and good for the world.

Mike Pompeo doesn't seem to understand that. He has called the Iran nuclear deal a ''surrender,'' and he has said the United States should walk away. Pompeo has even publicly contemplated regime change. How can we expect countries to trust America's word when our chief diplomat believes we have the right to break our word and violate international agreements at any moment?

Think for a minute about what it would mean for negotiating any deal with North Korea about their nuclear weapons if Mr. Pompeo is in charge. He said we can tear up our agreement with Iran, even though they have followed through on their part, just because Mr. Trump and Mr. Pompeo have decided they don't like it. Who would negotiate with a United States that has so little respect for the standing of its promises? I cannot in good faith vote in favor of Mr. Pompeo for the reasons I have outlined, but there is another reason I cannot vote for him, one that is deeply personal to me.

Shortly after the Boston Marathon attack, then-Congressman Pompeo accused Muslim leaders of being silent about the bombing and even said they were potentially complicit in the attack. After the marathon bombings, all of Boston grieved together, including our Muslim leaders. Our Muslim communities helped Massachusetts emerge stronger and more united. To suggest otherwise is insulting to the Boston Marathon bombing victims and to our Muslim American brothers and sisters. When he was shown to be wrong, Mike Pompeo refused to apologize. His comments were ignorant, offensive, and just plain wrong. They certainly aren't the words of someone who is fit to be America's chief diplomat.

But there is more. Mike Pompeo's longstanding attacks on the LGBTQ community also make him unfit to serve as Secretary of State. He supported legislation in Congress to allow States not to recognize equal marriage, and he relied on financial contributions from hateful groups like the Family Research Council. His public record paints a deeply disturbing world view.

The risk posed by this nomination is magnified because Mike Pompeo would be teaming up with John Bolton, President Trump's new National Security Advisor. John Bolton has never met a war he didn't like, and Mike Pompeo supported Bolton's disastrous Iraq War. Together, Mike Pompeo and John Bolton will fan the flames of war in President Trump's foreign policy because they both embrace military solutions first.

I hope that, if confirmed, Mr. Pompeo will take real steps to prioritize diplomacy, to improve morale at the State Department, and to fill key diplomatic positions that have been vacant for far too long. But at a time when we are facing enormous global challenges, the State Department needs a leader who will put diplomacy first to solve problems and to protect our national security. Mike Pompeo is not that leader. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally.

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise to oppose the nomination of CIA Director Mike Pompeo to be the Secretary of State.

I voted against confirming Mike Pompeo to be the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency because he lacked the experience and the qualifications for the position. His time at the CIA has done nothing to ensure me that he now has the capabilities to lead the State Department.

As a Member of the House of Representatives, Mike Pompeo made repeated discriminatory remarks about Muslim Americans. He has argued that the Muslim American leaders have a ''special obligation'' to denounce terrorist attacks, and he has falsely claimed that they have failed to do that. I am proud to represent dynamic Muslim and Arab-American communities in Michigan. I have seen that these patriotic communities are often the first to denounce senseless acts of violence that pervert the Islamic faith.

Mike Pompeo also has close ties to a group that is a Southern Poverty Law Center ''designated hate group'' because of its anti-Muslim rhetoric and conspiracy theories. I seriously question the judgment of an elected official who would work with such a group, and I do not believe it shows the type of character required in an individual who is nominated to be our country's top diplomat. How can someone with this attitude work effectively with our allies and partners in the Middle East? I don't think he can.

Mr. Pompeo has also supported bringing back waterboarding and other torture measures that do nothing to keep America safe and go against our Nation's core values. We now have a President who has said that he believes that torture ''absolutely'' works.

We can do better than this. America is better than this. I voted to ban the use of waterboarding and other so-called enhanced interrogation measures because they do not work, and in fact, they violate basic human rights, undermine our Nation's counterterrorism missions, and place our own servicemembers at risk.

Confirming a Secretary of State that has condoned torture is just another step in our Nation's current retreat from being what President Ronald Reagan called ''a shining city on the hill.''

I am concerned that Mike Pompeo will also continue the United States' retreat from a leadership role in addressing climate change—an existential moral and economic issue that will impact our planet for generations to come. Director Pompeo has criticized the Paris climate agreement and has

made statements that contradict the overwhelming scientific events on climate change.

Our Nation faces serious global challenges: Russian aggression, North Korea's nuclear weapons program, instability in the Middle East, and China's ongoing efforts to expand their power and influence. The world is looking to the United States for leadership. This is a time when skill and experienced diplomacy is essential to advance our interests and our values on the world stage. I do not believe that Director Pompeo has the necessary experience, diplomatic skills, and values required to be the Secretary of State. I will oppose his nomination this afternoon.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATION OF RICHARD GRENELL

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, in addition to the nomination of the Secretary of State, later today we are considering the nomination of Richard Grenell to be our Ambassador to Germany. I opposed Mr. Grenell's nomination in committee, and I will again oppose his nomination today.

If confirmed, Mr. Grenell will assume the post at a time of strain in the bilateral relationship since the election of President Trump, who has disagreed with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on several key issues.

Germany is one of our most critical partners and a key ally in upholding the post-World War II order responsible for securing peace and prosperity. Germany is a key NATO ally, serving with distinction and sacrifice in Afghanistan. Germany also serves on the frontlines of Europe against an aggressive Russia that is actively seeking to destabilize German democracy in the same way it does American democracy. Germany showed great humanity in accepting so many migrants when that crisis escalated in 2015.

This is a close ally for our security but, more importantly, an ally in championing the values we hold dear as a country. It would have been my hope and desire that for such an important ally as Germany, the President would have put forth a serious, credible, experienced diplomat who could strengthen our relationship with Germany. Instead, President Trump nominated Mr. Grenell.

In a few moments, I will read things that Mr. Grenell has tweeted in the past and that he continues to tweet, even as his nomination has been pending before this body. I do not savor having to read you these tweets because, frankly, I don't think they are suitable to have to say on the floor of the Senate.

But since the majority and the President have prioritized this nominee and the vote will occur a little later, the American people deserve to know exactly who the Trump administration wants to represent the United States to our great friend and ally Germany. So I will read a selection of Mr. Grenell's tweets for the RECORD:

''Did you notice that while Michelle Obama is working out on the Biggest Loser, she is sweating on the East Room's carpet?''

Rachel Maddow should ''take a breath and put on a necklace.''

He said this about Callista Gingrich: ''Callista stands there like she is wife #1.''

He said in another quote: ''Do you think Callista's hair snaps on?''

This is just a selection—just a selection. I chose not to read some that I consider the most insulting out of respect for this body.

These are not the words of a child or a teenager who does not understand the power of words; these are the words of a grown adult who had previously been a public face of the Bush administration for 8 years. Mr. Grenell's derogatory comments about women are simply unacceptable for anyone to make in public, let alone a diplomat.

I would go further. Not only do these tweets show bad judgment, they show us who Mr. Grenell really is and how comfortable he is publicly contributing his own brand of toxic political discourse. Will he do such things if he is confirmed and goes to Germany? Will he insult via his Twitter account the female Chancellor of Germany? I don't know. I hope not.

In the committee process of considering his nomination, Mr. Grenell was asked about these tweets and other comments he has made. Do you know what he said? He assured us that he understood there was a difference between being a private citizen and being a public figure and that he would never say or tweet such things as a public figure. So imagine our surprise when Mr. Grenell started tweeting again after he had been voted out of the committee. Astonishingly, he retweeted a WikiLeaks tweet which included documents stolen by Russian intelligence.

Madam President, the other nominee before us today, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, has called WikiLeaks ''a nonstate hostile intelligence service.'' That is what CIA Director Mike Pompeo called WikiLeaks—''a nonstate hostile intelligence service.'' He went on to say about WikiLeaks that it will ''take down America any way they can and find any willing partner to achieve that end.''

Imagine that. Amidst all the controversy about the connection between WikiLeaks and Russia and their interference in our 2016 election and while under consideration for an ambassadorship by this body, Mr. Grenell feels perfectly comfortable tweeting out emails stolen by Russian intelligence to interfere in our democratic process—basically, in essence, as Mike Pompeo describes, doing the work of Russian intelligence.

These are not the actions of a person with anything close to good judgment. These are not the actions of a diplomat. I urge my colleagues to reject sending Mr. Grenell to Germany as a U.N. Ambassador.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I did not vote for Rex Tillerson to be Secretary of State. Although Mr. Tillerson was a successful corporate executive, I did not believe that heading the world's largest oil company was the right resume for the Nation's top diplomat. Mr. Tillerson is a man of substantial intellect who wanted to do the right thing, but his record as Secretary of State speaks for itself. He did not do well, and the country, the State Department, and its employees—including some of our most experienced diplomats who felt they were no longer relevant—paid a substantial price.

For that reason, it is imperative that the next Secretary of State has the qualities and professional track record to restore the preeminent role that the Department has traditionally played in U.S. foreign policy.

It is also for that reason that today I intend to vote against the nomination of CIA Director Mike Pompeo to be Secretary of State.

By all accounts, Mr. Pompeo, like Mr. Tillerson, is a man of substantial intellect, and my conversations with him have seemed to confirm that. As we have learned, that alone is not enough to qualify one for a job that should be filled by someone who has proven that he or she understands and is skilled in the art of diplomacy and whose beliefs are consistent with fundamental American values. As the country's top diplomat, the Secretary of State should be a vocal and persuasive advocate for diplomacy to avoid conflict and crises. Unfortunately, I believe Mr. Pompeo's record falls far short.

Mike Pompeo has made no secret of his strong support for President Trump, whose saber rattling, provocations, and so-called America First policies would more accurately be described as ''America Alone.'' The President has called for drastic cuts in the State Department's budget and personnel that would sharply diminish its role in diplomacy and development. He would weaken international organizations and alliances that serve our interests and undermine U.S. global leadership at a time when China and our other competitors are seeking every opportunity to expand their global reach. Unlike Secretary of Defense Mattis who, in response to the White House's proposed cuts, has been a strong advocate for the State Department's mission and budget, I am not aware that Mr. Pompeo ever publicly expressed a view either way until his confirmation hearing.

Mr. Pompeo supported the invasion of Iraq, and he has defended the use of torture, two of the most profoundly misguided foreign policy decisions since the Vietnam war. As far as I know, it was not until this week, when his nomination was in jeopardy, that he said the Iraq war that he had long defended was a mistake, a mistake that claimed the lives of thousands of

American soldiers and sowed chaos in the Middle East. The fact that he has insisted that waterboarding is not torture and, by implication, acceptable should by itself be disqualifying for the job of Secretary of State.

He has supported keeping open the Guantanamo detention facility, arguing that detainees ''should stay right where they are'' and that the facility ''is the right place for [detainees] from both a security and legal perspective.'' That is as wrong as it is disturbing. The indefinite detention without trial of detainees at Guantanamo contradicts our most basic principles of justice, degrades our international standing, and harms our national security. Mr. Pompeo's position is particularly troubling, given the President's expressed intent to send new prisoners to Guantanamo for the first time in more than a decade.

Mr. Pompeo has opposed what he called the ''disastrous'' Iran nuclear agreement, and he appears to favor withdrawing from it despite the International Atomic Energy Agency's determination that Iran is in compliance and support for the agreement from a wide spectrum of diplomatic, scientific, and national security experts. As far as I am aware, he has offered no realistic alternative, and the consequence would be to isolate the United States from our closest allies and to risk Iran restarting its centrifuges and quickly obtaining a nuclear weapon.

During the negotiations to halt Iran's nuclear program, Mr. Pompeo supported military strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities, reportedly arguing that it would take ''under 2,000 sorties to destroy the Iranian nuclear capacity,'' which he described as ''not an insurmountable task for the coalition forces.'' It might not be insurmountable, except for the fact that it would be the end of the coalition since few, if any, of our partners would join us. Beyond that, the unilateral use of preemptive military force on that scale in a volatile region in which Russia has its own security interests could ignite a regional war with far-reaching, possibly catastrophic, consequences.

While the world's scientists overwhelmingly warn of the long-term dangers of climate change, Mr. Pompeo is an unabashed climate change sceptic. He has said that the Paris Climate Agreement, which is supported by practically every country including China, amounted to ''bowing down to radical environmentalists.'' That is extremist rhetoric about what many believe to be the most serious challenge facing our planet, a challenge that can only be met through diplomacy, and it belies a disturbing intolerance for opposing views.

Mr. Pompeo has accused American Muslim leaders of being ''potentially complicit'' in acts of terrorism that they do not specifically condemn. He has said that Muslims ''abhor Christians'' and that they ''will continue to press against us until we make sure that we pray and stand and fight and make sure that we know that Jesus Christ is our savior and is truly the only solution for our world.'' It would be hard to think of a more effective way to alienate the Muslim community, without whose help we cannot effectively counter violent extremism.

As a Member of Congress, Mr. Pompeo cosponsored legislation to ban all refugee admissions, regardless of country of origin, even though people seeking safety are already subjected to a rigorous vetting process. It should alarm each of us that the nominee to oversee the bureau charged with protecting refugees, migrants, and other vulnerable people uprooted by conflict—a tradition we take pride in—would take such a crass, ideological approach to our country's refugee admissions policies.

Mr. Pompeo has suggested that the Federal Government should collect records of American citizens' communications, without warrants and in bulk, and combine them with ''publicly available financial and lifestyle information into a comprehensive, searchable database.'' Think about that, at a time when the public is already outraged by Facebook's and Cambridge Analytica's misuse of personal data.

As a Member of Congress, Mr. Pompeo criticized President Obama for going to Cuba, accusing him of making ''unilateral concessions.'' It is true that the restoration of diplomatic relations with Cuba—which was overwhelmingly supported by the people of both countries—did not include an agreement by the Cuban Government to hold free and fair elections, nor to stop persecuting opponents of the government. No one who knows Cuba expected that. But if free and fair elections and respect for human rights are Mr. Pompeo's prerequisite for having an embassy and an ambassador in a foreign country, we will need to close a lot more embassies than the one in Havana.

We could begin with our embassies in China and Russia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt would be next, then Jordan and Morocco, Honduras, Vietnam—the list goes on. The fact is we need embassies staffed with qualified personnel, including in countries whose governments we disagree with, so our diplomats can work to protect our interests and the interests of Americans who travel, study, work, or serve there. That is diplomacy 101.

Mr. Pompeo opposes LGBT rights and has no record of defending civil society activists and independent journalists who risk their lives speaking out against corruption and abuses of human rights by foreign security forces, particularly in countries we consider friends or allies. He has also worked against women's reproductive rights, including cosponsoring radical legislation that would make abortion illegal nationwide, even in cases of rape. He voted to defund Planned Parenthood and for the ''global gag rule,'' which prevents foreign nongovernmental organizations from receiving U.S. funds if they use their own money to provide safe abortions or even information about abortion services in their country.

I take no pleasure in opposing Mr. Pompeo's nomination. I wish I could vote for him, as I am the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations. I strongly support the State Department, its mission, its personnel, and its programs. I have consistently defended its budget when others here or in the White House sought to cut it.

I am pleased that Mr. Pompeo has said he wants to fill the vacant senior leadership positions at the State Department and that he recognizes that the United States has a duty to ''lead the calls for democracy, prosperity, and human rights around the world.'' But his record in Congress and his staunchly ideological views raise grave concerns about the policy direction he would give to those senior leaders. Given his record and beliefs, there is little reason to believe that he will be an effective or consistent defender of democracy and human rights abroad, particularly in the face of President Trump's abandonment of those values and principles.

In many other respects, Mr. Pompeo's testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee had all the characteristics of a ''confirmation conversion,'' when he contradicted many of his previous statements and positions. As Senator MENENDEZ asked, Which Pompeo are we voting for? The job of Secretary of State is too important, especially with Donald Trump in the Oval Office, to roll the dice and discount everything Mr. Pompeo has said in the past.

If Mr. Pompeo is confirmed, as it appears he will be, I will make every effort to work with him to advance our foreign policy and national security interests, as I did with Secretary Tillerson after opposing his nomination, but given the impulsive and reckless statements and actions of this President and the upheaval at the State Department during the past year, we need a Secretary with the necessary temperament, values, and longstanding commitment to diplomacy and development. I hope he proves me wrong, but today I do not believe we have that in this nominee.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Mike Pompeo to be our next Secretary of State.

After considering his testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee, his work as Director of the CIA, and his record as a Congressman, I believe he doesn't possess the skillset necessary to be our country's top diplomat.

The Secretary of State must be well-versed in the art of diplomacy. They must possess a deft touch necessary to

operate on the world stage. Unfortunately, Mr. Pompeo's record and his rhetoric show how ill matched he is for this position.

Above all, I fear that he would only reinforce President Trump's worst impulses to lash out at our adversaries rather than pursue dogged diplomacy. This is particularly concerning when it comes to Iran. The Iran nuclear agreement is the strongest nonproliferation agreement ever negotiated. It blocks Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon, protecting our security and the security of our partners in the region. By all reports, it appears President Trump is set on walking away from the Iran nuclear agreement next month, even though Iran continues to abide by its strict terms.

If confirmed, I don't believe Mr. Pompeo would even try to walk the President back from that foolish decision. Instead, he would most likely feed the President's desire to leave, not because of its merits, but simply because it was negotiated by President Obama.

To be clear, if the United States abandons the agreement, we will do so on our own. Our international partners—including the United Kingdom, France and Germany—have said they will remain in the agreement so long as Iran complies with it. To date, the IAEA inspectors and our own intelligence community have all said that Iran remains in full compliance. When the nuclear agreement was signed, Iran was less than a year away from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Today, all of Iran's paths to a weapon—the plutonium, uranium and covert—are blocked. The fact that today Iran cannot obtain a nuclear bomb is in spite of Mr. Pompeo's efforts.

During the negotiations leading up to the agreement, then-Congressman Pompeo not only called for the United States to abandon diplomatic efforts, he encouraged us to attack Iran. He said, ''It is under 2,000 sorties to destroy the Iranian nuclear capacity. This is not an insurmountable task for the coalition forces.''

During his recent confirmation hearing, he was unable to source that claim or name which other nations would have joined our coalition. That is an especially perplexing position since our strongest allies were all negotiating alongside the United States at the time.

After the nuclear agreement came into effect, Mr. Pompeo continued his campaign by sending the Supreme Leader a highly provocative letter. He taunted Tehran, asking for a visa to inspect Iran's nuclear facilities, monitor their elections, and receive a briefing on their ballistic missile programs. His publicity stunt only served to further inflame tensions between our countries.

Finally, shortly after our elections and the day before he was nominated to be the Director of the CIA, he tweeted: ''I look forward to rolling back this disastrous deal with the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism.''

When asked about his position during his confirmation hearing, Mr. Pompeo instead simply discounted the real and dangerous possibility that Iran would restart its nuclear weapons program if we abandon the agreement. I see no reason to believe his misinformed views have changed in the past year.

As troubling as Mr. Pompeo's hostile view toward Iran is, I am equally concerned by his divisive remarks about minority groups within the United States. Following the Boston Marathon bombings, Mr. Pompeo falsely suggested Muslim Americans were complicit in the attacks. The following year, he characterized U.S. counterterrorism efforts as a struggle between Islam and Christianity.

After the Supreme Court's landmark ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, Mr. Pompeo said the court's opinion was a ''shocking abuse of power'' that ''flies in the face of . . . our Constitution.'' He has also claimed that the ''ideal'' family has a father and mother, a shockingly outdated view of families here in the United States and around the world.

Finally, the State Department plays a leading role in providing family planning assistance abroad. Under Mr. Pompeo, I fear the State Department will retreat from providing this vital assistance.

As a Member of the House, Mr. Pompeo repeatedly cosponsored legislation to limit a woman's right to choose. Specifically, he supported bills to make abortion illegal nationwide, even in the case of rape.

He also repeatedly supported the ''global gag rule,'' known as the Mexico City policy, which restricts U.S. funds to any foreign health clinic that provides abortion services, even if it is legal in that country.

All too often, rape is considered a weapon of war. Our global health programming should not be restricted in a manner that ignores this ugly reality.

The Secretary of State is charged with representing America's values to the world and must be committed to exhausting all means of diplomacy to avoid conflict. I don't believe Mr. Pompeo can do that and shouldn't be confirmed as Secretary of State.

Therefore, I will vote no, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I would like to address the nomination of Director Pompeo to be the next Secretary of State. I intend to vote against this nomination, and I would like to explain how I reached this conclusion.

This was a difficult decision. I supported Director Pompeo's nomination to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Director Pompeo is a talented individual who has spent his life in public service, but the job of Secretary of State requires different skill sets and experiences than that of Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As such, the Senate has a constitutional responsibility to review Director Pompeo's qualifications anew with respect to this specific nomination. As I indicated, the role of the Secretary of State is significantly different from that of the CIA Director. The question before us is whether Director Pompeo has the right background, judgment, and independence to faithfully execute the duties of America's top diplomat. Using those criteria, I have to oppose this nomination.

One of the first tasks for the next Secretary of State will be to rebuild the capabilities and morale of the Department of State. Over the last year and a half, the Department has struggled with widespread vacancies, drastic proposed budget cuts, a Foreign Service treated with contempt by the White House, and a failed reorganization effort under Secretary Tillerson. The result has been the hemorrhaging of decades of foreign policy expertise, the demoralization of those who continue to serve at State, and the marginalization of diplomacy as an instrument of national power.

I question whether Director Pompeo is right for the task of reversing the damage wrought at the State Department. During his time in the House, then-Congressman Pompeo was a staunch supporter of Tea Party proposals to slash the very State Department programs that are critical for advancing our foreign policy and national security interests. During his confirmation hearing earlier this month, Director Pompeo declared his commitment to end the ''demoralizing'' vacancies at the State Department and strengthen the diplomatic corps. Even if Director Pompeo has had a late conversion on the road to his nomination for Secretary of State, it is not clear whether he will be any more successful than Secretary Tillerson was in gaining White House approval for his desired candidates for senior positions or convincing this President to listen to the advice of our experts at Foggy Bottom.

My deeper concern is whether Director Pompeo is the right choice to carry out the Secretary of State's role as the lead advocate for diplomacy as a means of advancing our national interests.

The need for effective diplomacy to solve our most pressing security challenges has never been greater. Today's national security threats are complex, including the reemergence of near-peer competitors Russia and China who seek to undermine the rules-based international order, regional challenges from rogue regimes in North Korea and Iran, and the continuing threat from violent extremist groups that seek to exploit ungoverned spaces to spread their destructive ideologies. Such challenges to our national security require a comprehensive strategy that coordinates military and nonmilitary tools of national power.

I am concerned that President Trump's bellicose rhetoric and budgetary priorities indicate a predisposition for choosing military action over diplomatic solutions. Since September 11, we have asked our men and women in uniform to go above and beyond in addressing security and stability challenges globally, and they have responded magnificently. As we face expanding threats below the level of armed conflict and insecurity arising from regional destabilization, we need an increased focus on nonmilitary tools and diplomacy to prevent or mitigate these challenges. The next Secretary of State needs to be an effective counterpart for Defense Secretary Mattis in finding diplomatic solutions to the complex crises we face in Syria, the Middle East, North Africa, the South China Sea, and North Korea.

Based on his record, I am not convinced that Director Pompeo will serve as the strong voice for diplomacy that our military and our country need to counter these pressing threats. Time and again, Director Pompeo has chosen to reject negotiations and call for the use of force. His track record calls into question his ability to be an effective advocate for diplomatic solutions that are in U.S. national interests.

With regard to the nuclear deal with Iran, known as the joint comprehensive plan of action, or JCPOA, Director Pompeo has called for ''rolling back'' this multilateral agreement that was carefully negotiated alongside the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China. Director Pompeo's opposition to the Iran nuclear deal runs counter to views of Defense Secretary Mattis and most senior military leadership. As a congressman, Director Pompeo sought to undermine negotiations with Iran and advocated for military airstrikes to destroy its nuclear program. During his confirmation hearing, Director Pompeo indicated that he would not push back against President Trump's reckless impulse to withdraw from the JCPOA in mid-May, saying instead that he would ''recommend to the President that we do our level best to work with our allies to achieve a better outcome and a better deal.'' This response is in spite of the fact that, by all accounts, the JCPOA is working as intended and Iran is verifiably meeting its commitments under the deal.

Withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal would also have a profoundly harmful effect on our nuclear negotiations with North Korea. North Korea has little reason to engage with us in a serious dialogue if it suspects that we may later withdraw unilaterally from any agreement without cause. During the Trump administration, the risk of conflict with North Korea has increased to unprecedented levels, and the diplomatic preparations over the coming weeks will be critical to the success of President Trump's upcoming summit with the North Korean leader. However, should that summit fail to produce meaningful constraints on North Korea's nuclear ambitions, I am concerned that the administration will use this failure as a pretext for pivoting to a preemptive strike against North Korea, and I am not confident that Director Pompeo will be effective in urging restraint by President Trump in opposing military action while seeking to redouble efforts to find a negotiated solution.

Perhaps the most difficult role of any Secretary of State is being an independent voice willing to say no to the President. I recognize that some say that one of Director Pompeo's highest qualifications for Secretary of State is his close relationship with the President because foreign leaders will know that, when Director Pompeo speaks, he has the backing of President Trump. Director Pompeo's alleged ''rapport'' with President Trump raises concerns that he will only tell the President what the President wants to hear and will not provide objective, nuanced policy recommendations based on U.S. foreign policy interests. I believe we are already seeing this dynamic with respect to the JCPOA.

Unfortunately, we have seen this scenario before. Early in the George W. Bush administration, the President surrounded himself with like-minded advisers who were predisposed to distorting the intelligence on Iraq, and, as a result, they failed to present nuanced policy options on the march to war against Saddam Hussein. I am concerned that we will find, in hindsight, that Director Pompeo's closeness to President Trump will prove less an asset and more a shared blind spot that will lead to simplistic policy recommendations, an unwillingness to stand up to the President when he is wrong, and an indulgence of the President's impulsive preference for strategy-free displays of military force.

The President needs a top diplomat who will provide independent foreign policy recommendations, will press to exhaust all possible diplomatic avenues for the safety of our military and citizens, and will boldly represent our core American values. While I believe that Director Pompeo is an honorable and decent man, who has provided life-long service to our country, he is not the right nominee for Secretary of State at this time. As such, I will oppose Director Pompeo's nomination for Secretary of State.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the nomination of Mike Pompeo for Secretary of State.

After closely reviewing Mr. Pompeo's record and past statements, I have concluded that he is not the right person to serve as Secretary of State. While I respect him and will work closely with him, I cannot support his nomination.

The world continues to look to America for our leadership on diplomacy and bringing our allies together. That includes upholding international agreements, such as the Paris accord, which Mr. Pompeo has opposed. It also includes respect for people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds, and Mr. Pompeo's past statements about Muslims and immigrants greatly concern me.

While I voted in favor of confirming Mr. Pompeo to be the Director of the CIA and thank him for his service, Secretary of State is a different job with different responsibilities.

Thank you.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise in support of the President's nomination of Director Mike Pompeo to serve as Secretary of State.

Director Pompeo has a very long record of public service which has prepared him for this very important position. Let's start at the beginning.

Director Pompeo was top of his class at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and he served honorably in the U.S. Army. He is also a graduate of Harvard Law School. In Congress, Director Pompeo was a leader on issues of national security and foreign relations. Finally, and most recently, as Director of the CIA, Director Pompeo has been a successful leader of the world's best intelligence professionals who work to resolve some of our Nation's most sensitive and difficult problems.

I have heard on the floor of the Senate recently a number of my colleagues who have called into question whether he should serve as our Nation's top diplomat. He has served in the military. He has served as Director of the CIA. What I want to do is go back to the time he spent at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

I wish to remind the body that in the military, we serve in many missions, but one of them does include diplomacy. As the Presiding Officer understands, as military members—whether a marine or a soldier—oftentimes during conflicts you stand shoulder-to-shoulder with members of other countries. You must have an understanding of the cultural effects and the cultural differences between our nations, and you work to resolve problems. Whether with the indigenous population or whether it is within the military ranks, we serve as diplomats.

At West Point, I know Director Pompeo learned this lesson very well. Many of us—whether you go through a military academy or whether you are going through a Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at a university like I did at Iowa State—you learn about what we call the instruments of national power. Those instruments of national power are called DIME. It is an acronym, D-I-M-E.

D stands for diplomacy. We learn that, again, as members of the military and as officers in our Nation's military—so diplomacy. The I is information. The M, of course, is military and military action. The E stands for economic action, such as sanctions.

Within the realm of diplomacy, we are taught and we work with Ambassadors, and we work through Embassies. We are taught about the realm of negotiations and treaties and various policies that affect different nations around the globe. We are engaging in international forums. Again, working in the defense space, of course, we have many opportunities to engage with leaders from other countries. Diplomacy—it is the very basis of the instruments of national power that we all learn.

I know Director Pompeo, in his capacity—whether serving at the CIA or going back many years to when he served in the U.S. Army, quite admirably, or back at the Academy when he was first taught those instruments of national power, or DIME, that he is well-versed in working with many nations in very difficult circumstances. Again, Director Pompeo has a very long record of public service.

Director Pompeo also has had very strong relationships, and he values those relationships. His relationship with Secretary of Defense Mattis will prove invaluable as he works to ensure peace through strength. Additionally, I am confident he will inspire and lead the men and women of our State Department to achieve results for our Nation, and those results will be centered around diplomacy.

Director Pompeo understands the threats we face as a nation every day. During a time when the threats against the United States continue to grow around the globe, it is important—important—for President Trump to have his full diplomatic and national security team in place. We must do this. Diplomacy. Diplomacy.

Director Pompeo is also the right person to serve as our top diplomat. He will rise to meet the challenges and foster the relationships we need around the world to keep our Nation free, secure, and prosperous. Again, I go back to the instruments of national power: D-I-M-E. The first is always diplomacy. Director Pompeo understands, and I am glad that we as a body will be taking up his confirmation vote today.

I urge my colleagues to support this eminently qualified man as our next Secretary of State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING MATTHEW POLLARD

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to note the passing of, and acknowledgement of, the service of a valued member of the Intelligence Committee staff. On the evening of April 23, while attending a conference on behalf of the committee, Matthew Pollard lost his life to a heart attack. He was 52 years old. Matt is survived by his mother, three older sisters, and a young son Bradley, who was the cherished one.

Matt served honorably in the Army as an intelligence officer and twice deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from 2003 to 2004, and Operation Enduring Freedom, from 2009 to 2010.

Matt was smart. He was really smart. He held a master's degree in strategic intelligence and mechanical engineering and was close to completing his third master's degree.

Matt had one of those jobs, like many who serve on my committee, that you can't talk about very much. That silence did not accurately reflect the value he brought to the Intelligence Committee. He filled a critical role. He was the majority staff member responsible for conducting oversight over the Nation's overhead architecture. In layman's terms, he knew satellites. Matt knew a lot about satellites. He knew about what they were capable of and what they weren't capable of. He knew what they cost and, perhaps more importantly, what they should not have cost.

Matt also had the unique ability to explain the unexplainable, which, as many here know, is a rare skill. Matt had a mind and an eye for detail, both technical and budgetary. He prided himself in finding ways to cut the costs of those fantastically expensive programs.

On our committee, he had a discerning eye for calling out contractors when he saw deficiencies. Matt was good-natured with his colleagues in industry. He was tough, but those same colleagues loved him. Matt would half smile, half frown at a presentation, and you could see contractors lower their heads and shuffle their feet a little bit because they knew Matt was right. He was universally respected and liked by all who encountered him, whether they sat on the same side of the table or whether they were on the other side. When Matt passed away on Monday, word literally spread around the country in a matter of hours. His loss is devastating to many, including the committee, the members, and the staff.

Matt actually served twice on the staff of the Intelligence Committee. He began his first tour with us in March of 2002. That first tour lasted 11 years. Matt couldn't stay away from the Senate for long, though, and he gave in to tremendous pressure from the Appropriations Committee to join them, which he did in April of 2014.

Matt's drive to serve was strong. When I became chairman in January of 2015, I had one objective: persuading him to rejoin the Intelligence Committee, and it was one of my top priorities. I am eternally grateful that I was able to lure him away from the appropriators and know, without a doubt, he was one of the strongest members of the Intelligence Committee staff.

Matt studied. Matt inquired. He never backed down from a debate. Matt spoke his mind and spoke truth to power, and he did it often without bias. We loved him for all of it, and we will sorely miss Matt.

However, more importantly than the values he brought to the committee, to the U.S. Senate, and to the Intelligence Committee was how Matt conducted himself as a person and as a father. Matt loved his son Bradley. That is probably what I will remember most about Matt. Bradley was Matt's world—Boy Scouts, campouts, soccer games. If Bradley was involved, Matt was there. He was a great dad.

We weren't surprised when we heard that Matt recently misjudged the forecast. Despite wearing only a T-shirt and shorts in 40-degree temperatures and whipping winds, he cheered loudly as Bradley played his first soccer game. This is one small example of his devotion to Bradley, whom he proudly referred to as ''my boy.''

Bradley, I want to say thank you for sharing your father with us. We will forever be grateful.

Given Matt's hours and portfolio, he, like many of the staff, often worked on the weekends, and Bradley was a regular presence in the committee, on those weekends, in the committee space. He often could be found playing board games with kids of other staffers who were also working weekends and similarly engaged in finding a work-life balance.

Matt's devotion and generosity extended beyond Bradley. He was also known, on occasion, to lead many adventures around the Capitol. He would take him through the complex with small herds of children in tow so their parents could actually get some work done. Kids would come back full of stories with ''guess what we did'' to their parents.

We at the committee, and our sister committee on the House, will miss having the benefit of his wisdom and his experience. So, too, will those in the intelligence community who worked with Matt, to include the senior leadership at some of the most important agencies.

While the American people may have never known Matt by name, hopefully, this statement will give you some insight into his character and, more importantly, the contributions he made to our Nation's security. We will miss his expertise, his infectious sense of humor and, most importantly, his friendship.

Mr. President, before I yield, I would like to turn to Senator BLUNT.

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I certainly agree with and really understand and appreciate all the comments the chairman just made about

Matt Pollard. He was the person I worked most closely with in the intel community. He served his country his whole adult life. He loved his country. He loved his work. He understood the importance of protecting, advancing, and defending who we are.

The chairman pointed out his real dedication to his son. Often, Matt would come over to my office for a topline indication of what we were going to be doing when we got to the Intel Committee. Since you really can't talk about that until you get to the Intel Committee, a sure way to get a good conversation going was to say: Tell me about that son of yours. He would have chapter and verse of what had happened in the last few days of the things he was doing with Brad.

He was really appreciated by his coworkers. I talked to the Chaplain yesterday. He went to see our Intel team moments after they found out about the loss of Matt Pollard, and the Chaplain was impressed by the emotional sense of loss this whole team felt.

He knew more about his area of expertise than anybody on our staff. We will miss that, but we will mostly miss him. We are grateful for his service, grateful for his dedication to his country and his son and the future of both his country and his family.

I yield back to the chairman.

Mr. BURR. I thank my colleague Senator BLUNT.

Mr. President, we are saddened, but we are blessed. We are saddened at the loss, and we are blessed that we participated in a small part of Matt Pollard's life on Earth.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we are about to vote on cloture on the nomination for Secretary of State. I, once again, just to summarize, express my opposition to Mike Pompeo serving as this Nation's top diplomat.

As I said earlier this week in committee, I am genuinely disappointed to be casting a vote against the Secretary of State nominee. I believe the United States needs an effective leader on the global stage, but at the end of the day, as I considered Director Pompeo's nomination, including his hearing, his past statements, and recent revelations, I have lingering concerns, which I outlined in detail yesterday on the floor and will not go through in detail here again.

I do want to say, though, in listening to the remarks of some of my colleagues this week, I was struck by how easily some characterize legitimate concerns about a nominee as a purely partisan act. I was struck by suggestions that somehow Democrats obstructed this nomination.

Democrats on the Foreign Relations Committee agreed to every request of the chairman in the process of considering this nomination. We held hearings on the date the chairman requested. We held the business meeting to vote on the nomination on the date the chairman requested. We sent the nomination to the floor. Yesterday, we had an opportunity to debate the nomination on the Senate floor, and today we will vote. That is not obstruction. That is a fair and appropriate process—agreed on in a cooperative manner.

Democrats have worked with Republicans in a constructive manner to confirm a wide range of nominations. We voted for the President's nominees for Cabinet members. Nikki Haley was confirmed as the U.N. Ambassador, 96 to 4; John Kelly was confirmed as the Secretary of Homeland Security, 88 to 11; and Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan was confirmed, 94 to 6. This body confirmed Secretary of Defense Mattis by a vote of 98 to 1—98 to 1.

It seems Republicans complain about Democratic votes only when they don't get what they want. I would say it is the President who is politicizing many of these nominees by nominating people he must know cannot draw broad bipartisan support. There are many qualified candidates this President could have nominated for this critical position, whom I am sure my colleagues and I—as well as others—would have been happy to confirm.

Let me close by providing more actual facts. In the Senate Foreign Relations Committee alone, we have sent 86 nominees to the Senate floor, and 77 of them have been confirmed, mostly through unanimous consent. It is the Trump administration that has failed to keep pace on nominations. Of the 172 Senate-confirmed positions at the State Department, our Embassies, and USAID, the Trump administration has not nominated anyone to fill 76 of those vacancies. They include ambassadorial vacancies left unfilled, which include critical countries of great strategic importance like South Korea, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, South Africa, and Turkey.

The committee had agreed to hold a nomination hearing for three nominees just this past week, when the administration asked that the hearing be indefinitely postponed. Let us not forget that Republican leadership can bring up any nominee on the floor at any time they choose. This suggestion that not supporting a nominee you believe is unqualified is a purely partisan act is ridiculous, based upon the facts. What is partisan is to hold up a qualified nominee for Justice to the Supreme Court, like Merrick Garland for 295 days, without a hearing or even a vote. So please save me the sanctimonious voices of this question of partisanship.

It is the article I right of this body to vet nominees and cast the vote they think is correct. I believe strongly that the Congress plays a vital role in the check and balance of any executive branch, and I believe that regardless of who is sitting in the White House. That is what article I is all about.

I close simply by saying, we will continue working to advance those nominees who are qualified. We will continue to work with the chairman, as we have, and we will support those nominees who truly are qualified. Even if we do not agree, we certainly want to be of support in the mission to make sure America is safe and secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I thank the ranking member for, as he mentioned, allowing this process to go forward and for our being able to vote on this nominee today. I think all of us are aware that there is a NATO summit where foreign ministers are going to be present. Our passing him out today will allow Director Pompeo, Secretary of State Pompeo, to be a participant in a meeting that needs to take place. So I thank him for his cooperation and, certainly, for his point of view.

Let me offer a different point of view, though, as it relates to this nominee.

I think he is one of the most outstanding nominees we could have for this position. I did not know him well when the process began. I knew he had done a very good job as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Yet I have to tell you that through the process of his going through the confirmation hearings and the conversations we have had and the meetings we have had, I think he is going to be exemplary. Let me just go through his resume briefly as I know people are here, ready to vote.

He graduated first in his class at West Point. He served our Nation in uniform and patrolled the Iron Curtain. It was there that he learned about diplomacy and the effect that diplomacy can have on the world. What I have found from those individuals who have worn the uniform, from those people we hold on a pedestal like our Presiding Officer, is that they respect diplomacy more than most anyone else because they know it is the thing that keeps our men and women from being in harm's way. I know this nominee believes strongly in the role of diplomacy and has seen it in action firsthand on the ground.

After serving in the military, he graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was the editor of the Harvard Law Review. He then founded his own company, acting as the CEO. He became the president of another company after that. So he has served in the private sector. He was elected four times in Kansas to represent the Fourth District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Let me just say this. Sometimes people say things when they are in public office and when they are running campaigns, and I know something has been said about that. I will say we confirmed Secretary Kerry and Secretary Clinton by 94 votes, and I can assure you that during their campaigns, they may have said some things that Republicans didn't particularly care for. Yet

we went ahead and confirmed them with 94 votes on the floor.

For the last 15 months, he has served our Nation as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I think everyone knows how he has run that Agency, and I think everyone knows the culture that he has built there. Right now, the State Department has a terrible culture. The morale is terrible. As my friend the ranking member mentioned, a lot of positions have not been filled, but they also feel like they have not had a leader in some time who has really stood behind them and raised them up in order to leverage our diplomatic efforts around the world. I believe this particular nominee will be excellently suited for that. He has demonstrated that at the CIA.

I strongly support his nomination. With that, I look forward to the vote. I look forward to his serving our Nation. I don't know of a person in the United States of America who could have more current knowledge about what is happening around the world in his current role. As we know, he has already met with the North Koreans. We have known for some time that the CIA has been our contact, our back channel, with the North Koreans. He is the perfect person to come in at this time and lead those efforts diplomatically.

I yield the floor.

I also yield back any remaining time.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Todd Young, John Cornyn, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, James M. Inhofe, Thom Tillis, Bob Corker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 83 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alexander	Gardner	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Nelson
Boozman	Hatch	Paul
Burr	Heitkamp	Perdue
Capito	Heller	Portman
Cassidy	Hoeven	Risch
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Corker	Inhofe	Rounds
Cornyn	Isakson	Rubio
Cotton	Johnson	Sasse
Crapo	Jones	Scott
Cruz	Kennedy	Shelby
Daines	King	Sullivan
Donnelly	Lankford	Thune
Enzi	Lee	Tillis
Ernst	Manchin	Toomey
Fischer	McCaskill	Wicker
Flake	McConnell	Young

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hassan	Schatz
Booker	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kaine	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pompeo nomination?

Mr. HATCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 84 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alexander	Gardner	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Nelson
Boozman	Hatch	Paul
Burr	Heitkamp	Perdue
Capito	Heller	Portman
Cassidy	Hoeven	Risch
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Corker	Inhofe	Rounds
Cornyn	Isakson	Rubio
Cotton	Johnson	Sasse
Crapo	Jones	Scott
Cruz	Kennedy	Shelby
Daines	King	Sullivan
Donnelly	Lankford	Thune
Enzi	Lee	Tillis
Ernst	Manchin	Toomey
Fischer	McCaskill	Wicker
Flake	McConnell	Young

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hassan	Schatz
Booker	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kaine	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Grenell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the Grenell nomination be withdrawn; that the time until 1:45 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form; and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the time until 1:45 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The majority whip.

CONFIRMATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we have just voted to confirm Mike Pompeo to be the next Secretary of State for the United States—an essential member of the President's Cabinet.

There has been a tradition of sorts in this deliberative body to give some deference to the President on his pick for chief diplomat, recognizing that foreign governments view the chief diplomat or Secretary of State as being the personal representative of the President himself, the thought being that whoever wins the election deserves the ability to assemble their own team and build a Cabinet with top brass whom he respects and can work

well with. That is how the system has worked. The party that lost the election accepted Cabinet nominees—absent some glaring or egregious reason not to—and agreed to leave ongoing political battles for another day.

This is not just some ancient history, by the way. In fact, this week I have discussed at length many modern-day instances of it. For example, Condoleezza Rice passed with 85 votes. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton passed with 94 votes. Secretary Colin Powell sailed through the process, needing only a voice vote—not even a rollcall vote—to be confirmed.

All of these men and women were confirmed because all of them had the qualifications to do the job, and so does Mike Pompeo. It is absolutely clear that he has both the credentials and the character required to be a successful Secretary of State. I won't recite all the lines of his stellar résumé because you have heard them before, and we have just confirmed him.

The point is simply that the man has what it takes for the job. That is why the ''no'' votes by our Democratic colleagues rang so hollow. All of their statements have been lacking in any real, substantive critique. It is clear that their ''no'' vote is primarily a way to lash out at President Trump because anybody President Trump chooses, they instinctively and reflexively oppose. It was disappointing, but in today's environment, it is not all that surprising.

Their obstruction was not only a sad break from the tradition that I mentioned a moment ago but was also a sorry continuation of the hyperpartisanship that they have been engaging in with so many of the President's Cabinet nominees since he took office. Not long ago, Mike Pompeo was one of the exceptions. Fourteen Democrats and one Independent supported his confirmation as CIA Director. Yet now, 1 year later, after his unblemished service as CIA Director, only three are voicing their support for him. Nothing has changed about the man, about Mike Pompeo himself, but everything has changed about the way Democrats view their responsibility in this Chamber, not just to their constituents but to the Senate as a whole. What has changed is their disdain for the President himself. It has grown, and they have decided to take it out on his nominees, which is unfair, of course, but it is also unwise. Any frustration they have is all the more reason why they should support a man like Mike Pompeo, who throughout his career has shown his capacity to exercise good judgment. He is no mere lackey or political shill—anyone would tell you that—and his experiences speak for themselves in that regard.

The worst part of this whole debacle is that those who have suffered the most while we get our act together are the American people. They are aware—more so, maybe, than some of us—of what is happening across the world: threats posed by Russia, China, and North Korea, the unravelling of Syria. They are right to wonder why in the world the Senate would dawdle and politicize the confirmation of a well-qualified person and leave the rest of the world in doubt as to who is going to be representing us as our diplomat in chief. The American people understand how precarious our situation is in North Korea, which Admiral Harris of the U.S. Pacific Command has called ''the greatest threat we face.'' This is not a time for partisanship, for hyperpartisanship, or for voting reflexively against everybody the President has proposed as a nominee.

The next Secretary of State will play a vital role in the negotiations with North Korea. In fact, as we now know, Mike Pompeo has already taken the initial steps, laying the groundwork and the foundation for what we all hope will be a successful negotiation on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Those are some of the reasons I strongly supported Mike Pompeo's nomination to lead the State Department, and I hope our colleagues will somehow find a way to overcome this reflexive opposition to everything the President has proposed and their hyperpartisan response every time the President proposes either a nominee or some policy provision.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

DARK MONEY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, if I told you that a cabal of wealthy elites and special interests were spinning a web of deceit to lie to the American people and to rig the levers of power in their favor, you would think I was talking about the plot of some movie, some TV show, or some novel. But, as Senator WHITEHOUSE and several of our colleagues have come to the floor to demonstrate this past week, this isn't about the plot of a movie; this is real life that it is happening here right now, and it is important that we as Americans and we as Members of the Senate face it squarely and understand how this manipulation is being designed to take our ''we the people'' Constitution and turn it on its head—turn it into a government of, by, and for the powerful rather than of, by, and for the people.

Today, I am going to share with you a little bit of information about one piece of this web of deceit, and that is the Heritage Foundation. It is a well-known name here in Washington after decades of engaging in a mission of formulating and promoting rightwing public policies. People hear ''Heritage Foundation,'' and they know what it is.

As Jane Mayer writes in her book ''Dark Money,'' it was created to be ''purposefully political, priding itself on creating, selling, and injecting conservative ideas into the American mainstream.'' Well, that is a more complicated way of saying that it was created to be an advocate for the fossil fuel industry and to mislead Americans in every possible way in order for them to continue their deeply damaging and polluting ways. Ms. Mayer goes on to describe the organization as a ''political weapon'' disguised as a think tank, and that pretty much sums it up.

One of the organization's founders, Paul Weyrich, once said about solidifying power for the biggest corporations and wealthiest Americans:

> I don't want everybody to vote. . . . As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting populace goes down.''

Thus there is this intense support to engage in voter suppression. If you are a red-blooded American, you believe in the vision of voter empowerment, not voter suppression. So that says a lot about what this organization is all about. It is not we the people, it is not voters empowerment but rigging this Nation and this process for the powerful and the privileged.

The papers, reports, and journals that come from the Heritage Foundation work to muddy the water on established science. I did find it interesting that every now and then they promote an idea that actually makes some sense. Back in 1989 they promoted, in a publication entitled ''Ensuring Affordable Healthcare for all Americans,'' a plan to establish a marketplace with tax credits to enable people to be able to help buy policies. This was the foundation for RomneyCare in Massachusetts, and it became the foundation then for the Affordable Care Act.

In fact, back then, long before the Affordable Care Act came along, people like House Speaker Newt Gingrich, whenever he talked about the possibility of improving government healthcare, he talked about the Heritage Foundation's plan for a marketplace, but the moment an administration came along that happened to be a Democratic administration that took that idea seriously, the Heritage Foundation immediately abandoned it, which goes to my point that they are engaged directly in the game of politics on behalf of the Koch brothers' cabal and sabotaging, in a partisan and political way, the blue team at any possible moment.

In one brief, Heritage explained away their change of heart saying: ''Analysts once supported a limited and qualified insurance mandate'' but now believed it was ''bad public policy'' because the mandate came from the Heritage Foundation.

In 2012, Stuart Butler, the Heritage Foundation researcher who authored the original publication calling for an individual mandate, wrote an op-ed saying he had changed his mind, and he titled it, ''Don't blame Heritage for 'ObamaCare' mandate.''

Well, why not? They put the idea forward. It actually was a key principle of insurance marketplaces, otherwise you created an insurance death cycle. So they put the idea forward. They promoted the marketplace. They said this

is what is necessary, and then they abandoned it, when it was advantageous, to a partisan, political attack.

In fact, the then-president, former Senator Jim DeMint, went out in 2013 on a multi-State tour to basically drive up support for stopping the very idea that Heritage had initiated.

They certainly have gone out of their way in this effort for voter suppression, which is a complete affront to the most fundamental and basic right of our Nation. In reports, they make claims like ''there is no credible evidence that voter-ID laws have impeded turnout, especially among minorities and Democrats, as their opponents suggest.''

Well, of course, the exact opposite is true.

In regard to North Carolina, they said that ''there has been no 'suppression' of the turnout of North Carolina voters by any of these reform measures.''

OK. Not true. In fact, it was exactly the intent of impeding the turnout that was debated in the North Carolina Legislature. That was the heart of why they undertook it.

In fact, when the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals reviewed it, they described it as ''almost surgical precision'' in the way it was targeted at suppressing the vote by minority voters. The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed it and they refused to hear a case appealing the lower court's ruling.

Then there is the real heart of this web of deceit; that is, the Heritage Foundation's decades of efforts to say that carbon dioxide pollution is just fine, don't worry.

I think about how back in 1959, Edward Teller was addressing the 100-year anniversary of the oil industry. They invited him to speak, as an eminent scientist, and he said many good things about the role that burning fossil fuels could do to amplify the energy in America, but he also said there are two challenges this industry has. The first challenge is that there is a limited amount of fossil fuels in the ground and someday we will run up against that shortfall and we will have to switch to other forms of energy. It turned out there was a lot more fossil fuels around the planet than we ever anticipated in 1959.

The second point he made was, you know, this may not seem like a pollutant because you can't smell it—this carbon dioxide—you can't see it, but it has the intriguing and problematic characteristic in that carbon dioxide traps heat. It traps infrared energy. As a consequence, it is going to cause great disturbances as it builds up in the atmosphere. He specifically talked about its effect on the Poles in raising temperatures, melting ice, and raising sea levels.

Today we know it has many more impacts that Teller didn't elaborate on back in 1959 but come from this warming impact. We have seen global temperatures reach a record year after year after year, with some 17 of the hottest years occurring in the last 18 years, which is a phenomenal indication of the direction we are headed.

When I was running for office, a billion baby oysters died in Oregon at a hatchery not because of a virus but because the acidity of the water had grown 30 percent over the course of the Industrial Revolution burning fossil fuels. How is that connected? It is because burning the fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide. The wave action takes that carbon dioxide and turns it into carbonic acid, and now we have a massive flow of acid into the oceans—enough to change its acidity level by 30 percent, enough to kill baby oysters because it is so difficult to start extracting the chemicals for a shell out of the water when the acidic level is so much higher.

We have seen the impact on our coral reefs—the ocean acidity combined with the temperature of the ocean. As many already understand, coral is an animal that lives in a symbiotic relationship with algae. When the temperature of the ocean gets warmer, the algae overwhelms the coral, the coral expels it and basically commits suicide. It is called bleaching. They throw the symbiotic algae out, and then the coral dies, and the acidity adds to that difficulty of the coral forming the coral structure itself.

Lastly, we were sent a huge message by Mother Nature. Remember, Harvey and Irma and Maria, three dramatic hurricanes all hitting the United States of America. Why did they carry so much punch? They carried it because 90 percent of the heat that is trapped by global warming is trapped in the ocean, and that greater energy in the ocean then produces stronger hurricanes.

If that wasn't enough, we had those raging forest fires from Montana on through to the northwest corner of Washington State, down through Oregon, deep into California and way late in the season, clear to December—a much longer season. Many acres burned in those fierce fires.

So whether it was hurricanes or raging forest fires, Mother Nature is trying to say something is dramatically wrong, and you better act.

The Heritage Foundation is there for political purposes. They are there to do the Koch brothers' bidding. So their purpose is to sow doubt, mislead Americans. It is like the tobacco industry misleading Americans about the fact that smoking cigarettes causes cancer. In the course of their greed, they are damaging the world in a colossal way, and we have to call them out. We have to strip away their pretense to be serious about policy and know what it is all about: the greed of the fossil fuel industry for short-term profits while deeply damaging this beautiful, blue-green planet that we have the responsibility to protect.

They said climate change is ''a potentially serious issue'' that ''might cause problems in the future, but the impacts cannot be determined with any degree of certainty.''

What a colossal lie. It is not ''potential.'' It is here now. It is not ''might cause problems.'' It is causing problems. Scientists do measure it in all kinds of ways. They measure it with a thermometer when they measure the temperature of the air and water. They measure it with a yardstick when they measure the oceans, and they measure it with the movement of insects and animals that we see all throughout our Nation, from the spread of diseases like Zika to the spread of challenges like the pine beetle in the Northwest and the ticks in the Northeast. They blatantly distort and misrepresent the truth.

They did this on a Royal Society's statement on climate. They edited it to change a powerful statement about the problem into one that casts doubt on the issue. They just did this.

Now, let me explain that this is not—the Royal Society is not just any organization; this is the United Kingdom's national science academy and a fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists. It has been around since the 1660s, bringing scientific facts to policy debates. It included Sir Isaac Newton. It included Charles Darwin. It included Albert Einstein. It included Benjamin Franklin. It included the late Stephen Hawking.

In 2010, the Heritage fellow, who happened to be a former Koch Foundation associate, just coincidentally, posted a blog on the foundation's site entitled ''U.S. Could Learn from U.K.'s Global Warming Reversal.'' The very title is saying the opposite of what the actual document said. It commented on this blog on a ''dramatic reversal'' of the Royal Society on climate, but the blog cut and pasted parts of the report to make it say the opposite of what it actually said. So 10 pages, 48 paragraphs, that laid out the impact of climate chaos were edited out in order to mischaracterize the Royal Society's conclusions.

This is the type of truth-bending, misrepresentation, and outright lies the Heritage Foundation is involved in on behalf of the Koch brothers. The report summary even said the report ''shows that there is strong evidence''—this is the actual report, not the blog—''strong evidence of Earth's warming caused by human activity.''

The Heritage Foundation proceeds to say things like the ''hysteria over global warming is now pervasive in the federal government.''

They say ''hysteria'' because they want to dismiss it as some emotional response rather than the conclusion of virtually the entire scientific community. Every major scientific organization in the world weighing in on why it is they want to rein in EPA's regulatory excesses, what they say are—this is what they say: We want to rein in ''EPA's regulatory excesses with respect to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions'' and that the reining-in is ''long overdue.''

They go on to say: ''Congress should insist on preventing . . . regulators from mandating greenhouse-gas-emissions caps, or from using greenhouse-gas emissions as a means to promulgate a rule.''

In other words, what they are saying is, we are misconstruing the science, outright lying to the American people, to prevent Congress from responding to this dramatic impact on our country—not just on our country but on the world.

They also proceed to misrepresent a lot of information about the impacts of oil drilling. There is a 1985 piece in Heritage Today entitled ''Offshore Oil Drilling: Good for the Economy. Great for the fish.'' According to the article, the fears of proponents of the ban on offshore drilling that ''another disaster like the Santa Barbara Channel spill in 1969, when [up to] two-million gallons of sepia-colored oil bubbled up from the ocean floor, covering hundreds of square miles of sea'' were not justified.

Fears about another disaster were not justified. Why? They said because ''offshore oil and gas production is carefully regulated.''

It went on to say that ''every offshore operation must include three blow-out preventers and casings for drills; drills must be cemented into the surrounding earth.''

Then they said: ''Oil companies must submit an oil spill contingency plan'' and ''frequent safety inspections, scheduled and unscheduled, further reduce the risk of spills.''

Tell that to the crew of the Deepwater Horizon, because what we learned when we investigated what happened with Deepwater Horizon and what happened at other drilling platforms all around the gulf was the exact opposite of what the Heritage Foundation put forward on behalf of the Koch brothers and the fossil fuel business. What we really found out is that the blowout preventers were poorly designed. They failed. An explosion sunk the rig, and a sea floor gusher flowed for 87 days, 3 months.

The Associated Press found that in the lead-up to the accident, Deepwater Horizon wasn't carefully regulated. It said a quarter of the required inspections were never carried out. It said the rig ''was allowed to operate without safety documentation'' that was required; that they had received five or six safety citations, the most serious of which occurred in 2002, ''when the rig was shut down because required pressure tests had not been conducted on the blowout preventer—the device that was supposed to stop oil from gushing out'' if things went wrong.

The gulf coast is still trying to recover from this disaster: 4 to 8 billion harvestable oysters killed; 51,000 to 84,000 birds killed; 56,000 to 166,000 sea turtles killed; a 51-percent decrease in the dolphin population; an estimated $2 trillion to $5 trillion of newly hatched fish killed. The list goes on and on, hardly the vision the Heritage Foundation wanted to put forward.

So how does this web of deceit work? Just follow the money. Since 1998, they have received a huge amount of support from the fossil fuel industry—$780,000 just from one company, ExxonMobil. Over the course of a number of years, the Koch Foundation gave more than $5.7 million to fund their work. There was an additional nearly $5 million received from the Claude R. Lambe Foundation, which happens to be one of the Koch Family Foundations. Heritage is also a member of the State Policy Network, a web of right-wing think tanks across the country that the Koch brothers own. Koch money is coming from every direction. Heritage Foundation is the puppet of the Koch cartel enterprise.

That is only the tip of the iceberg of how this system works. We can trace back all of these pieces to the fossil fuel efforts to mislead the American public, to lie to the American public, and to spread doubt about actual scientific work.

We see their connections all through the Trump administration. When the Koch brothers say jump, the President of the United States says: How high? Then he does whatever they ask. If they want Scott Pruitt as head of the EPA, that is who they are going to get. If they want the Congressman whom they have championed throughout his entire career to be our chief diplomat, that is what they get.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, if I can wrap up in two sentences, I will say that this web of deceit is enormously damaging to our Nation. Let's call it out. Let's have an actual debate based on the science and not let the Koch brothers do what the tobacco industry did and mislead the American public decade after decade after decade to the great damage of the citizens of this great country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, last month I had the pleasure of spending a lot of time with several mayors and local leaders who were in Washington with the Arkansas Municipal League. We had a lively and informative discussion on ways to continue the economic growth that has been taking place throughout Arkansas.

While much of our conversation was focused on forward-thinking ways to continue these positive trends, there was also a very frank and candid discussion about an issue that is currently holding our communities back—the opioid crisis.

Policymakers across our State have been struggling to help confront Arkansas's heroin and opioid epidemic. The Natural State has been hit particularly hard by this national crisis. Retail data collected from pharmacies shows that Arkansas has one of the highest per capita opioid consumption rates in the Nation. CDC data shows that we have the second highest prescribing rate in the country—enough for each Arkansan to have more than one opioid prescription in his or her name.

It is an issue that all of us—from city leaders to lawmakers in Little Rock, to our Congressional delegation in Washington—continue to work tirelessly to confront because we have seen how pervasive this crisis is and how devastating its effects are.

I know that everyone who serves in this Chamber is working just as feverishly with their State and local leaders to confront the crisis. That is why it is so important that we included substantial resources for a wide-ranging strategy to counter the epidemic, nearly $4 billion, in the omnibus bill.

This funding will be used to provide additional resources for law enforcement and to continue important grant programs that help State and local governments offset the cost of opioid abuse. It will also support research into opioid addiction and alternative treatments.

We must ensure that we are doing all we can to supplement State and local efforts to combat the spread of opioid abuse. Unfortunately, this is not currently happening. The Department of Justice is hurting our communities' efforts to get a handle on the crisis by withholding critical funds.

The Byrne JAG grant program was created more than a decade ago to help States and local law enforcement agencies purchase essential equipment and support drug treatment and enforcement activities. It is the largest source of Federal justice funding to help provide law enforcement officers with the tools and training to protect our communities.

Currently, DOJ is denying every State access to those funds because some communities and States are violating Federal immigration law. This leaves States like Arkansas scrambling to continue funding crucial safety programs.

Arkansas law enforcement agencies have received millions of dollars through this program to support training, personnel, equipment, supplies, and information sharing. Arkansas is eligible for more than $2 million in funding from fiscal year 2017 to help fund multijurisdictional programs like drug task forces.

Earlier this year, I met with Arkansas drug director Kirk Lane to discuss how crucial the Byrne JAG program is to our State's efforts to combat opioid abuse. Director Lane stressed that limited funds threaten the abilities of task forces to accomplish their missions.

Matching funds from the State are running dry. So unless DOJ releases Byrne JAG funds, the critical work done by officers who are part of these task forces to fight the opioid epidemic will be seriously compromised. That is why earlier this year I led a bipartisan effort to express these concerns to Attorney General Sessions. Half a dozen

of our colleagues joined me in an effort to relay to the Attorney General that withholding these vital funds will have long-term negative consequences for our communities.

Since we have not received a response from DOJ, I raised the issue again with the Attorney General at yesterday's Appropriations subcommittee hearing. As I said to the Attorney General, when I speak with local law enforcement and county sheriffs back in Arkansas, they all inquire about when these funds will be released and made available.

While it may not seem like a whole lot of money, Byrne JAG grants make a huge difference. It is often the sole reason police departments in small communities are able to stand up a drug task force. I was encouraged by the Attorney General's response that the Department is determined to get the money out and that it is a high priority for him personally. It simply has to get done. I urge DOJ to rectify this situation quickly. With each passing day that local law enforcement is being denied these resources, lives that could be saved are lost.

While we look for new ways to tackle this problem, one step Washington took years ago continues to help. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day initiative, spearheaded by the DEA, has helped remove expired, unused, and unnecessary opioids from homes.

Research has found that the majority of opioid abusers get their drugs from friends and family, often lifting pills from a familiar medicine cabinet. Removing them from homes helps to reduce experimentation and overdoses.

In early 2010, a coalition of Federal and State law enforcement officials, prevention professionals, and private organizations launched an ongoing education program to encourage Arkansans to monitor, secure, and dispose of their prescription medications. The coalition organized Arkansas's participation in the DEA's National Prescription Take Back Day initiative and has hosted Arkansas Take Back Day collection events for the last 8 years.

Despite our State's modest population, Arkansas ranks 13th in the Nation in total weight collected over the course of 14 statewide take-back events. That is a testament to the coalition's efforts. These events have produced the return of almost 132 tons of unneeded medications, which amounts to over 400 million pills.

This campaign is clearly succeeding in getting unnecessary prescription drugs out of circulation and in helping to break the cycle of addiction in our communities. Besides that, it is so important in getting rid of these prescriptions in the right way, as opposed to just flushing them in the toilet where they get in our water supply.

The next take-back event is Saturday, April 28. There are more than 130 permanent dropoff sites across Arkansas, and many law enforcement agencies host temporary dropoff sites on this day as well. I encourage Arkansans to once again participate in this worthwhile event in full force this year.

Programs like the prescription drug take-back, in combination with local, State, and national efforts to combat the opioid crisis and help stem the tide of drug overdose and abuse, need to be supported and strengthened if we are serious about ending this crisis.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, Mr. Grenell has a deep background in diplomacy and strategic communications. He received his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He spent 8 years as spokesman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York and worked for every U.N. Ambassador appointed by George W. Bush.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is scheduled to arrive in DC tomorrow for a 1-day working trip to meet with President Trump. Her visit comes at a time of heightened importance, with a number of critical items on the agenda, including transatlantic trade, the Iran nuclear deal, as well as Russia and Syria.

I think it is very fitting that we are voting on this Ambassadorship today. I hope he will be quickly confirmed and sworn in.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Grenell nomination?

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 85 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Cassidy	Cruz
Barrasso	Collins	Daines
Blunt	Corker	Donnelly
Boozman	Cornyn	Enzi
Burr	Cotton	Ernst
Capito	Crapo	Fischer
Flake	Kennedy	Rounds
Gardner	Lankford	Rubio
Graham	Lee	Sasse
Grassley	Manchin	Scott
Hatch	McCaskill	Shelby
Heitkamp	McConnell	Sullivan
Heller	Moran	Tester
Hoeven	Murkowski	Thune
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Tillis
Inhofe	Perdue	Toomey
Isakson	Portman	Wicker
Johnson	Risch	Young
Jones	Roberts	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Harris	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Nelson	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth	McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 673.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, John Kennedy, Johnny Isakson, Chuck Grassley, Cory

Gardner, James E. Risch, Thom Tillis, Pat Roberts, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Richard Burr, John Thune, Tom Cotton.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 690.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Ben Sasse, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 729.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Ben Sasse, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 777.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Ben Sasse, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 780.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Richard Burr, John Boozman, John Thune, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, Jeff Flake, Mike Rounds.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 781.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Richard Burr, John Boozman, John Thune, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, Jeff Flake, Mike Rounds.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of a bill, which is at the desk, that provides alternative minimum funding rules for certain single-employer plans maintained by a community newspaper; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The President pro tempore.

Mr. HATCH. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, the legislation in question makes a significant change to the pension funding rule, but it is narrowly written to only address issues concerning a single retirement plan. There are a number of companies that have similar funding issues which are not addressed by my colleague's proposal.

I appreciate the work that my colleague Senator MURRAY has done on this issue, and I appreciate that there is ongoing bipartisan work on issues that her legislation addresses as well as on other issues surrounding retirement plans.

The committees with jurisdiction over these issues, including the Finance Committee, continue to work on bipartisan solutions that have not fully vetted the matter that my friend Senator MURRAY is putting forth today. Until they do so, it is not appropriate to move this measure forward. Therefore, I respectfully object to this unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The President pro tempore.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 621, 789, 790, 774, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 784, 785, 786, 787, 821, 773, 775, and 776.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Yleem D.S. Poblete, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance); Thomas J. Hushek, of Wisconsin, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Sudan; Kirsten Dawn Madison, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs); Kenneth Steven Barbic, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Timothy A. Garrison, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years; Kenji M. Price, of Hawaii, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years; John Cary Bittick, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years; David L. Lyons, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years; Rodney D. Ostermiller, of Montana, to be United States Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of four years; Nicola T. Hanna, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California for the term of four years; Steven L. Gladden, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years; Brendan O. Heffner, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years; Theodor G. Short, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of four years; Jon Parrish Peede, of Mississippi, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years; Hannibal Ware, of the Virgin Islands, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration; Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., of Michigan, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years; and Paul R. Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 607. I ask consent that there then be 10 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 791 through 820 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as the Surgeon General of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 8036 and 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Dorothy A. Hogg

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Richard P. Snyder

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. John C. Aquilino

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Charles A. Richard

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Gregory N. Todd

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. John S. Lemmon

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Ronald C. Copley
Rear Adm. (lh) Kathleen M. Creighton

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Brian K. Corey
Rear Adm. (lh) Lorin C. Selby
Rear Adm. (lh) Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5149:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Darse E. Crandall

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kristen B. Fabry
Capt. Joseph D. Noble, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Heidi K. Berg
Capt. Michael A. Brookes
Capt. William E. Chase, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. John J. Adametz

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Thomas J. Anderson

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. James A. Aiken
Capt. Richard J. Cheeseman, Jr.
Capt. Craig A. Clapperton
Capt. Keith B. Davids
Capt. Joseph A. Diguardo, Jr.
Capt. Leonard C. Dollaga
Capt. Christopher S. Gray
Capt. John E. Gumbleton
Capt. James A. Kirk
Capt. Timothy J. Kott
Capt. Fredrick R. Luchtman
Capt. Brendan R. McLane
Capt. Scott W. Pappano
Capt. Ryan B. Scholl
Capt. Lance G. Scott
Capt. Philip E. Sobeck
Capt. John D. Spencer
Capt. Douglas C. Verissimo
Capt. George M. Wikoff

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael T. Gerock

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Fogarty

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Service Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Raymond S. Dingle

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Francis M. Beaudette

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Eugene J. LeBoeuf
Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand

To be brigadier general

Col. Aida T. Borras
Col. Vincent E. Buggs
Col. Barry E. Edberg
Col. Cheryn L. Fasano
Col. Stephen Iacovelli
Col. Isaac Johnson, Jr.
Col. James J. Kokaska, Jr.
Col. Joseph M. Lestorti
Col. Edward H. Merrigan, Jr.
Col. Michael D. Roache
Col. Beth A. Salisbury
Col. Charles S. Sentell, III
Col. Jamelle C. Shawley
Col. Robert E. Suter

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Adm. Philip S. Davidson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. David M. Kriete

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Michelle C. Skubic

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Eugene H. Black, III
Rear Adm. (lh) William D. Byrne, Jr.
Rear Adm. (lh) Marc H. Dalton
Rear Adm. (lh) John V. Fuller
Rear Adm. (lh) Michael P. Holland
Rear Adm. (lh) Hugh W. Howard, III
Rear Adm. (lh) Jeffrey W. Hughes
Rear Adm. (lh) Thomas E. Ishee
Rear Adm. (lh) Roy I. Kitchener
Rear Adm. (lh) Stephen T. Koehler
Rear Adm. (lh) Samuel J. Paparo, Jr.
Rear Adm. (lh) Jeffrey E. Trussler
Rear Adm. (lh) William W. Wheeler, III
Rear Adm. (lh) Kenneth R. Whitesell

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains of the Navy, and appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5142:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Rear Adm. (lh) Brent W. Scott

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Darin K. Via

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Michael G. Dana

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. David H. Berger

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephen E. Liszewski
Col. Lorna M. Mahlock
Col. David L. Odom
Col. Arthur J. Pasagian
Col. Sean M. Salene
Col. Kevin J. Stewart
Col. William H. Swan
Col. Calvert L. Worth, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Charles G. Chiarotti

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1597 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning RICHARD G. ANDERSON, and ending JOEL K. WARREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1600 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning RONNELLE ARMSTRONG, and ending JOHN MARION VON ALMEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1601 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning ALISON LEE BEACH, and ending CORTNEY LYNN ZUERCHER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1788 AIR FORCE nominations (65) beginning MICHAEL J. ABBOTT, and ending DAVID RUSSELL WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

IN THE ARMY

PN1753 ARMY nomination of Tia W. Caphart, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1754 ARMY nomination of Napoleon A. Campos, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1755 ARMY nomination of Kevin R. Embry, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1756 ARMY nomination of Andrew J. Furjanic, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1757 ARMY nomination of Daniel L. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1758 ARMY nomination of John M. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1789 ARMY nomination of Roberto Sorianoolivas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1790 ARMY nomination of Jason Palatas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1791 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JOSE R. REVELES, JR., and ending KENNETH J. STRAUSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1792 ARMY nomination of D012279, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1793 ARMY nomination of Russell B. Gilliland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1794 ARMY nomination of Erik M. Bauer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1795 ARMY nomination of Lawrence W. Henry, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1796 ARMY nomination of Kenneth A. Willeford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1797 ARMY nomination of D012941, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1798 ARMY nomination of Roxanne T. Sickles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1814 ARMY nomination of James F. Huggins, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2018.

PN1817 ARMY nomination of Denny L. Rozenberg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2018.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1436—2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Robert F. Grech, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1634 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning Karen S. Sliter, and ending Elia P. Vanechanos, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1742 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Tuyvan Nguyen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

PN1744—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (106) beginning Benjamin Thomas Ardell, and ending Alexander Zvinakis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

PN1745 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Abigail Marie Nguema, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1590 MARINE CORPS nomination of Douglas R. Burian, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1799 MARINE CORPS nomination of Chad R. Fitzgerald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

IN THE NAVY

PN1276 NAVY nomination of Edward M. Crossman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1741 NAVY nominations (11) beginning NANA K. APPIAWIAH, and ending AUSTIN R. YOUNGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO HOLLY CHRISTENSEN AND BREE HITCHCOCK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday. As you know, I like to come to the floor, and a lot of the time, my colleague from Louisiana is actually in the Chair, so he gets to hear a lot about the great State of Alaska. I like to come to the floor to talk about someone in my State who has done an amazing job either for their community or the State or even the country. We call this person our Alaskan of the Week. I know, for the pages, it is their favorite time in the Senate because they get to learn all about what is going on in Alaska. A lot of people watching or watching on TV have found a lot of interest in this because, like every Senator here, I certainly think I come from the best State in the country. It is beautiful right now. I really want to invite everybody who is in the Gallery or watching on TV to come up to Alaska and visit. It will be the trip of a lifetime. I promise.

Yet what makes my State truly great is the people, not just the majestic mountains and the beauty and the wildlife but the people—strong, kind, caring people who band together—let's face it—in a State with some extreme environment. Oftentimes, they band together in creative ways.

I would like to introduce today our Alaskans of the Week—Holly Christensen, from Palmer, AK, and Bree Hitchcock, who lives in Anchorage, AK. Both of these incredible women have spent countless hours helping thousands of children in Alaska and, really, across America—children who need help and care and love. They have been helping children who are suffering from cancer. This is a really incredible story. It is one of these stories that, I think, most people love to hear about because it starts with just an idea—a little movement, a spark—that turns into something big unexpectedly. It is a pebble in a pond that creates ripples that turn into waves.

This incredible story starts when Holly, an oncology nurse with three young children of her own, received news that Lilly, who was a child of one of her former classmates, was diagnosed with cancer. Lilly is young girl, and she is going through treatment—chemo. Holly knew this would be a difficult time for Lilly or for any kid who was working through the difficulties associated with cancer. Of course, a lot of times with chemo that means losing your hair. It is especially difficult for a young girl.

Holly had an idea. Why not crochet a wig for Lilly with soft yarn that made her look like a princess? So she did that. She found some soft yarn. She crocheted a whimsical wig with long, branded strands of yellow yarn, decorated with blue and red flowers, modeled after the hair of the Disney character Rapunzel. She gave this to Lilly, and this wig brightened this little girl's day during a very difficult, dark time. She was able to twirl around in a dress with her Rapunzel braid. She was able, in many ways, to be a kid again and get out of the darkness and difficulty and pain of the cancer treatments.

Then something really remarkable happened. Lilly and her parents were so happy with the wig that Holly got some friends together, and they began to make a few more wigs and then a few more—a dozen or so—for more children in Alaska who were suffering from cancer. They were wigs that were all modeled after Disney characters.

That is where Bree comes in. She is from Anchorage. She heard about Holly's project through Facebook, and she began to volunteer. Soon, they were making and distributing hundreds of wigs out of Holly's one-car garage in Palmer, AK. Eventually, they started a nonprofit organization called the

Magic Yarn Project. Out of this one little idea for this one beautiful, little girl, the Magic Yarn Project was born.

Soon, dozens of Alaskans began to volunteer their time, and they began to hold workshops in schools and in hospitals and in community centers. The magic started to spread throughout Alaska, and then it started to spread throughout the country and even around the world. Thousands of people began making princess hair and superhero hair out of yarn for children who were living in the darkness and suffering through the difficulty of cancer.

To date, this dynamic duo, Holly and Bree, have facilitated the distribution of over 7,000 wigs in 38 countries across the globe for children who are losing their hair due to cancer and chemotherapy treatments. Think about that—one idea, one wig. Now we are at 7,000. Holly and Bree have amassed an army of over 4,000 volunteers across the country to crochet wigs. This takes time and care and talent.

The old, young, and those from every walk of life have reached out to them to help brighten a child's life. A football player from the Seattle Seahawks went to the first out-of-State workshop they held in Seattle. Everybody has been getting involved here. There are even women who are incarcerated in Alaska who are making whimsical wigs for these kids. It is impacting everybody.

Out of this one-car garage in Palmer, AK, which is a small town with a big heart, literally, the production and love and care of making these wigs has overtaken not just Alaska, not just the country but the world. Because of the project's growing popularity and their desire to reach as many children and volunteers as possible, the two have opened up chapters in seven States and even in Mexico. It has been daunting and a lot of work, but they have discovered so much about themselves and their community.

First, they were struck with how generous Alaskans are, and it was only possible because Alaskans from all across the State rose to the occasion to help these young kids. Bree said the Magic Yarn Project has pushed her in ways she never knew were possible. It made her a better mom and a better person. Holly said one of the most rewarding things about the project is in watching her own children get involved and help and have deep compassion for children who are suffering and who are less fortunate, whether they are in Alaska or in the country or somewhere else in the world.

Holly said:

> There have been times when a little voice inside me says, ''These are just wigs. This isn't that big or that important.''

Yet, when they get the pictures back of these young girls from all over the country who are wearing their beautiful wigs, they realize it is a big deal. It is a huge deal.

The parents of these kids have told Holly and Bree how grateful they are to see their children, who often are living lives in pain and with needles and surgeries and in hospitals, smile again because of what they have done. ''It gives them a glimpse of what it was like and hope for what it will be like when they get better,'' Holly said.

So, to Holly and Bree, we can't thank you enough for your extraordinary work and your great compassion that has touched, literally, thousands and thousands of lives across America and the world.

Congratulations for being our Alaskans of the Week.

CONFIRMATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. President, I commend my colleagues who debated for the last week and then voted on the new Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, who I believe is either en route or will be en route soon to the NATO Foreign Ministers summit.

As many of us said on the floor, Mike Pompeo is extremely well qualified to be the Secretary of State—extremely well qualified. He was a Congressman who focused on foreign affairs. He is the current Director of the CIA and was an Army officer who graduated No. 1 in his class from West Point. He was the Harvard Law Review editor when he went to Harvard Law School.

I particularly commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who did the right thing and voted for Mr. Pompeo.

I have come down to the floor a couple of times to talk about this issue of having a long tradition in the United States of this body typically coming together, particularly as it relates to the Secretary of State. If someone is qualified and is the President's pick, the tradition has been to vote for that person. If you look at the votes over the last 50 years for the Secretaries of State, whether Republicans or Democrats, there was usually a unanimous vote—100 Senators, 96 Senators, 97 Senators. What I am hopeful for is that we can get back to that issue with regard to foreign policy and national security choices for the President regardless of who the President is.

I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle but particularly my Democratic colleagues, who, I know, faced a lot of pressure to vote no. For those who knew it was important to make sure this was a bipartisan vote, I thank them. I think Mike Pompeo is going to do a good job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Alaska in commending the U.S. Senate for confirming Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State. I think he is the right person at the right time, and we need somebody there. There is too much going on around the world to have that job vacant, and there is an important meeting of Foreign Ministers of the major countries in the world that is going on tomorrow that he needs to attend. Whether it is North Korea and what is happening there—where he has been very involved—or whether it is the continuing concerns we have with regard to the nuclear agreement with Iran or whether it is what is happening in Syria and certainly what is happening on the eastern border of Ukraine, where I was recently, there are lots of hot spots around the world right now, and there is the need to have somebody in place who understands the importance of addressing those issues and addressing some of the bigger and longer term challenges we have with countries like Russia and China to be sure we can have more constructive relationships. It is good to have somebody in that job.

When John Kerry came up for confirmation in the Senate, not everybody agreed with him on the policies. When Hillary Clinton came up for a vote, not everybody agreed with her on the policies. They agreed they were qualified, as Mike Pompeo clearly is, and they agreed that a President should have the ability to have his or her person in that job, particularly as the Secretary of State. Therefore, in both of those cases, the vote was 94 Senators in favor.

Again, I am just glad the Senate chose to confirm him, but I do wish we had had more of a bipartisan approach to it because I think it is important for us to show around the world that we, indeed, do have momentum behind this nominee and his ability to lead our country in the area of soft power diplomacy all around the world. I think he will do a good job, and I think he will earn the trust of those of us who voted for him today. I also think he will be able to change the views of, perhaps, some of my colleagues who voted no today.

Congratulations to Mike Pompeo, and I am happy for our country that he is in place.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about an issue that has gripped my State and every State represented in this Chamber, and that is the opioid epidemic. This is prescription drugs and heroin and fentanyl-carfentanil. It is something we have talked about on this floor more in the last couple of years than we have at any time, really, in the history of this body. We have passed some good legislation, but, boy, there is so much more to do. Sadly, this crisis continues to unfold, and at least in my State and I believe in most States in this country it is getting worse, not better. So we started to take some important actions, but it is time to take more.

Just last week, a couple in Youngstown, OH, were cited for reckless homicide and endangering children after their 16-month-old daughter overdosed and died. She was exposed to carfentanil, one of these synthetic forms of opioids that unfortunately has come into so many communities in this

country and, in fact, is the biggest single concern we have right now in Ohio and many other States.

In fact, in Ohio we had an increase of overdoses last year, and 60 percent of those overdoses were from fentanyl or carfentanil—this synthetic form of opioids that was hardly present 5 years ago. So as we made progress on prescription drugs, heroin came in. As we made progress on heroin, fentanyl and carfentanil came in.

There is a need for us to push back and push back hard. Opioid deaths are now the No. 1 cause of accidental death in my State of Ohio and the No. 1 cause of accidental death in the United States of America. Think about how many people are being affected by this. It is across the board. It knows no ZIP Code. It is not just in urban areas, not just in rural areas or suburban areas, it is everywhere. It is something on which we can make a difference.

I have seen some programs that are actually working well to try to turn the tide and push back. One I will mention is funded, in part, from legislation we passed in this Chamber just 1½ years ago. It is the Maryhaven Addiction Stabilization Center in Columbus, OH. It is an attempt by Franklin County, which is largely Columbus, OH, to come together and say: We have to do something to get more people who have overdosed into treatment. One of the many challenges we face in the crisis is the gap, and one huge gap is the fact that people who overdose have their lives saved through this miracle drug called Narcan, which reverses the effects of an overdose, but after coming out of their overdose, getting conscious again, they simply go back into the community and the environment that created this potential overdose situation in the first place. Once again, a week later, perhaps, maybe days later, in some cases hours later, the person may overdose again. The answer is not just applying Narcan—as important as it is because we do need to save lives. The important thing is to get that person into a program where they can begin to deal with their addiction, where they can get longer term support through a recovery program to stay away from the old environment and the old gang that got them involved in this issue in the first place.

Addiction is a disease. Treatment is required just as it would be for other diseases. I am excited about what is happening at Maryhaven Addiction Stabilization Center because at this center, they are bringing people in who overdosed and then in the same facility there are about 50 beds for treatment. Instead of having the vast majority of people who overdose and come into an emergency room go home or go back to the old environment, 80 percent of the people at Maryhaven are going into treatment. That is a huge change. That is a sea change. That will have an enormous impact in dealing with the 200,000 people or so in my State of Ohio who are currently addicted. It will help them get into a decent program, get through the detox, get into recovery, and have the opportunity to get their lives back together.

That program is funded, in large part, from Federal funding that came from this legislation we passed about 1½ years ago. Maybe $1.2 million has been matched by private funding and State and local funding. We have this new project that I think can be emulated around the State because it seems to be working really well.

The CURES Act, which we passed, has provided to Ohio just recently $26 million in new funding, and we need it badly. We need to put it to use in ways that work. This is an example of something that is actually well-thought-out that is going to help close the gap and make a difference.

In 2016, we were told we had the deadliest year on record in terms of overdoses. Unfortunately, it looks like, in 2017, the numbers are going to be worse. It certainly will be in Ohio.

In the Franklin County corridor, the Columbus, OH, area, the coroner recently came out with their numbers in 2017. They had an overdose death rate that was higher than 2016. We lost 520 of our citizens to overdoses in Franklin County in 2017. That was a 47-percent increase from 2016. So it is not just a little increase; it is a huge increase. A staggering two-thirds of those—66 percent of those deaths—were from this synthetic heroin we talked about, the synthetic opioids fentanyl and carfentanil.

That is really the issue now in so many communities around the country. Just last month, Franklin County experienced 18 overdoses in 1 week—1 county, 18 overdoses in 1 week. This was just last month. That is an average of over two deaths per day. Think about that when you are thinking about 1 county out of 88 and the impact this is having.

We need to do more at the Federal level to combat this epidemic, and I would like to talk about a couple of pieces of new legislation that would build on the success we had in this body in terms of legislation that would help direct this money in ways that will make a difference, toward evidence-based programs—not just throwing money at the problem but making sure the money is well spent.

One of the pieces of legislation is critical to this issue of fentanyl and carfentanil coming into our community. Unbelievably, this poison that we talked about today, two-thirds of the deaths in this county in Ohio last year were because of fentanyl. The 16-month-old baby we talked about was killed through carfentanil and another synthetic. Unbelievably, this stuff is coming in through our U.S. mail system, primarily. It is coming not over the border, primarily, or not in some other way like heroin might or even prescription drugs, but it is literally coming through the mail primarily from China. So evil chemists in China are mixing up this poisonous brew that becomes fentanyl, and then it gets shipped through the mail system into our communities—sometimes to a P.O. Box, sometimes to someone's home, sometimes to a business. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability within the U.S. Postal Service to push back. To me, this is an obvious example where this body ought to come together and say: You know what, let's provide law enforcement with the tools they need to be able to stop some of this poison from coming in.

If you were to send this same fentanyl by FedEx, UPS, or DHL, a private carrier, they would have to provide data to law enforcement in advance: what is in the package, where it is coming from, where it is going. With that data, law enforcement can target those packages and pull them off the line and pull some of this poison out of our communities.

I have been to these distribution centers where the carriers do exactly that. They have Customs and Border Protection officials there. They have rooms that have the proper venting to be able to open these packages. This fentanyl and carfentanil is so dangerous, our first responders are putting their lives at risk every day just by dealing with it. What they are able to do is stop this poison from coming in, which helps, at a minimum, to raise the cost. Right now, one of the reasons it is expanding is because it is relatively inexpensive, but it is also deadly. It is something that is causing many more overdoses and deaths than ever before.

So our legislation is very simple. It is called the STOP Act. It is cosponsored by AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Democrat from Minnesota. The notion is to say to our U.S. Postal Service to provide that same information because law enforcement tells us that unless they have that information, it is like finding a needle in a haystack. With 900 billion packages a year, it is hard to imagine how they are going to be able to stop those packages without having at least the tools of knowing what is in those packages, where it is coming from, where it is going, so they can use their analytics, the big data, to be able to identify those packages and stop them.

Last month, a man from Cleveland, OH, was charged after undercover agents found he was selling fentanyl he had just bought online from China. According to the prosecutor, ''The defendant ordered thousands of deadly doses of fentanyl from China, brought it to a residential neighborhood in Euclid and then mailed the dangerous drugs all over Ohio and across the country'' using our own mail system.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations in the U.S. Senate, which is a group I chair, did a yearlong investigation into this issue. We completed this several months ago. Unfortunately, what it showed is exactly what you would suspect. The traffickers, when asked: How should we ship these drugs if we are buying them from you

online—because we had an undercover person working for us. He was a member of the Homeland Security Department, someone who deals with these issues every day. He actually contacted websites around the country. Unfortunately, the websites all said the same thing: We will sell you this deadly drug, but you have to ship it through the U.S. mail system. We will guarantee delivery if you do that.

We were able to find five different websites that were openly selling fentanyl. They all told us where to send it. By using some of the information that we had based on the payment systems they were using, we were able to identify the people who had been shipped drugs through these sites. We found, incidentally, that just in a short period of time, seven people had died of overdoses after getting drugs from these particular websites. We also were able to refer to law enforcement some other people who apparently were dealing these drugs by taking large quantities.

Even with this person in Euclid, OH, we talked about, thousands of deadly doses of fentanyl were found. That could be in a package about this size. Three flakes of this stuff can kill you. So, at a minimum, we have to be sure our U.S. Postal Service is giving law enforcement the tools to be able to help stop this deadly poison.

The Postal Service has begun over the last year or so to make some progress in this area. Still, they tell us that only 36 percent of the packages transported into this country have any kind of advanced electronic data. As we dug deeper, having researched and gone to some of these sites where the U.S. Postal Service is providing information, we found out it was not 36 percent because 20 percent of the packages that had the required information still went into the community anyway because of lack of communication with law enforcement.

Finally, we are finding out that it may be 36 percent of the packages, but much of the information is not helpful. We need to have new rules in place to say to countries: If you want to do business with the United States and send packages here, you have to play ball with us and provide this digital information upfront so our law enforcement can deal with what is clearly a crisis in this country. It is a glaring loophole in the screening process. It undermines the safety and security of our country, not just for drugs but for other issues as well, and it is time we fix it.

After 9/11 and the terrible tragedy of that day, this Congress decided to require private carriers to require all of that information—the advanced electronic data—because of the risk of terrorism, frankly. At that time, we said the Post Office needed to do a study on this to give them time to get ready. That was over 15 years ago, and they still haven't done it. They need to provide law enforcement the tools they need by requiring advanced electronic data on all packages entering the United States. Thirty-one of my Senate colleagues—19 Republicans, 12 Democrats, and 1 Independent—have signed on as cosponsors to this legislation. It already has support of one-third of the Senate. It has been endorsed by President Trump's opioid commission because it is a commonsense solution to a growing problem around the country. There is House companion legislation to do this. Stopping this influx of fentanyl is going to happen only if we stop how it is coming, which is through our Postal Service from countries overseas, primarily China.

We also need a more comprehensive approach, of course, to the drug issue. It is not just enough to stop the supply if there is a strong demand. Dealing with the demand includes prevention efforts that are included in legislation we passed in this body about 1½ years ago and still needs to be implemented. We have new legislation to help increase that comprehensive approach. The last bill was called the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act, signed into law at the end of 2016. We now have a new bill, CARA 2.0. It provides more resources for evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. It will help people get into longer term treatment so they can truly overcome their addiction. It has helped to overcome the stigma by treating the addiction as a disease, and now it is time to ensure that we are looking at what works and building on it.

I introduced this legislation with my colleagues, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and six others: Senators SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, AMY KLOBUCHAR, DAN SULLIVAN, MAGGIE HASSAN, BILL CASSIDY, who is the Presiding Officer today, and MARIA CANTWELL—four Republicans and four Democrats. We kept this bipartisan. Other Members have joined in as well. Again, it picks up where the Cures legislation and the CARA legislation left off, to provide a better framework, because now we can spend the extra resources this Congress has wisely determined to put up against this fight.

In the spending bill that was just passed, there was an additional $6 billion over 2 years put against this issue. Let's be sure the money is well spent. Let's be sure we have a roadmap to build on the successes we have had and ensure that that money is going to things that actually can make a difference.

We talked about one earlier, the addiction stabilization center. We also know that one way we could spend our money better is to have a better prescription drug monitoring program nationally. So every State now has some sort of prescription drug monitoring program, but often they don't talk to each other. This is something that is required in my State of Ohio. West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania are all States where there is also an opioid crisis. We need to be sure that they are talking together, so that when someone goes to get a prescription, the information is logged. If the person goes out of the State to order a prescription across the border—maybe just right across the border—that information is provided just as it would be if it were within that State. That is in our legislation as well.

We also target addiction at its source. About 80 percent of the people who die of overdoses today probably started on prescription drugs. That is the latest data we have. Some of that was prescription drugs that were provided to that individual as the result of an accident or an injury, and they became physically addicted because they were prescribed an opioid for pain relief.

The stories are heartbreaking. The parents have come to me and say—and this has happened twice: My son or my daughter went to get a wisdom tooth extracted, and the dentist gave my son or my daughter opioids. In one case, it was 60 pills of Percocet or OxyContin. Sure enough, that young person had a physical addiction develop because of that. Then when the pills were harder to get or more expensive, they turned to something less expensive and more accessible, which was heroin or fentanyl or carfentanil, and then overdosed and died. These are 17-year-old children who were prescribed this medication.

There are other cases as well. I have met adults who are well into their thirties or forties and are leading successful lives, well established in their community, well connected in their loving families. They had an accident or injury. Maybe it was a car accident. They were given pain medication—opioids—and they became physically addicted.

This addiction is a tough one to climb out of. So many people then turn to another substance that is more available, more accessible, or maybe less expensive and then overdose and then the death.

People say how could this have happened? When you go back, it happened because of a prescription drug—something was overprescribed.

Others might buy prescription drugs on the street. This Saturday is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in America, and I hope that everybody who is listening here will think about whether they could go into their own medicine cabinet or maybe their parents' or grandparents' and take out some of these opioids and then have those disposed of properly at a police station or someplace else. I know Kroger is doing this in Ohio and other States.

Find out where your drug take-back location is. Take these drugs in and get rid of them because I have just heard too many cases, unbelievably, of people stealing these drugs and using them and then, again, developing that addiction or selling them and someone else

develops the addiction. Again, the thought is that probably 8 out of 10 people dying of overdoses started with prescription drugs. So our legislation does deal with that.

Our legislation deals with overprescribing because it must be dealt with. It requires doctors and pharmacists to use drug monitoring programs to ensure that we are not overprescribing, and it sets a 3-day limit on prescriptions for acute pain.

We except chronic pain. We have exceptions for cancer. But for acute pain—the surgeries we have talked about—we are using the good science from the Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, and others that say two things: One, after the third day of using these opioids, on that fourth day, fifth day, and sixth day is when the opportunity for an addiction grows dramatically, and the chances of your falling into that addiction increases significantly.

Second, in terms of pain and dealing with pain, we have also learned that for acute pain for most kinds of procedures, there are other kinds of pain medications available.

I have talked to the dentists a lot on this. There is a dentist from Ohio who is a good man, Joe Crowley, who is now President of the American Dental Association. He is working with the dentists to try to ensure that we have new policies in place that discourage the use of opioids altogether for things like a wisdom tooth being removed. But to the extent it is used, after the first, second, and third day, it is much, much less necessary and much less useful, and other pain medication can take its place. So, as a result, we do have in our legislation something that is a dramatic difference from the unfortunate overprescribing that continues to go on in our country in too many instances, and that is a 3-day limit. After 3 days, if you continue to have the kind of pain that can only be dealt with opioids, if you are one of the few individuals for whom that is true, you go back to the doctor and get another prescription, but you have to go through a process to do that. The alternative is that we are going to continue to see more and more people become addicted through prescription drugs as a gateway and then again getting into this terrible cycle of overdoses and eventually overdose and dying in too many cases.

So CARA 2.0 has these policy changes, as well as the additional funding for prevention programs, treatment programs, and recovery programs. It also helps our first responders by saying: If you can't afford the cost of Narcan, we will help you out but also give you training in Narcan and also to deal with this gap between the immediate overdose reversal using Narcan and then going into detox—between detox and treatment, between treatment and longer term recovery—to try to ensure that you have continuity. This is something that just makes so much sense and can save so many lives.

These legislative efforts we are talking about here are important. So for those who are watching—and maybe some staff members are watching from some of the offices—please check it out. Check out the STOP Act, if you are not already a cosponsor. Check out CARA 2.0, if you are not already a cosponsor.

Let's be sure that we are doing everything we possibly can here to make a difference and begin to reverse this tide, begin to save lives again rather than having this discouraging increase in addiction.

It is not all about overdoses and deaths, as tragic as that is. It is about the millions of Americans whose lives are getting off track, who may not overdose and may not end up needing Narcan but who are pulling away from their family, who are not working, who are not engaged in their community, who are giving up on their friends and their loved ones.

A lot of people in this Chamber are concerned about the fact that so many Americans are out of work today and not showing up even on the unemployment rolls because they have left work altogether. They are not even looking for work. Economists say our labor force participation rate for men is historically low. It is probably the lowest it has ever been in the history of this country. When you combine men and women, you have to go back to the 1970s to see as many people who are out of work altogether. I agree that is a big problem, and I would urge my colleagues to look at the impact of opioids on that problem.

There are two recent studies, one by the Department of Labor and one by the Brookings Institution, which indicate in the strongest possible terms that opioids are driving much of this dysfunction in our workforce today. So to employers out there who are saying, ''The economy is growing, the tax cuts are working, regulatory relief is working, but I can't find workers,'' 44 percent of those who are out of the workforce, according to a Department of Labor study from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, took a prescription pain medication the day before.

The Brookings study shows that 47 percent of able-bodied men between 22 and 55 are taking pain medication on a daily basis. These are frightening numbers. By the way, I can't imagine that is overreported. I imagine it is underreported because of the stigma attached to this issue of opioid addiction and because of the potential legal liability people could be in for admitting it. Even so, almost half of those surveyed say they are not working. They are not even looking for work, but they are taking pain medication on a daily basis. So this affects all of us.

Go to your firehouse in your community and ask them if they are doing more overdose runs or more fire runs? I will bet you that they will say the former. They are doing more drug overdose runs than they are fire runs. We are all paying for that. Talk to your sheriff or your local police chief and ask them what the No. 1 driver of crime is in your community. I bet they will say it is opioids. Often it is people who are committing crimes like theft or shoplifting or fraud to be able to pay for the habit—$300 to $400 a day or more. Particularly if you are not working, there is a temptation to commit those crimes and there is a craving for this drug that puts people in positions they never would have imagined they would find themselves in.

Think of the families who are broken up. Think of the kids who have lost their parents to this epidemic. In Ohio, we have more kids in foster care or under the care of the State than ever in our history.

Go to your neonatal units at your hospital and ask them about this. They will say it is the No. 1 issue affecting them because so many kids are being born to a mother who was addicted, and these kids have to be taken through withdrawal themselves—little babies. You can hold them practically in the palm of your hand.

I have gone to these neonatal units in Ohio and have seen these babies, and it is heartbreaking because, just like adults, they have to go through this tough withdrawal process. No baby should have to do that.

So this issue is one when Congress has taken steps in the last year and a half, and I congratulate this body and the House for moving forward with some positive steps. There is so much more to be done, and these two bills are a start. These two bills will help. They will help to save lives. They will help to get people back on track and help to ensure that people can live out their God-given purpose rather than get distracted through this epidemic, rather than getting off track with regard to family, work, dignity, and self-respect.

These two bills will help, giving law enforcement in our communities the tools they need and helping our communities to be able to have a comprehensive approach here to turn back this assault of addiction in our country.

I hope we can move quickly in the Senate to pass this legislation so the President can sign it into law and we can begin to make a bigger difference.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the recent rise of anti-

Semitism and racism in our communities.

As Members of Congress, we have an enormous responsibility to take strong action and stand up against intolerance before it takes root in the next generation. It is incumbent upon all people to ensure that adequate tools are in place to counter the resurgence of fear and hate-mongering—whether directed at old targets or new—that led to the Holocaust and other atrocities.

America must maintain its leadership abroad, especially when it comes to the issues of human rights and religious freedom—the core foundations upon which our Nation was built. We must uphold these standards here at home and defend and promote them globally.

In my role as the representative on anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, I visited Paris and Copenhagen and met with local leaders in the aftermath of the violent, anti-Semitic attacks in 2015, including the Charlie Hebdo massacre. The gruesome murder of Holocaust survivor Mireille Knoll in Paris on March 24 is a grim reminder of the urgency of our task.

In Poland, there have been no attacks recently, but there is a growing climate of fear. Government officials have equivocated regarding Polish responsibility for the World War II massacre in Jedwabne and the postwar pogrom in Kielce, which occurred on our Independence Day—July 4, 1946. The Polish President recently signed into law an anti-defamation bill that makes it illegal to attribute responsibility for or complicity during the Holocaust to the Polish nation or state. This law will, in fact, restrict academic freedom, chill free speech, and hinder teaching about the Holocaust and the crimes committed in occupied Poland during World War II.

In Hungary, Viktor Orban has stoked a campaign of hatred against migrants and Muslims in his bid for a third term as Prime Minister. In the final days of his campaign and perhaps revealing some concerns for his margin of victory, his party has sharpened its call for a country that is White and Christian, escalating its anti-Semitic and anti-Roma rhetoric.

Here at home, we have witnessed extremists and neo-Nazis marching in the streets openly carrying painful hate symbols from the 1930s. In a brazen public display, neo-Nazis and White supremacist groups took to the streets in Charlottesville, VA, last August, inciting violence that cost 32-year-old counter-protester Heather Heyer her life. Just this past weekend, another group of neo-Nazis marched in Newnan, GA, and burned a large swastika afterwards. Burt Colucci, a member of the National Socialist Movement, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that there was no particular reason Newnan was chosen for the rally. He said:

> We pick these rallies randomly. It is always preferable that it is in a white town.

How can we address these challenges and build a more tolerant, peaceful, and global community?

Earlier this year, in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Italian Government hosted the Rome International Conference on the Responsibility of States, Institutions and Individuals in the Fight against Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Area. At that event that convened on the 80th anniversary of the passage of Italy's ''racial laws,'' which discriminated against Jews and people of African descent, leaders from across Europe and the United States recommitted to address anti-Semitism in their societies—from collecting and reporting hate crime data to supporting education—at a time when few Holocaust survivors or witnesses to the atrocities of World War II remain.

The OSCE also reported on its Turning Words Into Action project, designed to assist governments and civil societies in bolstering security for Jewish communities, educate our own societies on how to recognize and address prejudice, and build coalitions between Jewish and other communities.

Yet, at this critical juncture, we have been cutting funding and other resources meant to bolster America's diplomatic efforts abroad. It is for this reason that I fought to include $1 million to combat global anti-Semitism in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill recently passed by Congress. I also wrote letters urging President Trump and his administration to select a new special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism. This position has been critical in working with governments and organizations abroad to facilitate action against anti-Semitism in communities around the world.

We must all understand that a threat against one religion, race, or ethnicity is a threat against all religions, races, and ethnicities. Hatred unleashed rarely forms its own boundaries.

In the aftermath of World War II, a Protestant pastor famously said:

> In Germany, they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist; and then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist; and then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew; and then they came for me . . . and by that time there was no one left to speak up.

History has shown time and again that the failure of governments and political leaders to denounce those who advance an agenda of hate and bigotry brings instability and violence.

As hate crimes continue to rise in our own Nation and as the number of refugees around the world fleeing political violence and persecution reaches record highs, we must reaffirm our sense of duty and our commitment to preserving freedom, equality, and fundamental human rights for all people.

Addressing the anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and persecution takes a concerted and sustained effort from a coalition of governments, faith and community leaders, and global advocates to denounce these atrocities and promote peace and tolerance around the world.

Now more than ever, we need to join together and speak up to protect human rights around the globe because it is in all of our interests to do so. We must also use tools available to us, from hate crime laws to capacity-building measures for civil society and governments, such as those offered by the OSCE.

I will continue to stand alongside civil society and remain an advocate for equality and human rights, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, and 825.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Rohit Chopra, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2012; Noah Joshua Phillips, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2016; Joseph Simons, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2017; Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2011; Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2018; and Rebecca

Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2015 en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 757.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrea L. Thompson, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thompson nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, many of us were shocked when the President tweeted that he was deploying the National Guard to the border.

The President's claim that we face a crisis at our Southwest border is simply false, and it is particularly ironic when the President himself has repeatedly bragged—again, falsely—that illegal border crossings are at an alltime low.

I remain concerned that the Trump administration is diverting Defense Department resources to the border to help carry out its deportation agenda. The Department is unable to tell Congress how much these deployments may cost our Nation—paid for with money diverted from other, critical defense programs. So far, the Department of Defense has provided a preliminary estimate that these deployments will cost $182 million in fiscal year 2018, but there is no end in sight.

I am also concerned that these deployments may harm the readiness of our National Guard by disrupting training for core missions. As one local elected official in New Mexico noted in the Albuquerque Journal, ''We're going into forest fire season. A big percentage of the state is in drought right now, and if National Guard folks are continuously rotated down to the border for a problem that doesn't exist, are they going to be available for a real problem when it happens?''

Well, yesterday, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson issued a surprising report, which inadvertently agreed with these concerns.

Last year, Congress required the Department of Defense to examine past deployments of National Guard troops to the border and to analyze those experiences for whether they had been beneficial for those Guard members. As Vice Chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I received the Department's report yesterday.

It is fair to say that its conclusions are probably not what the President wanted to hear from his own political appointees.

The report notes that several States have conducted training and operations along the Southwest border. It concludes that training and operations by California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas Guard units ''does not directly contribute to collective core Mission Essential Task readiness'' of those units. In other words, we are diverting them from their most important missions.

It was even harsher in its conclusions for National Guard units from other States traveling to the border for similar training. It describes a pilot program to send 250 National Guard personnel to the border. Not only did the pilot program cost a half a million more than that unit's regular, scheduled training, but it also resulted in only 22 more apprehensions than normal, while contributing almost nothing to the unit's training.

The report also notes that these kinds of deployments ''comes at a cost to the individual soldier, his/her family, and her/his employer, as well as to overall united readiness.''

Is that what we want? To impose costs on our volunteer Guard personnel, their families, their employers supporting their service?

The report goes on to say, ''Such tasking could also potentially impact support to validated Global Force Management Allocation Plan requirements.'' That is a mouthful, but it means that these deployments could make our National Guard less prepared to respond to a natural disaster back home or, God forbid, a war.

Is that what we want? No. There's an old adage that goes, when you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is to stop digging.

We all know that the President wants to build a wall on the border, but he has failed to convince Congress that spending $25 billion on a campaign promise is the right thing to do. Instead, he is sending the outstanding women and men of the National Guard to the border, as if to compensate for his inability to work with Congress.

I have met a great number of members of the National Guard, and I know they will carry out their assigned duties as well as they can. Many will view their deployments as a chance to serve the country they love, but we owe it to them to send them on a mission that is worth it, and the Pentagon's own study raises serious questions about that.

I hope that we end National Guard deployments to staff the crisis that the President invented and get them back to their core job: protecting their States and protecting this country.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABDUCTION OF THE CHIBOK GIRLS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I would like to recognize a tragic anniversary upon us this month. Four years ago this month, the terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped 276 girls in the dead of the night from a school in Chibok, Nigeria, where they were taking final exams.

Some of the girls managed to run away, but Boko Haram abducted 219 girls.

These hundreds of young girls were held captive, abused, made to be slaves, forced into marriage with their abductors, raped, starved, and, in some cases, forcibly converted to Islam.

Some have tragically died while trying to flee or even during childbirth.

You might recall the global campaign on Twitter, #BringBackOurGirls, to urge the rescue of the girls.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama was moved to join the campaign for the release of the girls, as were over 3 million people around the world.

I, myself, was mortified to learn that, for the mere act of seeking an education, the girls were abducted and forced into child marriage or slavery. That is why, back then in 2014, I introduced a resolution condemning the Chibok abduction and calling for the immediate, safe return of the girls.

Since the kidnapping, just over 100 girls have been released, leaving over 100 girls still missing. I fear some may have already perished.

Parents marked the fourth anniversary on Saturday by marching with thousands of others to the school in Chibok where the girls were abducted in 2014.

I think we should join them here in the Senate in remembering this tragic anniversary.

That is why I have introduced, with some of my female colleagues, a resolution calling for the immediate release of all Boko Haram captives, especially the remaining Chibok girls.

The girls who have returned have told of the deplorable abuses Boko Haram fighters made them suffer.

No one should be subject to the depravity of an organization that doesn't value human life, let alone young girls simply trying to get an education.

Unfortunately, since 2012, Boko Haram has conducted a violent campaign of mass kidnappings of women, girls, and boys in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Boko Haram remains one of the deadliest terrorist groups in the world, killing more than 13,000 people since 2013. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says almost 2.5 million people in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger have been displaced—that is forced from their homes—because of Boko Haram's brutality.

And the terror continues.

Just in February, Boko Haram militants stormed the town of Dapchi in Nigeria and abducted 111 girls and 1 boy.

Thankfully, most of those children have been returned to their families, but, heartbreakingly, some died during their ordeal, and one girl still remains a hostage.

The New York Times recently ran a stirring front page piece about some of the Chibok girls who have been freed. I applaud the extraordinary bravery of those survivors, who have come forward to share their stories and experiences at great risk to themselves.

The courage and strength of the girls who are still being held captive to remain resilient in the face of unspeakable brutality is deeply moving.

As a testament to their fortitude, let us all recommit ourselves to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, to pursuing policies that guarantee girls education, and to the release of the remaining Boko Haram captives.

Thank you.

REMEMBERING DAN AKAKA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the life and achievements of Dan Akaka, a veteran, educator, U.S. Senator, and most importantly, a dear friend of mine. Dan passed away recently after 93 years of life imbued with the aloha spirit, and I have been reflecting on his legacy of quiet but effective work in the Senate.

Dan Akaka was a tireless advocate for indigenous people. As I was working on the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, his cooperation and persistence as chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee helped include important provisions to protect Native-American women from violence. He also worked hard to support vital programs that provided education, healthcare, housing, and other basic services for Tribes across the country.

A World War II veteran himself, Dan was a strong supporter of the National Guard. He was one the first cosponsors to support my National Guard Empowerment Act and give the Guard the representation that it deserved. He will also be remembered for fighting to have the valor and sacrifice of Asian-American soldiers in World War II recognized, sponsoring legislation that awarded long overdue Medals of Honor to those who had been discriminated against because of their race.

Hawaiians were lucky to have him as a champion in the Senate, and I was lucky to have him as a friend.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article ''Daniel Akaka, Former Democratic Senator From Hawaii, Dies At 93'' be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 6, 2018]

DANIEL AKAKA, FORMER DEMOCRATIC SENATOR FROM HAWAII, DIES AT 93

(By Adam Clymer)

Former Senator Daniel K. Akaka, a Democrat who represented Hawaii for 36 years in Congress and successfully fought for the belated recognition of Asians and Asian-Americans who had fought for the United States in World War II, died on Friday in Honolulu. He was 93.

Jon Yoshimura, the senator's former communications director, confirmed the death, saying Mr. Akaka had been hospitalized for several months, The Associated Press reported.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Akaka sponsored legislation in 1996 that led to a re-evaluation of the service records of Asian-Americans who had fought in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion during the war.

As a result, almost two dozen Medals of Honor, the military's highest award, were ultimately bestowed belatedly, some posthumously, on Asian-American veterans, most of them of Japanese heritage. Only one had been awarded during the war itself.

After a White House awards-presentation ceremony led by President Bill Clinton in 2000, Senator Akaka said the medals had dispelled apparent wartime discrimination against Asian-American military personnel.

The most prominent recipient was Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Mr. Akaka's much better-known colleague—and Hawaii's senior senator—for 22 years in the Senate. Mr. Inouye, who died in 2012, had lost his right arm while serving with the 442nd in Europe.

Senator Akaka also successfully pursued legislation that provided onetime compensation for members of the Phillipine Scouts, an American-led unit of mostly Filipino and Filipino-American recruits who fought alongside United States troops but did not qualify for Veterans Administration benefits.

And he secured a formal apology for the United States's role in the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawaii in 1893 as well as a transfer of land that the federal government had taken.

But he failed in repeated legislative efforts to have native Hawaiians recognized as an indigenous people so that they might receive federal benefits similar to those provided to American Indians and natives of Alaska.

During his Senate years Mr. Akaka had stints as chairman of its Committee on Veterans Affairs and of its Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Akaka was an outspoken critic of the war in Iraq. On March 17, 2003, three days before the United States attacked that country, he warned the Senate:

''If we pursue our current path, we will have a war lacking in many things essential to achieving complete success. It will be a war without broad international support, without sufficient planning for post-conflict reconstruction and stability, without a definite exit time and strategy, and without a firm price tag.

''Moreover,'' he continued, ''it will be a war with serious ramifications for our long-term readiness capabilities for homeland security and for managing other crises.''

A steadfast liberal on most issues, he was known as a champion of federal workers, complaining that his Senate colleagues too often denigrated them and cheerfully froze their pay.

He chaired a Senate subcommittee on the federal work force and was the chief sponsor of the 2012 Whistleblower Protection Act, which provided safeguards against retaliation to federal workers who report waste, fraud and abuse.

Daniel Kahikina Akaka was born in Honolulu on Sept. 11, 1924, the youngest of eight children. His father was of Chinese and Hawaiian descent; his mother was Hawaiian. He attended public schools.

After service with the Army Corps of Engineers, he graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1952 with a degree in education and taught music, social studies and math in elementary, middle and high schools. He later became a school principal and earned a master's degree.

After Hawaii was admitted into the union in 1959, he was an official in the state's Department of Education and was named director of the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity, an antipoverty program.

Mr. Akaka was first elected to the House in 1976 and easily re-elected afterward. In 1990 he was appointed to fill a Senate vacancy caused by the death of Spark Matsunaga. He was elected that fall and re-elected in 1994, 2000 and 2006. He announced in March 2011 that he would not run again in 2012.

Mr. Akaka, who lived in Honolulu, is survived by his wife, Mary Mildred Chong, whom he married in 1948; a daughter, Millannie Akaka Mattson; four sons, Daniel Jr., Gerard, Alan and Nicholas; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

While he was never known as a key lawmaker, Mr. Akaka was familiar to watchers of C-Span: his name came first whenever the Senate roll was called and, in his early years, he relished presiding over that body, a duty many of his colleagues regarded as tedious.

In 1992, the Senate presented him with its Golden Gavel Award for presiding for at least 100 hours.

''I really was proud of being able to chair the Senate floor over the years and really looked forward to it,'' he said in a 2011 interview for this obituary.

Even in his final years, he left instructions with the Democratic cloakroom that he would preside in a pinch, saying, ''Any time you can't find somebody, call me.''

REMEMBERING HESTER GOODENOUGH CALDWELL

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to take a moment to remember a Vermonter who, with seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm, devoted her life to her family, her students, her friends, and her community. Hester ''Hep'' Caldwell, who died on April 10, 2018, will be forever remembered and admired for a life well lived.

Hep, who lived to be 89, was one of those people who just about everybody liked immediately. She loved people, she loved sports, she loved the outdoors, and she loved living on West Hill in Putney, VT, with her husband, John, whom she first met when they were both just 10 years old.

For decades, Hep taught history and John taught mathematics at the Putney School. Besides challenging her students in the classroom, Hep's many passions—hiking, skiing, gardening, classical music—inspired all who knew her. She set an example for generations, young and old, in her home, in the classroom, in woods, fields, and on the slopes and summits of mountains in all seasons of the year and by her many years of community service.

Putney will not be the same without Hep, but she has left her mark there and in her children and grandchildren in ways that will live on for generations.

I ask unanimous consent that Hep Caldwell's obituary in the Valley News be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Valley News, Apr. 22, 2018]

HESTER GOODENOUGH CALDWELL

PUTNEY, VT.—Hester Goodenough Caldwell, born Nov. 30, 1928, died on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Hep died as she lived: sustained by her love for her family and her ability to meet challenges with laughter and quick wit. Hep was born in Woodbridge, Conn. to Erwin and Helen Goodenough. She grew up loving the outdoors and playing alongside her three older brothers and male cousins, excellent preparation for her future schooling and her later ability to simultaneously embrace and challenge traditional gender roles. At the age of 10 she entered Putney School, where she met the boy she would later wed, John Caldwell. After graduating from Smith College in 1950 and marrying John, she returned to Putney School in 1953, where she taught history for 37 years even as she raised four children and earned her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University. During her tenure at Putney School, Hep also held a variety of positions including head of the history department, dean of faculty, field hockey coach, and ski coach. An avid hiker, she led student ski trips to Tuckerman's Ravine, drawing on her years of skiing for Putney School and on the ski patrol at Smith. Together, Hep and John exemplified partnership as they raised their four children, worked at Putney School, and traveled to Switzerland, France, Italy, Austria, Finland, Norway, Australia, Tonga, Wales, England, Japan, Yugoslavia, China and Russia on learning, hiking and skiing expeditions.

In their later years, Hep and John became co-sponsors of Camp Caldwell, a series of mini-camps for their 10 grandchildren, where they nurtured family ties, promoted the benefits of physical labor, and cultivated a respect and love for the natural world. In the spirit of 5:00 AM barn duty at the Putney School, the little grandkid campers could not have 7 AM breakfast until they had dipped in the icy cold spring-fed pond at the bottom of the hill, which of course Hep and John had done themselves an hour or so earlier. Other camp activities ranged from ''waking up the chickens and feeding them'' to drawing straws to see which pair would have to wade into the swamp mud to remove the water-cress that had infested the pond's water. Now adults, some of the grandkids' fondest memories include their time together with Hep and John.

Hep contributed significantly to her community, serving as a founding member of the new Putney Library, Chairperson of Brattleboro Community Chorus, head of the Putney's Democratic Party and as a Justice of the Peace, presiding over scores of marriages. Inspiring her children, grandchildren and students to do good in this world, lifting hearts with her piano playing, Hep's legacy lives on in her children and grandchildren, all of whom love skiing and other outdoor activities, many of whom are engaged in teaching and coaching.

Hep faced old-age challenges in her final years, but she never lost her quick laugh and ability to find levity in whatever was happening around her. She was pre-deceased by her daughter, Jennifer and her brother, Ward. She will be greatly missed by her husband, John, her three children, Tim, Sverre, and Peter and her ten grandchildren, Tyler, Alexa, Anya, Lucy, Sophie, Lucinda, Heidi, Austin, Isabel, and Patrick, and her brothers, John and Jim. A gathering to reflect on and celebrate her life will be held at the Putney School Aug. 4.

REMEMBERING FRANK GAYLORD

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on March 21, 2018, Vermont lost one of its finest sculptors, Frank Gaylord.

Frank Gaylord, a Granite City resident, was a beloved member of the Barre community. Frank influenced the city and its residents, and the city in turn influenced his art. The local granite quarries of Barre provided ample materials for Frank to hone his sculpting skills.

Frank served his country not just in World War II, receiving a Bronze Star for his service, but also in creating the Korean War Veterans Memorial, his most famous work, which resides on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The memorial is visually striking; Frank captured the movement and feel of war, the 19 figures of diverse American soldiers are shrouded in ponchos and seem to walk endlessly. Frank called the day the memorial arrived on the National Mall as the highlight of his life.

Other examples of Frank's work can be seen in many New England towns, including at the Connecticut capital and in Williston and Montpelier, VT. However, what Vermont will best remember Frank by was his dedication and determination to improve Vermont's own Granite City. Frank's contributions to the Barre Granite Association, as well as to the former Barre Players, will be missed.

Frank's passing is a loss to Vermont, to the community of Barre, VT, and to the Nation. I will always remember Frank when I see his work on the National Mall and throughout Vermont, and how he so beautifully captured our country's spirit.

I ask unanimous consent that the Times Argus article ''He had an arts spirit: Famed Barre sculptor Frank Gaylord has died'' be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HE HAD AN ARTS SPIRIT: FAMED BARRE SCULPTOR FRANK GAYLORD HAS DIED

(By Eric Blaisdell)

BARRE.—The Granite City lost likely its most famous modern-day resident with the death of sculptor Frank Gaylord.

Gaylord, 93, died at his daughter's home in Northfield Wednesday night. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced, and are being taken care of by The Hooker and Whitcomb Funeral Home.

Gaylord created the National Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Other monuments created by Gaylord include the Firemen's Memorial in Eugene, Oregon; the Doctor Ashbel Smith statue in Baytown, Texas; the Policemen's Memorial in Jacksonville, Florida; the Toledo Mud Hens Monument in Toledo, Ohio; and the National Little League Monument in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

When Gaylord was growing up in Clarksburg, West Virginia, he recalled in a Times Argus story in 2015, his grandmother would give him plastic molds into which he would press clay to make reliefs. That transformed into sculpting clay animals and then he moved to carving soap, quickly learning how much material it actually took to make a full sculpture.

As he grew up, Gaylord was initially interested in taxidermy, which, at that time, was done by sculpting plaster molds, with the animal skins pulled over them.

Then World War II came along, and Gaylord became a paratrooper for two and a half years. Gaylord served with the 17th Airborne and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, he used the G.I. Bill and ended up at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, which had both engineering and fine arts schools. He later transferred to Temple University's Tyler School of Art, where he focused on becoming a carver.

In 1951, Mac Durnovich of E.J. Batchelder Co. in Barre hired Gaylord. So he and his late wife Mary moved to Vermont. He knew the community's reputation, its rich ethnic heritage, and its renowned craftsmanship. He said in 2015 he knew he could learn there.

Master sculptor Giuliano Cecchinelli, of Barre, has known Gaylord since the 1960s. Cecchinelli said Thursday that Barre has never had a sculptor like Gaylord.

''He gave Barre more than Barre asked. . . . He made Barre, Vermont,'' he said.

Cecchinelli said Gaylord was a perfectionist when it came to his style of work, which had a more modern flair to it. He said when he first met Gaylord he could tell right away that Gaylord had class and that he would achieve what he wanted to achieve.

Cecchinelli said he owns several pieces of Gaylord's work, which he keeps in his home.

Sue Higby, executive director of Studio Place Arts in downtown Barre, has known Gaylord for 15 years. Higby highlighted his work at her studio in 2015.

''I'm truly very sorry to hear of his passing and his integrity as an artist will live on in Barre for years to come,'' she said.

Higby said Gaylord was a cultural intellectual who loved theater, dance and the human form. She also said Gaylord, more than most artists, had the ability to capture in his work the feeling of a ballet dancer's movement or the fluttering of a piece of fabric.

Jerry Williams owns and operates Barre Sculpture Studios. Williams has known Gaylord since the 1980s and at one point he owned the studio next to Gaylord's.

''Frank was a mentor to many sculptors, some of them still operating in town. Some of them have moved on and done other

things. But he was a real valuable part of the sculpture community in this town. Not just monumental, but the art of what we're doing,'' he said.

Williams said he will remember Gaylord as someone with a dry wit who knew how to put things in perspective, such as how sculptors fit into the art scene. He said because Gaylord went to art school, he approached sculpting from a different perspective than those who learned by working in a granite shed.

''When I met him I kind of wanted to emulate that part of him that wasn't ground down by an industry. He still had an arts spirit,'' Williams said.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to take a moment to highlight the benefits of international students and scholars who come to the United States to live and study and who have been unfairly penalized by the current administration's efforts to limit travel to our country.

I wonder how many Americans are aware of the many ways that international students contribute to our colleges and universities, to our communities, and to our Nation. In economic terms, last year alone, international students contributed an estimated $37 billion to the U.S. economy and created or supported more than 450,000 U.S. jobs. In our State of Vermont, nearly 2,000 international students and their families contributed $83.1 million and supported 850 jobs. One would think that President Trump, who often touts his efforts to create jobs, would want to encourage this.

In addition to economic benefits, international students and scholars advance U.S. national security by strengthening our diplomatic and cultural ties with foreign countries. Students and scholars who spend time in the U.S. become informal ambassadors when they return home, sharing an appreciation for common values, counteracting stereotypes about Americans, enhancing respect for cultural differences, and maintaining connections with our country and citizens.

However, our country is at risk of losing our position as the most attractive country for international students and scholars and of ceding the critical benefits associated with such a reputation to others.

The U.S. Council of Graduate Schools recently reported a decline in international graduate student applications and enrollment for fall 2017, the first such decline in more than a decade. In fiscal year 2017, the U.S. Department of State issued nearly 20 percent fewer student visas compared to the previous fiscal year. Students and scholars are increasingly uncertain about their status in our country, as well as the types of educational and research opportunities that will remain available to international students. This uncertainty and the chilling effects of recent executive orders targeting foreigners appear to be diminishing the ability of the United States and our higher education institutions to remain attractive to international students.

At the same time, many other countries—including Australia, Canada, and China—are seizing the opportunity and proactively introducing national policies and marketing strategies to attract talented international students who might otherwise come here.

I urge the administration to not ignore the many important contributions to the U.S. economy, national security, and global reputation that are made by international students and scholars. The administration should reconsider its policies that are contributing to uncertainly and reluctance among such individuals, who instead should feel welcomed and encouraged to bring their talents and other contributions to this country.

CONFIRMATION OF KYLE DUNCAN

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, this week I cast my vote in support of the nomination of Kyle Duncan to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Duncan has been a successful trial and appellate attorney, as well as a law professor at the University of Mississippi School of Law. He was the assistant solicitor general for the State of Texas and the appellate chief for the State of Louisiana. He has tried cases at the State and Federal levels and has argued twice before the U.S. Supreme Court. The American Bar Association has reviewed his nomination and has rated Mr. Duncan ''well-qualified.''

Some have criticized Mr. Duncan for his work on certain high-profile cases. Nearly all nominees for the Federal courts who come before the Senate have advocated for various positions. Some of them have been involved in controversial, high-profile cases. In considering a nominee's fitness to serve on the bench, we should consider whether they have the intellect, the temperament, and the respect for precedent to fairly and faithfully uphold the law.

One case that Mr. Duncan litigated has been mischaracterized in a way that suggests he is biased against the LGBT community. Mr. Duncan's opponents argue that his work in V.L. v. E.L., in which the opposing party was a lesbian, demonstrates this bias. What these critics fail to mention is that Mr. Duncan's client was also a lesbian. The matter was a custody case involving two women in a same-sex partnership. As his cocounsel in the case, Randall W. Nichols, has described in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, dated November 27, 2017:

> I note that some may criticize Mr. Duncan for representing clients in the same-sex marriage litigation. It must not go without notice that our mutual client, E.L., was a same-sex woman asserting a strong, albeit ultimately unsuccessful, legal argument. Mr. Duncan represented our mutual client without once making an issue of her sexual orientation, without once displaying any personal bias, and without once indicating a desire to advance any agenda other than winning the case for E.L.

Mr. Duncan has testified to the Judiciary Committee that he would follow all applicable precedents of the Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit. He demonstrated his deference to precedent during his time representing the State of Louisiana. While the Supreme Court was deciding the Obergefell case on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage laws, Mr. Duncan was representing the State of Louisiana in a challenge to its marriage law. Following the Court's decision, the Fifth Circuit instructed the parties in the Louisiana case to explain whether Obergefell resolved the matter for the court.

The very next day, Mr. Duncan filed a letter explaining that, despite Louisiana's disagreement with the Obergefell outcome, the Fifth Circuit must follow the new Supreme Court precedent and strike down Louisiana's law. While still representing the State, Mr. Duncan announced that married same-sex couples would be able to have both of their names on their children's birth certificates. Mr. Duncan's actions following the Obergefell decision demonstrate that he will respect precedent and faithfully follow the law.

By contrast, in a similar case, the lawyers for the State of Arkansas continued to fight over whether Obergefell required States to issue birth certificates with the names of both same-sex spouses. Unlike Mr. Duncan, they resisted the Obergefell precedent all the way up to the Supreme Court and lost. That case, Pavan v. Smith, confirms that Mr. Duncan did the right thing in advising the Fifth Circuit to apply the Obergefell precedent.

It is also noteworthy that the attorney who argued against Mr. Duncan in the Louisiana case strongly supports his nomination. In an opinion article published in ''The Hill'' on March 25, 2018, Paul Baier, who is now a law professor at Louisiana State University, describes Mr. Duncan as a ''magnificent nominee for the Fifth Circuit who ought to be swiftly confirmed.'' He goes on to describe Mr. Duncan's qualifications in the following way:

> I always appreciated and respected Kyle's advocacy for his client and his respect for the humanity of the same-sex couples who would be most affected by the case. While I disagreed with many of his arguments, often emphatically, I never found a trace of bias, bigotry, or any disrespect towards the same-sex individuals in the case.
>
> Kyle knows well the difference between the advocate's role for his client (in the same-sex marriage case, the State of Louisiana) and what he would be called upon to decide as a judge on the Fifth Circuit. I maintain this view of Kyle even having faced off against him in the highly charged atmosphere of same-sex marriage litigation. His ability to act as a judge and not advocate will surely carry over to other questions of public importance facing the Fifth Circuit.

The advice and consent role given to the Senate in the Constitution is one of

the Senate's most solemn duties and one to which I give the utmost care. I apply no litmus test with respect to a nominee's personal beliefs, and have voted for judicial nominees whose personal views differ from my own, but evaluating whether a nominee possesses an ability to set aside emotion and personal views while applying the laws in a neutral and impartial manner is critical.

In this regard, I believe Mr. Duncan will be faithful to the rule of law. He has pledged to the Judiciary Committee and to me that he will follow all precedents of the Supreme Court, and his actions in the Louisiana same-sex marriage case are evidence that he will do this, even if he disagrees with the outcome. I support his confirmation.

JESSIE'S LAW

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, in March 2016, we lost a young woman with great potential named Jessica Grubb. Jessie was a great student, a loving daughter and sister, and an avid runner. She was also recovering from an opioid addiction.

When she had surgery for an infection related to a running injury, her parents were there to take care of her, and both Jessie and her parents told her doctors and hospital personnel that she was a recovering addict and not to be prescribed opioids.

Unfortunately, Jessie's discharging physician did not see this note in her chart, despite it being in there eight separate times. He did not know that she was a recovering addict and sent her home with a prescription for 50 oxycodone pills.

Her parents talked to her on the phone when she got home, but that was the last time they talked to her. She had passed away that night in her sleep. The temptation was too great for her, as it would be for so many in recovery.

Her death was tragic, but preventable.

That is why I introduced Jessie's Law and why I fought to have it included as part of the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill. The fiscal year 2018 LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Senate Report, which was signed into law, includes the following commonsense language to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish best practices for hospitals and physicians for sharing information about a patient's past opioid addiction when that information is shared by the patient with the healthcare provider: ''Opioid Medical Record Reporting.—The Committee is deeply concerned about the devastating impact that the opioid epidemic is having on families throughout the country, and recognizes that medical providers must have access to information about their patients' past opioid addiction if that information is provided by the patient. The Committee encourages the Secretary to develop and disseminate standards that would allow hospitals and physicians to access the history of opioid addiction in medical records (including electronic health records) of any patient who has provided information about such addiction to a healthcare provider.''

These standards will be created in honor of Jessica Grubb and will help ensure that a patient's substance use disorder history is included in a patient's record like any other life-threatening medical issue, including a penicillin allergy.

This will help keep a tragedy like Jessie's death from ever happening again by ensuring that, when individuals are open about their past addiction, healthcare providers will have access to the information that they need to provide medically appropriate care and save lives.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today, April 26, 2018, we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day and recognize the important role intellectual property plays in the fabric of society. We take time to recognize the innovators and creators who are making our lives healthier, safer, and more productive through their ingenuity and the robust system of intellectual property protections enshrined in our laws.

This year's World Intellectual Property Day campaign in particular celebrates the women who are driving change and making our common future better though innovation in so many fields including science, healthcare, art, engineering, and design, just to name a few.

Inspiring contributions from countless women are powering innovation in our world. For example, Helen Murray Free was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2000 and awarded the national medal of technology and innovation in 2010 for her pioneering work in self-testing systems for diabetes. She received seven patents for her work. Iowa's own Mary Florence Potts also used the American patent system to protect three of her inventions. Her work improved the safety of common household appliances, and her novel iron design was even displayed at the 1876 World's Fair in Philadelphia. Elise Harmon holds numerous patents for technology, ranging from microprocessor production to high-altitude carbon brush performance. Our intellectual property system must continue to protect and reward the work of women like Helen Murray Free, Mary Florence Potts, and Elise Harmon.

We need to continue creating an environment where innovative, creative women are empowered, connected, and celebrated. This involves ensuring a robust, inclusive intellectual property system that fosters and rewards innovation and the widespread ingenuity that has made America a leading force in the global economy.

The Founding Fathers recognized that robust intellectual property infrastructure fosters creative talent and enhances innovative spark. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution says ''Congress shall have power . . . to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.'' Placing this authority within Congress's enumerated powers underscores the weight that our Founding Fathers placed on intellectual property's value to the budding Nation. Although the American system of intellectual property rights has evolved since the ratification of the Constitution, its core mission of promoting innovation has remained constant. As a result, America has long been on the forefront of intellectual property and a leader in so many IP-intensive fields. Our IP system is one that rightly rewards creativity and passion, characteristics common to so many Americans.

Intellectual property is also critical to our national economy because it fuels innovation that improves lives and creates jobs. The United States is one of the most dynamic and innovative countries in the world. Our Nation's success in areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, computer technology, and medicine can be traced in large measure to our respect for and protection of intellectual property. In our modern, innovation economy, patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and other forms of IP are more critical than ever. IP protections and incentives drive enormous economic activity and development, helping assure America's place as an economic and intellectual beacon to the world. According to the U.S. Commerce Department, IP-intensive industries account for more than 45 million direct and indirect U.S. jobs—that is nearly a third of the workforce—and almost 40 percent of U.S. GDP. In addition, these jobs pay well. Average weekly wages in IP-intensive industries are 46 percent higher than in non-IP intensive fields. As a society, we depend on innovators not just to fuel our economy, but to make our lives better and to solve the challenges we face. These innovators, in turn, depend on different forms of intellectual property.

The Judiciary Committee plays an important role in protecting intellectual property. The committee exercises jurisdiction over our Nation's intellectual property laws, including those governing patents, trademarks, and copyrights. We consider legislation that helps to ensure that intellectual property rights continue to promote jobs and innovation. The committee also exercises important oversight of the Patent and Trademark Office, the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, and various law enforcement entities charged with protecting IP. Just last week, we held an oversight hearing with Director

Iancu from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. We heard about what is going well and about some of the difficulties facing the Office, as well as other intellectual property stakeholders. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I will continue to embrace my role as a promoter of intellectual property rights, innovation, and ultimately American jobs.

This World Intellectual Property Day, it is important to once again recognize the significance of our Nation's robust system of intellectual property protection and enforcement. As we recognize the positive impacts IP has on innovation, let's continue to find ways to work together to ensure its protection against infringement. We want the United States to maintain its position as the most innovative and creative country in the world.

REMEMBERING VEL PHILLIPS

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, today I wish to honor Vel Phillips, who was born Velvalea Hortense Rodgers in 1923 in Milwaukee and passed away on April 17, 2018, at the age of 95. Vel was a civil rights leader and a pioneer in social justice and fair housing who left an indelible mark on the State of Wisconsin.

Vel earned a national oratory scholarship from the Black Elks to attend Howard University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1946. She returned to her home State of Wisconsin to attend the University of Wisconsin—Madison Law School, becoming the first Black woman to graduate from the school, just one in a long series of significant firsts for Vel.

Following law school, Vel made it her life's work to advocate for social justice and equal rights. She became actively involved in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, working for political, social, educational, and economic equality for people of color.

Vel was elected to the Milwaukee Common Council in 1956, not only as the first African American, but also as the first woman. Her election sent shockwaves through the all-White, all-male council. Rather than welcoming her to her new position, her colleagues refused to share an office with her and suggested she join the aldermen's wives club instead of the council. A firm believer in polite persistence, Vel took her seat quietly but proudly. She quickly went on to become an advocate not only for the people in her district, but for every African American in the city. She later said, ''No matter where they lived, I was their alderman and they called me.''

Vel would go on to accomplish many more firsts. In 1971, she became the first woman judge in Milwaukee County, as well as the first African-American judge in the State of Wisconsin. In 1978, she made history again as the first woman and minority elected secretary of State in Wisconsin.

In spite of all these significant firsts, Vel Phillips is perhaps best known for initiating the long but ultimately successful fight to outlaw housing discrimination in Milwaukee. Until the late 1960s, landlords freely refused to sell or rent property to people of color. Even if homeowners wanted to sell property to people of color, banks routinely rejected their loan applications. As a result, African Americans lived almost exclusively in one run-down neighborhood on Milwaukee's near north side.

In 1962, Vel introduced the city's first ordinance to prohibit discrimination in housing. The council promptly rejected it by a vote of 18 to 1. She tried three additional times over the next 6 years with the same result. The Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council and The Rev. James Groppi took up her cause in 1967 and organized 200 consecutive nights of protests in support of her ordinance. When her colleagues adopted a watered-down version of an open housing ordinance in an attempt to make the protests stop, Vel told them, ''Thanks for nothing. You are very much too late and very much too little.''

The council finally passed a strong open housing ordinance in 1968, after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spurred Congress to pass the national Fair Housing Act.

Following her retirement from public office, Vel remained involved in important causes, speaking up when she saw injustice, protesting when necessary, and educating students from all over the world.

Public servant, trailblazer, activist, icon, and pioneer are all words that only begin to describe Vel Phillips' contributions to the fight for equality in Wisconsin. While history will forever remember her for her string of momentous firsts, her greatest legacy will be the many women who run for elective office or the countless African Americans who live throughout the city thanks to the seemingly insurmountable barriers she shattered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, as a fellow Commodore, I would like to congratulate the Vanderbilt University women's bowling team on winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, championship, the second national championship for the women's bowling program and the fourth national championship in Commodore athletic history.

John Williamson, the head coach of this program for 14 years, has done an excellent job of training and guiding these exceptional student-athletes. He has worked hard to build this program from its inception in 2004 into one that annually contends for championships.

Vanderbilt is a very special university, one that produces student-athletes of exceptional character and integrity. These are student-athletes that have pride in themselves and their school, in both academics and athletics. In fact, Kristin Quah of the bowling team earned the NCAA's Elite 90 Award for having the highest grade point average at the championships, a 3.953, while double majoring in biomedical and electrical engineering. Seven members of the team were recently named to the spring sports All SEC Academic Honor Roll.

I am filled with pride for my alma mater, and I wish the bowling team and all of Vanderbilt University the best.

This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work, talent, and teamwork of the following outstanding student-athletes: Kelsey Abrahamsen, Maria Bulanova, Samantha Gainor, Bryanna Leyen, Jordan Newham, Ariana Perez, Lauren Potechin, Kristin Quah, Emily Rigney, Katie Stark, and Adel Wahner.

These student-athletes were coached and mentored by a dedicated team of coaches and athletic department staff, including: head coach John Williamson; assistant coach and former All-American Josie Earnest Barnes; associate athletic director and sport administrator Kevin Colon; strength and conditioning coach Darren Edgington; facility manager Kenny Moore; academic counselor Candice Johnson; athletic trainer Alda Burston; and volunteer sports information director Rod Williamson.

I would also like to acknowledge chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos; vice chancellor and athletics director David Williams II; deputy athletics director Candice Storey Lee; and senior associate athletics directors Lori Alexander; and Martin Salamone for their vision and leadership.

Anchor Down, Commodores. We are proud of you.•

TRIBUTE TO MECALLEN GARNEAU

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Mecallen for his hard work as an intern in my Sheridan office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Mecallen is a native of Sheridan. He is a freshman at Sheridan College, where he is studying occupational therapy and health science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Mecallen for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.•

TRIBUTE TO LINDA LOMBARDI

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Linda for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Linda is a native of Arizona. She is a student at Casper College, where she is studying general studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Linda for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.•

TRIBUTE TO NICOLE PECK

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Nicole for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Policy Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Nicole is a native of Jackson. She is a sophomore at Georgetown University. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Nicole for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.•

TRIBUTE TO EMMA ROGERS

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Emma for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Emma is a native of Arizona. She is a student at Casper College, where she is going to study political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Emma for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.•

TRIBUTE TO CONROY STOUT

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Conroy for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Conroy is a native of Cheyenne. He attended the University of Wyoming for both undergraduate and graduate studies, where he studied communications and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Conroy for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.•

TRIBUTE TO EMILY TETER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Emily for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Emily is a native of Wheatland. She is a junior at the University of Wyoming, where she is studying phychology and criminal justice. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Emily for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.•

TRIBUTE TO ANDY ANDERSON

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, this week, I have the honor of recognizing Andy Anderson for his over 60 years of commitment to being the go-to barber in Judith Basin County.

Andy grew up in Harlowton but spent a few years in Two Dot, where his parents worked as ranchers. After turning 17, Andy went to barber school in Washington but swiftly moved back to Montana following the training. He opened his first barber shop in Stanford and shortly thereafter opened a second in Denton. In December of 2017, Andy celebrated his 60th year as a barber.

Andy believes strongly in giving back to his community. He spent 4 years serving as State barber inspector on the State barber board. This involved visiting barber shops around the State, inspecting their shops, but also offering any assistance he could to local barbers. Additionally, he spent a term serving as a member of the city council. Andy and has wife, Alverta, have been married for 58 years. They have three kids and eight grandchildren. Andy's son Scott has followed in his father's footsteps and works in the Denton shop on Thursdays.

I congratulate Andy Anderson on his tremendous career. He has improved the lives of many around him and will continue to leave a lasting impact on the people of his community and the greater State of Montana.•

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF VISTA HOUSE

• Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Oregon is renowned for our beautiful places, and the view of the Columbia Gorge from Interstate 84 is one of the most stunning drives in the country. Oregonians and travelers alike are fortunate that, for a century now, we have been able to break from driving and take in the entire stunning view of the gorge from the Vista House.

The idea came from Samuel Lancaster, supervisor of the Columbia River Highway project, who proposed to construct a building on the summit of Crown Point. He wanted travelers along the highway to feel inspired, and to make the wonders of the gorge accessible.

The Vista House was built as a rest stop observatory on the old Columbia River Gorge Highway and as a memorial for Oregon's settlers, particularly those whose journey took them along the Columbia River. Described by its architect, Edgar M. Lazarus, as ''a temple to the natural beauty of the Gorge,'' Vista House has long been recognized for its historic significance and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

From its vantage point 733 feet above the Columbia River, millions of travelers have enjoyed a step back in time and one of Oregon's most inspiring views. With the help of thousands of dedicated volunteers from Friends of Vista House, who tell visitors the fascinating history of the Vista House, this Oregon treasure has found its place in our Nation's history.

I join all Oregonians in looking forward to another 100 years of celebrating Oregon's beauty and its history at the Vista House.•

TRIBUTE TO ALAN GERSHENHORN

• Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the career and service of Mr. Alan Gershenhorn, a 38-year veteran of United Parcel Service. Mr. Gershenhorn started his career as a part-time package handler in Houston, TX, and has since held a number of positions within the company, including his most recent position as UPS's executive vice president and chief commercial officer. He has been a member of the UPS management committee since 2007.

In addition to his corporate responsibilities, Mr. Gershenhorn served as a delegate to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and as a

trustee of the UPS Foundation. As trustee, he oversaw investments of more than 2.6 million volunteer hours and $116 million in direct and in-kind donations to communities in need around the world in 2016.

Mr. Gershenhorn worked to increase diversity at UPS and to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. In addition to supporting UPS's business resource groups that championed employees from a wide array of backgrounds, he also served in a leadership role on the Crecer BRG.

UPS CEO David Abney recognized Mr. Gershenhorn's impact on UPS as ''tremendous.'' UPS president of global public affairs Laura Lane noted that he is an ''outstanding leader who encourages and empowers the people around him.'' There is no doubt that Mr. Gershenhorn's vision and strategic leadership have played an integral role in UPS's growth over the last 38 years.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Gershenhorn's true lifetime of achievement and example of the American dream. Mr. Gershenhorn contributed to the dreams of others in every position he held. I congratulate Mr. Gershenhorn on his nearly four decades of service and wish him the very best in retirement.●

FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

● Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I wish to honor 591 high school seniors in 12 northeast Ohio counties for their decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. Of these 591 seniors, 163 will enter the Army, 134 will enter the Marine Corps, 107 will enter the Navy, 19 will enter the Air Force, 7 will enter the Coast Guard, 153 will enter our Ohio Army National Guard, and 8 will enter the Ohio Air National Guard. In the presence of their parents-guardians, high school counselors, military leaders, and city and business leaders, all 591 will be recognized on May 9, 2018, at the Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism ''Our Community Salutes'' event.

In a few short weeks, these young men and women will join with many of their classmates in celebration of their high school graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees or are uncertain about their futures, these young men and women instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our rights, our freedoms, and our country. They should know that they have full support of this Senate Chamber and the American people who are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

These 591 young men and women are the cornerstone of our liberties. It is thanks to their dedication and the dedication of an untold number of patriots just like them that we are able to meet here today in the U.S. Senate and openly debate the best solutions to the many diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a dangerous world. We are grateful to them, and we are grateful to their parents and their communities for instilling in them not only the mental and physical abilities our Armed Forces require, but also the character, the values, and the discipline that leads someone to put service to our Nation over self.

I would like to personally thank these 591 graduating seniors for volunteering to risk their lives in defense of our Nation. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD the names of the 591 high school seniors.

The material follows:

UNITED STATES ARMY—163

Aguerrero—Jefferson; Allen—North Canton; Allen—Wellsville; Ambiz—Ashtabula;

Ashley—Fairlawn; Banegas Valladares—Barberton; Bansek—Lorain; Beckley—Youngstown; Benco—North Ridgeville; Besosa Cortes—Brooklyn; Black—New Waterford; Bluford-Brown—Lorain;

Bost—East Liverpool; Bowser—East Palestine; Bradford—Oakwood Village; Branch—Cleveland;

Brandenburg—Broadview Heights; Breeds—Lorain; Brown—Wooster; Bush—Columbia Station;

Bush—Uniontown; Calhoun—Medina; Campbell—Kent; Cardarelli—Youngstown;

Carducci—Ashtabula; Casenhiser—New Franklin; Chaplin—Euclid; Cheung—Cleveland; Ciha—Kent;

Clark—Parma; Coker—Cleveland; Combs—Parma; Crawford—Avon Lake; Crecraft—Hubbard;

Cross—Youngstown; Daley—Salem; Deka—North Royalton; Dillinger—Ashtabula;

Downing—Garrettsville; Driggs—Canton; Duncan—Cleveland Heights; Ellis—Cleveland;

Facemyer—Elyria; Fanara—Stow; Garrow—Columbia Station; Gillespie—Conneaut;

Gilman—Lakewood; Grace—Struthers; Greer—Parma Heights; Gregg—Lorain; Griffith—Hartville;

Griffith—Girard; Groat—Medina; Gross—Brunswick; Hall—Ashtabula; Hall—Mayfield Heights;

Hanson—Westlake; Harris—Youngstown; Heestand—Alliance; Hendren—Akron; Hively—Canfield;

Holdridge—Medina; Holocker—Parma; Hunker—Oberlin; Ice—Lorain; Jacobs—Cleveland; Jacobs—Parma; Jakes—Cleveland Heights; Johnson III—Cleveland; Johnston—Cuyahoga Falls;

Jones—Euclid; Jones—LaGrange; Kauffman—Millersburg; Kessler—Wadsworth; Konjovic—Norton;

Lar—Akron; Laubacher—Louisville; Lednik—Elyria; Lennerth—LaGrange; Lessears—Akron; Likes—Litchfield; Linden—Elyria; Lohr—Avon Lake; Loosemore—Youngstown; Lopez—Deerfield;

Malone—Cleveland; Medina—North Ridgeville; Miller—New Franklin; Miller—Canton;

Minarchick—Brunswick; Morales—Wickliffe; Morris—Beloit; Morrison—Smithville;

Multunas—Brunswick; Murphy—Salem; Ochenkowski—Lorain; Palmer—Canton; Parker—Beach City;

Parks—Avon Lake; Patterson—Medina; Perez—Wooster; Pestka—Doylestown; Peters—Vermilion;

Peters—Youngstown; Poling—Niles; Potase—Masury; Prell—Parma; Proctor—Ashtabula;

Rambo—Columbiana; Ramsay—Wadsworth; Reis—North Olmsted; Reyes—Cleveland;

Reynolds—Elyria; Rhodes—Amherst; Robinson—Cleveland; Robinson—Macedonia;

Rollingson—Bellevue; Saikaly—New Franklin; Samela—Cuyahoga Falls; Santos—Elyria;

Schell—Conneaut; Sharier—Barberton; Shelton—Wellington; Shrout—Eastlake; Singer—Elyria;

Smith—Columbia Station; Smith—Akron; Smith—Lake Milton; Smith—East Liverpool;

Smithers—Cuyahoga Falls, Spagling—Akron; Spoon—Orwell; Stewart—North Canton;

Stipanovich—Youngstown; Stockwell—Akron; Stokes—Barberton; Summers—Cleveland;

Swiger—Campbell; Tanner—Medina; Tindel—Akron; Townsley—Elyria; Traster—Lorain;

Tun—Akron; Upperman—North Canton; Vandoren—Orrville; Vinson—Barberton;

Wallbrown—New Franklin; Wesner—Medina; Weston—Canton; White—Cleveland; White—Elyria;

Williams—Strongsville; Williams—Canal Fulton; Williams—Youngstown; Wilson—Mentor;

Witherow—Columbiana; Wolf—Malvern; Wood—Parma; Wray—Akron; Wright—Cleveland;

Wyley—Cleveland; Yarian—Alliance; Zeisler—Youngstown;

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS—134

Aronov—Solon; Aviles—Cleveland; Bailey—Akron; Baileyperschka—Conneaut; Bartek—Ravenna;

Bates—Barberton; Benson—Medina; Berry—Tallmadge; Berryhill—Aurora; Bish—Madison;

Bjornholm—Painesville; Block—Akron; Bolton—Akron; Britton—Conneaut; Brockett—Atwater;

Bryan—Perry; Burge—Cleveland Heights; Burianek—Brunswick; Burton—Painesville;

Byler—Jefferson; Casey—Ashtabula; Chandler—Medina; Cilluffo—Geneva; Clapp—Wooster;

Cochran—Lakewood; Cotter—Copley; Dages—Kirtland; Deguzmancacho—Cleveland;

DeMarco—Medina; Douglas—Mantua; Dunn—Creston; Durbak—Ravenna; Elmore—Medina;

Elswick—Chardon; Fedor—Aurora; Friedmann—Strongsville; Galarce—Parma; Gill—LaGrange;

Goulbourne—Bedford Heights; Griffin—Cleveland; Guttliep—Parma; Hamm—Solon;

Harris—Maple Heights; Harris—Stow; Harris—Bedford; Harris—Akron; Hartman—Newbury;

Hatchell—Garfield Heights; Hayes—Fairview Park; Haywood—Bedford; Heathfield—Cleveland;

Helsel—Brookpark; Helton—Medina; Helton—Rittman; Hemmi—Jefferson; Henry—Cleveland;

Hernandez Cedeno—Cleveland; Hickman—Akron; Hiott—Mentor-on-the-Lake; Hodgdon—Orrville;

Hotz—North Olmsted; Howe—Akron; Huff—Painesville; Jacobs—Dorset; Jones—Bedford;

Jones—Barberton; Juist—Madison; Kamel—Brookpark; Kay—Macedonia; Kerr—Madison;

Knight—Akron; Koziol—Burton; Lee—Cleveland Heights; Leipold—Cuyahoga Falls;

Lindsay—Akron; Lively—Cleveland; Lor—Atwater; Lynhamsimoes—Austinburg; Mabee—Akron;

Mack—Akron; Mancuso—Akron; Mannarino—Ashtabula; Marallo—Lyndhurst; Marshall—Copley;

Martinesquinones—Cleveland; Mayo—Kirtland; Mckee—Jefferson; Michalske—Middleburg Heights;

Miller—Akron; Miller—Willoughby; Mitchem—East Cleveland; Munaretto—Mentor;

Niemi—Jefferson; Orantescruz—Akron; Otis—Cleveland; Palmer—Chagrin Falls;

Pamer—Mogadore; Papp—Brookpark; Parker—Madison; Patterson—Cleveland;

Pemberton—Chagrin Falls; Perdue—Medina; Plaza—Westlake; Price—Copley; Proctor—Akron;

Reeves—Akron; Richmond—Conneaut; Rodriguez—Columbia Station; Scales—Shaker Heights;

Schafer—Madison; Scott—Rock Creek; Sears—Cuyahoga Falls; Severns—Akron; Shelton—Akron; Shipton—Akron; Skye—Mogadore; Spencer—Barberton; Stewart—Smithville; Sutton—Atwater;

Taylor—Painesville; Thomas—Strongsville; Tisdale—Conneaut; Toth—Ashtabula;

Troyer—Apple Creek; Vanbrunt—Orrville; Wagner—North Olmsted; Wiley—Warrensville Heights;

Wilson—Orrville; Wilson—Chardon; Withers—Akron; Wooster—North Olmsted; Wright—Bedford;

Zdanczewski—Windham; Zmauc—Cleveland;

UNITED STATES NAVY—107

Adkins—North Olmsted; Baker—Warren; Berry—Willoughby; Bhagmath—Lorain; Blews—Girard;

Bolha—Austintown; Bolton—Middlefield; Boyd—Farmdale; Burns—Ashtabula;

Buzzelli—Austintown; Byczek—Lakewood; Cantrell—Jefferson; Cantu—Wellington;

Caraballo—Lorain; Cate—Parma; Chase—North Royalton; Clark—Middlefield;

D'Amico—Mineral Ridge; Davis—Painesville; Dawes—Geneva; Derry—Newton Falls;

Dudra—Fairview Park; Dyling—Warren; Eltringham—Geneva; Enos—Ashtabula;

Evanitcka—Sebring; Farahay—Parma; Ferguson—Youngstown; Fisher—Cleveland Heights;

Fitzpatrick—North Jackson; Fuerst—Chardon; Garrido—Ashtabula; Glagola—Parma;

Gustovich—Girard; Hanson—Burton; Harper—Cleveland; Harris-Michetti—Fowler;

Henderson—Lakewood; Hernandez—Elyria; Holderman—Warren; Hove—Mentor;

Huffman—Elyria; Hunchuck—Geneva; Ingram—Niles; Jakupca—Mentor; Johnson—Cleveland;

Johnson—Elyria; Josselson—Parma; Kamsing—Madison; Karp—Avon Lake; Kenreich—Girard;

Keyes—Ashtabula; Kidd—Wellington; Koharik—Broadview Heights; Kowalski—Mentor; Kristof—Rocky River; Krouse—Norwalk; Ladiha—Mentor; Long—LaGrange; Lozinak—Parma;

Lugo—Cleveland; Maldonado—Geneva; McMinn—Mentor; McNally—Boardman; Meeker—Niles;

Merriman—Mentor; Mickus—Painesville; Morgan—Lorain; Myres III—Fowler; Nebe—Mentor;

Needham—Youngstown; O'Neill—North Olmsted; Pastor—Mentor; Price—Westlake; Prochko—Parma;

Rado—Parma; Ragland—East Cleveland; Rangel—Aguirre—Perry; Reilly—Westlake;

Reynolds—Hubbard; Rodriguez—Parma; Ross—Painesville; Rutledge—Boardman;

Scheuer—Painesville; Schivitz—Mentor; Sexton—Youngstown; Sharp Jr.—Lyndhurst; Shoaff—Parma;

Shultz—Salem; Slifko—Hubbard; Smith—Parma; Snowbrick—Bay Village; Sverko—Kirtland;

Thistlewaite—Columbiana; Tripodi—Huron; Vandenberg—Chardon; Velez—Lakewood;

Voll—Parma Heights; Walker—Andover; Wear—Brecksville; Weber—Huron; Wells—Lyndhurst;

Williams—Cleveland Heights; Wilson—Canfield; Windelspecht—Brecksville; Zborowski—Madison;

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE—19

Barnes—Wickliffe; Casto—Cuyahoga Falls; Duesing—Painesville; Fisher—Uniontown; Kaiser—Akron; McEldowney—Akron; Polosky—Uniontown; Robinson—Cuyahoga Falls; Rojas—South Euclid;

Romine—Akron; Scheidler—Stow; Schleis—Akron; Shafer—Akron; Shaver—Munroe Falls; Slater—Euclid; Spencer—Silver Lake; Staley—Rittman; Washko—Stow; Yovanovich—Barberton;

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD—7

Crawford—North Ridgeville; Langer—Concord; Nelson—Clyde; Robles—Berlin Heights; Slagle—Salem; Smith—North Ridgeville; Tryon—Eastlake;

OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD—153

Anderson—Lakewood; Anthony—Andover; Arnold—Lorain ; Aumann—Mentor; Barrios—Lorain;

Baxter—Maple Heights; Berndt—Bristolville; Black—Massillon; Bouchonville—Oberlin;

Bradford—Brook Park; Bradford—Brook Park; Brady—Massillon; Brown—Cleveland;

Carlton—Fairview Park; Carper—Akron; Chase—Youngstown; Chen—Cleveland; Church—Euclid;

Cook—Cuyahoga Falls; Coonrod—Avon; Copley—Barberton; Coreno—Cleveland; Corriere—Akron;

Cox—Youngstown; Cozens—Madison; Cromer—West Salem; Culbertson—Rock Creek;

Dahler—Berlin Center; Dalessandro—Wooster; Dalton—Andover; Dampier—Elyria;

Danielly—Hudson; Davidson—Cleveland; Deleon—Amherst; Deleon—Alliance;

Delsanter—Richmond Heights; Depasquale—Canton; Dibo—Boardman; Dieffenbaugher—Hartville;

Dragos—Niles; Dreher—Minerva; Dunay—Chardon; Ehrlich—Strongsville; 1. Estrada—Cleveland;

N. Estrada—Cleveland; Fein—Elyria; Ferguson—Euclid; Freeman—Canfield;

Fuentes—Broadview Heights; Gallagher—Brook Park; Gassama—Cleveland; Gehret—Alliance;

George—Hubbard; Gipson—Elyria; Glover—Bay Village; Goins—Tallmadge;

Gonzalez Sanabria—Lorain; Goodson—Euclid; Grubbs—North Olmsted; Gunter—Elyria;

Gwinn—Barberton; Hadley—Cleveland; Henderson—Kent; Hladun—Berlin Center; Hoyle—Akron;

Huff—Shaker Heights; Huff—Alliance; Huffman—Wooster; Hughes—Alliance; Irizarry—Lorain;

Isaac—Solon; Jones—Rock Creek; Kamuda—Akron; Kinne—Tallmadge; Kline—Akron;

Kubalski—Stow; Kurpil—Alliance; Lane—Fredericksburg; Lara—Olmsted Falls;

Lewis—Broadview Heights; Lin—Cleveland; Loar—Lorain; Lucky-Baker—Elyria;

Mahaney—North Ridgeville; Martin—Elyria; Martinez—Brooklyn; Martinez—Cleveland;

McCrory—Kirtland; McCullough—LaGrange; McEachern—Lorain; McGonagle—Cleveland;

Meder—Brook Park; Meyers—Clinton; Mondry—Cleveland; Monk—Alliance; Monn—Parma;

Morrow—Avon Lake; Morton—Warrensville; Murrell—Cleveland; Napier—Alliance;

Occhionero—Pepper Pike; Osorio—Ashtabula; Owen—Elyria; Pacheco—Columbia Station;

Palmer—Lakewood; Pawcio—Warren; Perryman—Elyria; Pilch—Brook Park; Rader—Elyria;

Reaves—Lakewood; Rendon—Youngstown; Rhea—Creston; Richards—Cleveland;

Ritenour—Warren; Robbins—Ashtabula; Robertson—Kirtland; Robinson—Northfield;

Robison—Warren; Rose—Leavittsburg; Rosenlund—Euclid; Rossi—Stow; Rowe—Bay Village;

Russo—Boardman; Sandell—Conneaut; Scahel—Brunswick; Scott—Maple Heights;

Scott—Deerfield; Shaffstall—Wellington; Sheese—Louisville; Shreve—Jefferson; Shupp—Andover;

Skipper—Grafton; Slot—Ashtabula; Smith—Akron; Stanley—Ravenna; Strifler—Massillon;

Sunyak—Akron; Teeple—Newton Falls; Thomas—Massillon; Thompson—Windham;

Tolbert—Cleveland; Torres—North Olmsted; Trzebuckowski—Brook Park; Udell—Andover;

Valdez-Torrez—Alliance; Vanest—Uniontown; Ward—Euclid; Watson—Elyria; Wheeler—Akron;

Whitecar—Strongsville; Wilson—Cleveland; Wood—Amherst; Young—Warren;

OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD—8

Bushwaigeer—Stow; Eash—Massillon; Fissel—Middlefield; Heards—Alliance; Miles—Canton; Ransom—Amherst; Tector—Medina; Torres—North Olmsted.●

RECOGNIZING ANDYMARK

● Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, as a member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am proud to recognize our hard-working Hoosiers and their vital contributions to our economy during National Small Business Week.

This week, I would like to recognize AndyMark, a successful Indiana small business that provides Hoosiers with innovative and competitive robotics products. AndyMark is located in Kokomo, IN, where their staff, who have over 200 years of combined experience, support the Hoosier robotics industry. AndyMark recently announced it is hiring more employees as a result of tax reform. It is important that we continue to support and protect Hoosier small businesses like AndyMark by advancing policies that will help our small and medium-sized businesses grow.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3144. An act to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4009. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5447. An act to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 447. An act to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3144. An act to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4009. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5045. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Steps and Protocols Related to the Rescue, Care, and Treatment of Captives of the Islamic State''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5046. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5047. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5048. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rule to Increase the Appraisal Threshold for Commercial Real Estate Transactions'' (RIN1557–AE18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5049. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5050. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Compliance with Order EA–12–049, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events'' (JLD–ISG–20012–01, Revision 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5051. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2017 Section 45K(d)(2)(C) Reference Price'' (Rev. Proc. 2018–32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5052. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Definitions and Selection Criteria that Apply to Direct Grant Programs'' (RIN1855–AA13) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5053. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5054. A communication from the President, African Development Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5055. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2017 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5056. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5057. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Auction of Cross-Service FM Translator Construction Permits Scheduled for May 15, 2018; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 99'' ((AU Docket No. 17–143) (DA 18–260)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5058. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Connect America Fund Universal Service Reform - Mobility Fund Second Order on Reconsideration'' ((WT Docket No. 10–208) (FCC 18–19)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5059. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Cora, Wyoming)'' (MB Docket No. 17–196) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5060. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Updating the Code of Federal Regulations'' ((RIN2140–AB40) (Docket No. EP 746) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5061. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Modifications to Greater Amberjack Recreational Fishing Year and Fixed Closed Season'' (RIN0648–BH32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5062. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5063. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report required by section 1256 of the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–217. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to pass legislation permitting West Virginia to increase the weight of vehicles permitted to operate on Interstate Highways to that West Virginia may implement a pilot program to study various vehicle configurations and weights; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55

Whereas, Federal law currently imposes vehicle weight limitations on vehicles that operate on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways, hereafter ''Interstate Highways''; and

Whereas, The maximum gross weight typically allowed by any State for vehicles using the Interstate Highways is twenty thousand pounds carried on one axle, a tandem axle weight of thirty-four thousand pounds, and an overall maximum gross weight by formula; and

Whereas, Federal law also contains many exceptions to such weight limits; and

Whereas, The increased capacity and ability of modem vehicles to transport commodities and products, together with increased economic pressures to reduce industry transportation costs and increased environmental pressures to lower carbon dioxide emissions, create economic incentives to increase the loads vehicles may transport; and

Whereas, Increasing the types of vehicles, weight of vehicles, and types of loading and trucking configurations permitted on roads would increase economic efficiencies; and

Whereas, Excessive weights of vehicles can result in the deterioration of roads and bridges, creating significant costs in lost road and bridge use and life; and

Whereas, Certain vehicle types, vehicle configurations, load configurations, and other factors can alleviate or avoid damaging effect on infrastructure from increased vehicle and load weights; and

Whereas, The West Virginia Legislature is directing the West Virginia Department of Transportation and Division of Highways, the West Virginia Department of Commerce, private industry, including manufacturers of commodities or products, and the engineering community, including the College of Information Technology and Engineering at Marshall University and the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at West Virginia University, to cooperate and study the effect various trucking configurations and weights have on West Virginia's entire road system, including Interstate Highways; and

Whereas, Such study would include an analysis of which vehicle and load configurations and weights may be utilized with minimal consequence to West Virginia's infrastructure, including Interstate Highways, while permitting industry to transport commodities and products in the most economical ways; and

Whereas, In order to complete such a study and pilot program, West Virginia needs permission from the Congress of the United States to increase the weight of vehicles permitted to operate on Interstate Highways; Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia: That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation permitting West Virginia to increase the weight of vehicles permitted to operate on Interstate Highways so that West Virginia may implement a pilot program to study various vehicle configurations and weights; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the President of the United States to sign such legislation; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from West Virginia in the Congress of the United States.

POM–218. A resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Mahwah, New Jersey, memorializing June 2, 2018, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 994. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes.

S. 2644. A bill to ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gregory Allyn Forest, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Bradley A. Maxwell, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2760. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to exclude energy efficiency projects, pollution control projects, and reliability projects from the definition of a modification; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2761. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to clarify when a physical change in, or change in the method of operation of, a stationary source constitutes a modification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. JONES, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2762. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2763. A bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2764. A bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 2765. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to exempt investment advisers who solely advise certain rural business investment companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. REED):

S. 2766. A bill to require congressional notification related to current and future planning and construction of federally funded military construction projects located within 100-year floodplains; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2767. A bill to make improvements to certain wildfire and disaster recovery programs of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2768. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2769. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for an action plan on recommendations for changes under Medicare and Medicaid to prevent opioids addictions and enhance access to medication-assisted treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2770. A bill to direct the Attorney General to submit to Congress investigative materials in the event of certain pardons granted by the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2771. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household decentralized wastewater systems to individuals with low or moderate income; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2772. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify provisions relating to the household water well system grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2773. A bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2774. A bill to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 2775. A bill to award career pathways innovation grants to local educational agencies and consortia of local educational agencies, to provide technical assistance within the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to administer the grants and support the local educational agencies with the

preparation of grant applications and management of grant funds, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2776. A bill to modernize the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2777. A bill to exempt State and county payments under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 from sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2778. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to include a prohibition on the listing of a living nonnative species as a threatened species or an endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2779. A bill to amend the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2780. A bill to require a determination on designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2781. A bill to limit the transfer of F–35 aircraft to Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2782. A bill to prohibit covenants not to compete and require employers to notify employees of such prohibition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 2783. A bill to improve the resilience of the built and natural environment to natural disasters and climate change using, among other measures, natural and nature-based features, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2784. A bill to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2785. A bill to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2786. A bill to expand opportunities to available employee-owned business concerns through Small Business Administration loan programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2787. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify and expand food donation under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 2788. A bill to repeal the Act entitled ''An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of North Dakota over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Devils Lake Indian Reservation''; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2789. A bill to prevent substance abuse and reduce demand for illicit narcotics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2790. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a community wood energy and wood innovation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 486. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day, honoring workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace, and recognizing the importance of strengthening worker health and safety protections; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 487. A resolution affirming a commitment to elevate the voices, leadership, and needs of historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities in the effort to end sexual violence and support all survivors of sexual violence, including immigrant survivors, survivors with disabilities, survivors of color, American Indian or Alaska Native survivors, survivors of child sexual abuse, queer and intersex survivors, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 488. A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 489. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 490. A resolution designating April 2018 as ''Financial Literacy Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 491. A resolution recognizing the Independent Transportation Network of America on the occasion of providing 1,000,000 rides to older and visually challenged people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 492. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 493. A resolution congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I women's basketball championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 494. A resolution congratulating the Hoosiers of Indiana University for winning the 2018 Women's National Invitation Tournament; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 495. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 496. A resolution recognizing April 30, 2018, as ''El Dia de los Ninos-Celebrating Young Americans''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 497. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the Cinco de Mayo holiday; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. Res. 498. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as ''National Small Business Week'' while commending the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners of the United States, and the impact they have on their communities; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 499. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 500. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Peter P. Truman v. Paula Armstrong, et al; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 177

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to provide for congressional review of the imposition of duties and

other trade measures by the executive branch, and for other purposes.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fairness in Medicare hospital payments by establishing a floor for the area wage index applied with respect to certain hospitals.

S. 446

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 446, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1050, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1106, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 1109

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1109, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase certain funeral benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1742

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

S. 1839

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to extend and expand the market access program and the foreign market development cooperator program.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2105, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 2230

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2230, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to improve services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

S. 2236

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2236, a bill to require covered discrimination and covered harassment awareness and prevention training for Members, officers, employees, interns, fellows, and detailees of Congress within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter, to require a biennial climate survey of Congress, to amend the enforcement process under the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights for covered discrimination and covered harassment complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2272

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2272, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes to grant State attorneys general the ability to issue subpoenas to investigate suspected violations of State laws that are applicable to national banks.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2395, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the provision of technical assistance under the Preserve America Program and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to units of the National Park System to leverage local cultural heritage tourism assets.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2416, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 37, United States Code, to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services for certain benefits.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for State and Tribal regulation of hemp production, and for other purposes.

S. 2669

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to provide for accelerated approval of pain and addiction therapies.

S. 2723

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for children be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2773. A bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. This legislation updates the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to phase out the use of harmful drift gillnets and replace it with more sustainable fishing gear.

Drift gillnets, which are approximately one to one and a half miles long, are intended to catch swordfish and thresher shark. Tragically, nearly 60 other species are accidentally caught and killed in the nets, including dolphins, porpoises, whales, sea lions, and sea turtles. These are known as bycatch.

While some of these species can be sold, most are wastefully thrown back in to the ocean either dead or injured, making survival unlikely.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, gillnets account for 90% of whale and porpoise species killed in West Coast Fisheries.

In the 1980s, Congress enacted legislation to end the domestic use of driftnets approximately 1.5 miles long. Under President George H.W. Bush, the United States entered binding international agreements banning such nets worldwide. Driftnets are prohibited or not utilized off the United States Atlantic and Gulf coasts or in Washington State, Oregon, Alaska, or Hawaii. Mexico permanently banned the use of these nets in 2017.

However, neither domestic nor international law, as currently written, captures the drift gillnets used along the West Coast to catch swordfish and thresher shark, despite their significant impact on protected marine life. The California-based fishery is the last place in the United States where these deadly driftnets are allowed.

The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act would completely phase out the use of drift gillnets by 2020. The bill also authorizes a program, directed by the Department of Commerce, to assist fishermen in transitioning from driftnets to more sustainable gear types which studies have shown actually increase profitability.

Updated fishing gear that could replace driftnets is available and has been successfully deployed in the Atlantic Ocean and in trials in the Pacific Ocean as well. Deep-set buoy gear, for example, allows fishermen to more accurately target swordfish and other marketable species in deep, cold water. The gear alerts fishermen immediately when they have fish on the line, so the fish can be retrieved and delivered to market quickly, fetching a higher price.

In a 2016 poll, California voters overwhelmingly supported ending the use of drift gillnets to catch swordfish, with 87 percent of those surveyed in a poll commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts agreeing that fishermen should use less harmful gear.

The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act enjoys support from a wide group of stakeholders. I ask unanimous consent that a list of 40 supporting organizations and letters of support be included in the record. The groups include: The Pew Charitable Trusts, Oceana, Sea Legacy, Mission Blue, The American Sportfishing Association, The International Game Fish Association, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Conservation Association of California.

SUPPORT: DRIFT GILLNETS LEGISLATION

International Game Fish Association
California League of Conservation Voters
Coastal Conservation Ass'n California
American Sportfishing Ass'n
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Humane Society of the U.S.
Mission Blue
Oceana
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Center for Biological Diversity
Earthjustice
Wild Oceans
Aquarium of the Pacific
Wild Aid
The Otter Project
The Sportfishing Conservancy
California Sportfishing League
Monterey Coastkeeper
Shark Stewards
Defenders of Wildlife
California Association for Recreational Fishing
WILDCOAST
Friends of the Earth
Save the Whales
Environment California
Laguna Nigel Billfish Club
American Cetacean Society
Pacific Environment
Oceanside Senior Anglers
Farallon Institute Heal the Bay
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Ocean Conservation Society
Endangered Habitats League
Greenpeace
SeaLegacy
The Marine Mammal Center
Ocean Defenders Alliance
Orange County Society for Conservation Biology
California Department of Fish & Wildlife

The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act will protect valuable marine life unique to the West Coast, including several endangered species. This bill will also help fishermen to provide fresher, more profitable, and more sustainable seafood to American consumers.

I thank Senators CAPITO and HARRIS for joining this important legislation as original cosponsors and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2785. A bill to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2785

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 ''Defending Elections against Trolls from Enemy Regimes Act'' or ''DETER Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.

Section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(53) The term 'improper interference in a United States election' means conduct by an alien that—

''(A)(i) violates Federal criminal, voting rights, or campaign finance law; or

''(ii) is under the direction of a foreign government; and

''(B) interferes with a general or primary Federal, State, or local election or caucus, including—

''(i) the campaign of a candidate; and

''(ii) a ballot measure, including—

''(I) an amendment;

''(II) a bond issue;

''(III) an initiative;

''(IV) a recall;

''(V) a referral; and

''(VI) a referendum.''.

SEC. 3. IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS.

Section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN A UNITED STATES ELECTION.—Any alien who is seeking admission to the United States to engage in improper interference in a United States election, or who has engaged in improper interference in a United States election, is inadmissible.''.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2789. A bill to prevent substance abuse and reduce demand for illicit narcotics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2789

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 ''Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

(a) OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), as in effect on September 29, 2003, and as amended by the laws described in paragraph (2), is revived and restored.

(2) LAWS DESCRIBED.—The laws described in this paragraph are:

(A) The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–469; 125 Stat. 3502).

(B) The Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–166; 126 Stat. 1283).

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 715(a) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1712(a)) is amended by striking ''2010'' and inserting ''2022''.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

Section 1024 of the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of National Drug Control Policy to carry out this chapter $99,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

''(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 8 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this chapter may be used by the Office of National Drug Control Policy to pay administrative costs associated with the responsibilities of the Office under this chapter.''.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITION INSTITUTE.

Section 4(c)(4) of Public Law 107–82 (21 U.S.C. 1521 note) is amended by striking ''2008 through 2012'' and inserting ''2018 through 2022''.

SEC. 5. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGH-INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA PROGRAM.

Section 707(p) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706(p)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) $280,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.''.

SEC. 6. REAUTHORIZATION OF DRUG COURT PROGRAM.

Section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(25)(A)) is amended by striking ''Except as provided'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''Except as provided in subparagraph (C), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part EE $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.''.

SEC. 7. DRUG COURT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1034 of the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1534) is amended by adding at the end the following—

''(c) DRUG COURT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Using funds appropriated to carry out this chapter, the Director may make grants to non-profit organizations for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance to drug courts.''.

SEC. 8. DRUG OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY.

Section 707 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(r) DRUG OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director may use funds appropriated to carry out this section to implement a drug overdose response strategy in high intensity drug trafficking areas on a nationwide basis by—

''(1) coordinating multi-disciplinary efforts to prevent, reduce, and respond to drug overdoses, including the uniform reporting of fatal and non-fatal overdoses to public health and safety officials;

''(2) increasing data sharing among public safety and public health officials concerning drug-related abuse trends, including new psychoactive substances, and related crime; and

''(3) enabling collaborative deployment of prevention, intervention, and enforcement resources to address substance use addiction and narcotics trafficking.''.

SEC. 9. PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE.

Section 707 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS.—The Director is authorized to use not more than $10,000,000 of the amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section to provide supplemental competitive grants to high intensity drug trafficking areas that have experienced high seizures of fentanyl and new psychoactive substances for the purposes of—

''(1) purchasing portable equipment to test for fentanyl and other substances;

''(2) training law enforcement officers and other first responders on best practices for handling fentanyl and other substances; and

''(3) purchasing protective equipment, including overdose reversal drugs.''.

SEC. 10. DEA 360 STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and in coordination with the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may implement a DEA 360 Strategy in pilot cities across the United States as a response to growing demand for heroin and opioids in the United States.

(b) PROGRAM GOALS.—The goals of the DEA 360 Strategy authorized under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) preventing the deadly cycle of drug abuse, including heroin and opioid abuse, by targeting drug trafficking organizations and street gangs responsible for increasing the supply of narcotics in communities;

(2) partnering with the healthcare community to raise awareness of the dangers of heroin abuse and prescription opioid abuse; and

(3) strengthening community organizations that provide long-term assistance and support for the reduction of drug abuse in the community.

(c) PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—In carrying out the DEA 360 strategy authorized under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall—

(1) issue an implementation strategy for each pilot city that is tailored to the unique drug abuse problems of the particular city, details specific measures that will be taken to address the problems, identifies key community partners, and sets specific objectives for success;

(2) provide dedicated funding for coordinated law enforcement actions against drug trafficking organizations, involving Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, including the United States Attorney's office for the relevant district;

(3) conduct diversion control enforcement actions against registrants with the Drug Enforcement Administration who are unlawfully distributing controlled substances;

(4) create partnerships with pharmaceutical drug manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacies, and medical practitioners to develop strategies that reduce heroin and opioid abuse, including specific efforts to reduce demand for these substances;

(5) increase resources for community partnerships with non-governmental organizations that specialize in drug abuse prevention, awareness, or treatment; and

(6) conduct training and educational campaigns on best practices for reducing heroin and opioid abuse for governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in pilot cities.

(d) REPORTS.—For each fiscal year in which the Attorney General carries out the DEA 360 Strategy authorized under subsection (a) in a pilot city, the Attorney General shall issue a public report that details the results of the program in that particular city, including quantitative measures to show whether or not the program succeeded in achieving the objectives for success required under subsection (c)(1).

(e) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.—The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Secretary of Health and Human Services may use funds otherwise appropriated for purposes consistent with this section to assist in the implementation of the DEA 360 Strategy authorized under subsection (a) in pilot cities.

SEC. 11. COPS ANTI-METH PROGRAM.

Section 1701 of the title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

''(k) COPS ANTI-METH PROGRAM.—The Attorney General shall use amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section to make competitive grants, in amounts of not less than $1,000,000 for a fiscal year, to State law enforcement agencies with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures for the purpose of locating or investigating illicit activities, such as precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers.''.

SEC. 12. COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO CARA.—Section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198; 130 Stat. 698) is amended by inserting ''including the Office of National Drug Control Policy,'' after ''agencies,''.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Subchapter I of chapter 2 of the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1036. COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.

''The Director may use funds made available to carry out this chapter for the purpose of administering, participating in, or expanding awareness campaigns and prevention efforts authorized under section 102 of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198; 130 Stat. 698).''.

SEC. 13. PROTECTING CHILDREN WITH ADDICTED PARENTS.

Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 550. PROTECTING CHILDREN WITH ADDICTED PARENTS.

''(a) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and in cooperation with the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, shall collect and disseminate best practices for States regarding interventions and strategies to keep families affected by substance use disorder together, when it can be done safely. Such best practices shall—

''(1) utilize comprehensive family-centered approaches;

''(2) ensure that families have access to drug screening, substance use treatment, medication-assisted treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and parental support; and

''(3) build upon lessons learned from programs such as the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting programs under section 511 of the Social Security Act.

''(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall award grants for the development of programs and models designed to keep pregnant and postpartum women who have a substance use disorder together with their newborns, including programs and models that provide for screenings of pregnant and post-partum women for substance use disorders, treatment interventions, supportive housing, nonpharmacological interventions for children born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, medication assisted treatment, and other recovery supports.''.

SEC. 14. REIMBURSEMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS.

(a) GAO REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2020, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report examining how substance use disorder services are reimbursed.

(b) CMS RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2019, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shall examine how substance use disorder services are reimbursed and shall make recommendations to Congress (taking into consideration the findings made by the Comptroller General of the United States in the report required under subsection (a)) as to how to reimburse the treatment of substance use disorders at a higher rate in order to attract a more talented work force.

(c) GRANTS TO STATES TO EXPLORE WAYS TO INCREASE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants to States for the purpose of exploring ways to increase reimbursement of substance use disorder services under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(d) GRANTS TO STATES TO SUPPLEMENT MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT TO CREDENTIALED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROFESSIONALS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants to States for the purpose of supplementing the reimbursement paid to credentialed substance use disorder professionals (as defined by the Secretary) under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

SEC. 15. TESTING EVIDENCE-BASED MOBILE APPLICATIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

Section 1115A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The models selected under this subparagraph shall include the model described in subparagraph (D), which shall be implemented by not later than January 1, 2020.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) EVIDENCE-BASED MOBILE APPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.—The model described in this subparagraph is a model to test the use of evidence-based mobile applications for the treatment of substance use disorders.''.

SEC. 16. MEDICARE HOSPITAL REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NALOXONE AS PART OF THE DISCHARGE PROTOCOL TO INDIVIDUALS BEING DISCHARGED AFTER SUFFERING AN OPIOID OVERDOSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1866(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (X), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (Y), by striking the period at the end and inserting '', and''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (Y), the following new subparagraph:

''(Z) in the case of a hospital or critical access hospital, to provide naloxone and treatment referral options as part of the discharge protocol to individuals being discharged after suffering an opioid overdose.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to contracts entered into or renewed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 17. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.

(a) ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.—

(1) ACCESS UNDER MEDICARE PART D.—Section 1860D–4(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–104(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with PDP sponsors of prescription drug plans to—

''(i) ensure appropriate access to abuse-deterrent opioids on plan formularies;

''(ii) provide advanced abuse-deterrent opioid targeting (as determined by the Secretary) for beneficiaries identified as at-risk for opioid abuse under the drug management program under paragraph (5) or any other opioid risk management program established by the sponsor; and

''(iii) encourage access to non-opioid alternatives when medically appropriate.

''(B) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING FAIL FIRST SCHEMES.—The Secretary shall prohibit PDP sponsors from requiring fail first schemes, also known as step therapy, with respect to abuse-deterrent opioids.

''(C) ENCOURAGING EQUAL ACCESS.—The Secretary shall encourage plans to provide equal access to abuse-deterrent opioids on formulary tiers and patient cost-sharing.

''(D) ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOID DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'abuse-deterrent opioid' means an abuse-deterrent formulation of an opioid, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(2) ACCESS UNDER PRIVATE HEALTH PLANS.—Subpart II of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–11 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 2729. ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall—

''(1) ensure appropriate access to abuse-deterrent opioids as a prescription drug health benefit under such plan or coverage;

''(2) provide advanced abuse-deterrent opioid targeting (as determined by the Secretary) for enrollees in the plan or coverage who are identified as at-risk for opioid abuse; and

''(3) encourage access to non-opioid alternatives when medically appropriate.

''(b) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING FAIL FIRST SCHEMES.—The Secretary shall prohibit a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage from requiring fail first schemes, also known as step therapy, with respect to abuse-deterrent opioids.

''(c) ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOID DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'abuse-deterrent opioid' means an abuse-deterrent formulation of an opioid, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

(b) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall educate health insurance issuers, Medicare Advantage plans under part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–21 et seq.), and prescription drug plans under part D of such title (42 U.S.C. 1395w–101 et seq.) on opioid abuse prevention, including the use of abuse-deterrent opioids (as such term is defined in section 2729 of the Public Health Service Act, as added by subsection (a)(2)).

SEC. 18. GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT.

(a) TRAINING GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to States for the purpose of training non-physician health care professionals in the use of medication-assisted treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration and related best practices.

(b) REFERRAL SYSTEM GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to States for the purpose of improving referral systems and ensuring that such systems are current and accurate, in order to better enable practitioners to refer patients who are prescribed medication assisted treatment to cognitive therapy.

SEC. 19. SOBRIETY TREATMENT AND RECOVERY TEAMS (START).

Title III of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198; 130 Stat. 717) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 304. SOBRIETY TREATMENT AND RECOVERY TEAMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may make grants to States, units of local government, or tribal governments to establish or expand Sobriety Treatment And Recovery Team (referred to in this section as 'START') programs to determine the effectiveness of pairing social workers and mentors with families that are struggling with substance abuse and child abuse or neglect in order to help provide peer support, intensive treatment, and child welfare services.

''(b) ALLOWABLE USES.—A grant awarded under this section may be used for 1 or more of the following activities:

''(1) Training eligible staff, including social workers, social services coordinators, child welfare specialists, substance use disorder treatment professionals, and mentors.

''(2) Expanding access to substance use disorder treatment services and drug testing.

''(3) Enhancing data sharing with law enforcement agencies and child welfare agencies.

''(4) Program evaluation.

''(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A family may be eligible to participate in a START program that receives funding under this section only if—

''(1) there is a substantiated record or finding of child abuse or neglect within the family; and

''(2) substance abuse was the primary reason for the record or finding described in paragraph (1).

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award not more than $10,000,000 of amounts otherwise appropriated for comprehensive opioid abuse reduction activities for purposes of carrying out this section.''.

SEC. 20. PROVIDER EDUCATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall complete the plan related to medical registration coordination required by Senate Report 114–239, which accompanied the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–131; 132 Stat. 334), including through the issuance of necessary rules or regulations.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 486—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY, HONORING WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED IN THE WORKPLACE, AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 486

Whereas 5,190 workers were killed due to workplace-related injuries in the United States in 2016, and more than 2,700,000 workers across the world die of workplace-related accidents and diseases each year;

Whereas, each day, an average of 14 workers are killed due to workplace-related injuries in the United States;

Whereas, annually, there are more than 3,500,000 occupational injuries and illnesses in the United States;

Whereas, in the industries of health care and social assistance in the United States in 2016—

(1) 585,000 incidents of nonfatal workplace-related injuries occurred; and

(2) 70 percent of all nonfatal workplace-related assaults occurred;

Whereas tens of thousands of individuals in the United States with workplace-related injuries or illnesses have become permanently disabled;

Whereas the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (referred to in this preamble as ''OSHA''), the primary Federal agency that establishes and enforces workplace health and safety standards—

(1) only has sufficient resources to inspect each establishment within the jurisdiction of OSHA once every 159 years; and

(2) must receive the resources necessary to adequately protect the health and safety of workers in the United States;

Whereas the current Administration has—

(1) blocked efforts by OSHA to adopt many protections for workers, including workers exposed to toxic chemicals, infectious diseases, violence in health care and social service settings, and the risk of industrial catastrophes caused by chemicals, explosive gases, or combustible dusts;

(2) limited press releases from OSHA on enforcement actions that can act as a deterrent against safety violations by employers; and

(3) removed the names of workers killed on the job from fatality reports issued by OSHA, despite the requests of family members of those workers to include the names of those workers to call attention to preventable workplace-related deaths; and

Whereas observing Workers' Memorial Day—

(1) allows the people of the United States to honor and remember victims of workplace-related injuries and disease; and

(2) reminds the people of the United States to strive for better safety and health protections for workers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day to honor and remember workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace;

(2) recognizes the importance of strengthening worker health and safety standards to secure the safe workplaces workers deserve, including enforceable standards to prevent violence in health care and social service settings;

(3) encourages the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, employers, community and worker organizations, professional associations, and academic institutions to support activities increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Workers' Memorial Day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 487—AFFIRMING A COMMITMENT TO ELEVATE THE VOICES, LEADERSHIP, AND NEEDS OF HISTORICALLY AND CURRENTLY DISENFRANCHISED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN THE EFFORT TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SUPPORT ALL SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, INCLUDING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS, SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES, SURVIVORS OF COLOR, AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE SURVIVORS, SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, QUEER AND INTERSEX SURVIVORS, AND LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER SURVIVORS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 487

Whereas sexual violence is a tool of oppression and a form of discrimination that can deprive individuals of equal access to educational opportunities;

Whereas discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions;

Whereas the 2015 United States Transgender Survey found that—

(1) 47 percent of transgender people are sexually assaulted; and

(2) among transgender people of color, 65 percent of Native Americans, 59 percent of multiracial people, 58 percent of Middle Eastern people, and 53 percent of African Americans are likely to have been sexually assaulted;

Whereas the 2010 Centers for Disease Control National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that—

(1) 44 percent of lesbians and 61 percent of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35 percent of heterosexual women; and

(2) 40 percent of gay men and 47 percent of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, compared to 21 percent of heterosexual men;

Whereas the National Women's Law Center 2017 Let Her Learn Survey found that 38 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender teen girls reported experiencing sexual violence compared to 21 percent of all girls;

Whereas data reveals that people with disabilities are at an increased risk of being sexually assaulted;

Whereas according to End Rape on Campus, children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused;

Whereas according to the Vera Institute of Justice, 83 percent of women and 32 percent of men with cognitive disabilities reported being victims of sexual assault;

Whereas women of all races and ethnicities face some risk of sexual assault, and according to the 2010 Centers for Disease Control National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 33 percent of multiracial non-Hispanic women, nearly 27 percent of indigenous women, 22 percent of Black women, nearly 19 percent of white non-Hispanic women, more than 14 percent of Hispanic women, and 7 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander women in the United States have experienced rape;

Whereas according to a research report by the National Institute of Justice, 56.1 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence;

Whereas sexual violence also affects adolescent girls, and according to the National Women's Law Center 2017 Let Her Learn Survey, 1 in 5 girls aged 14 to 18 has been kissed or touched without consent, including 24 percent of Latina girls, 23 percent of Native American girls, and 22 percent of Black girls;

Whereas studies show that sexual violence is an underreported crime, indicating that the rates of sexual violence may be even higher than these estimates;

Whereas too many survivors from historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities are ignored, blamed, and cast aside when seeking support after experiencing a form of sexual violence;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, 31 percent of young women in the juvenile justice system have been sexually abused;

Whereas youth of color, youth with disabilities, and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming are overrepresented in the child welfare system;

Whereas, according to the GLSEN 2016 report entitled ''From Teasing to Torment: School Climate Revisited''—

(1) 59.6 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as ''LGBTQ'') secondary students have been sexually harassed at school and are more likely to experience sexual harassment than non-LGBTQ students; and

(2) students with nontraditional gender expression are more likely to experience sexual harassment than students with traditional gender expression;

Whereas high-quality, medically accurate, and LGBTQ-affirming sex education is critical in the effort to eliminate sexual violence by teaching young people about sexual assault, harassment, and affirmative consent;

Whereas less than 40 percent of all high schools and only 14 percent of middle schools in the United States teach all of the topics identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as important sexual health education topics;

Whereas, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, there is an increased likelihood that an individual will suffer from suicidal or depressive thoughts after experiencing sexual violence;

Whereas, at a time of prioritized mass detention and deportation and the rescinding of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, it is less safe for immigrants to report sexual violence;

Whereas a history of systemic inequality and discrimination as well as incomplete solutions has resulted in a lack of resources to meet the needs of diverse survivor populations;

Whereas according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence—

(1) there is a lack of resources for sexual violence prevention for youth;

(2) many rape crisis centers have waiting lists for prevention programs; and

(3) more investment is needed in the Rape Prevention and Education Program;

Whereas April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

Whereas sexual violence will only end if survivors of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors, survivors with disabilities, and immigrant survivors are respected and supported;

Whereas current support systems mandated by Federal law for survivors of sexual violence are neither comprehensive nor fully representative of the vast and pervasive elements within rape culture; and

Whereas Congress is working to confront pervasive sexual violence in the workplace, in schools, and in every area of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms a commitment to elevate the voices, leadership, and needs of historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities in the effort to end sexual violence and support all survivors of sexual violence, including immigrant survivors, survivors with disabilities, survivors of color, American Indian or Alaska Native survivors, survivors of child sexual abuse, queer and intersex survivors, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors;

(2) supports efforts to raise awareness of the history of sexual violence prevention programs;

(3) calls upon this Chamber to—

(A) give priority to the needs of survivors of sexual violence and demonstrate proactive leadership in the effort to end sexual violence; and

(B) reject rollbacks of protections against harassment under—

(i) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in education programs based on race, color, or national origin;

(ii) title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in employment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or religion;

(iii) title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in education programs based on sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity;

(iv) titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq.), which prohibit discrimination based on disability in employment and public schools, respectively; and

(v) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination based on disability in education programs;

(4) affirms that—

(A) title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) intersect; and

(B) to address sexual violence in an educational setting, these comprehensive civil rights laws must be viewed as intersecting and pertaining to both sexual violence and educational access;

(5) affirms the pursuit of legislative solutions that—

(A) address the unique needs and experiences of survivors of sexual violence from historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities;

(B) allocate resources based on the needs and vulnerability of diverse survivor populations; and

(C) allocate resources for disaggregated research initiatives that shed light on the disproportionate levels of sexual violence and the impact of sexual violence on diverse survivor populations; and

(6) calls upon the executive branch to faithfully and robustly enforce laws that protect survivors of sexual violence and communities at higher risk of sexual violence from harassment, discrimination, and mistreatment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 488—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT BENNING IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 488

Whereas 2018 is the 100th anniversary of a military installation operating in Columbus, Georgia;

Whereas Fort Benning is named after Confederate Brigadier General Henry Lewis Benning, a resident of Columbus, Georgia, and a prominent Civil War infantry commander;

Whereas Fort Benning resides on land originally belonging to the Creek Tribe of the Muskogee Nation;

Whereas, on April 4, 1917, the day after President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany, the citizens of Columbus began advocating for an Army camp to be constructed near Columbus, Georgia;

Whereas the War Department decided to move the Infantry School of Arms at Fort Still, Oklahoma, to a more spacious site to train soldiers on infantry skills and tactics;

Whereas, on August 27, 1918, with the help of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, an 84-acre farm on Macon Road in Columbus, Georgia, was selected as the site for the infantry camp;

Whereas, on September 18, 1918, the Adjutant General ordered troops from Fort Still to report to the newly selected site by October 1, 1918;

Whereas, on October 19, 1918, Columbus native Anna Caroline Benning, daughter of the brigadier general, raised the United States flag over the United States Infantry School of Arms, and it was formally christened Camp Benning;

Whereas, after the end of World War I, the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate ordered construction on Camp Benning to be halted on January 9, 1919;

Whereas Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia strongly advocated for congressional hearings to receive testimony over resuming construction of the post, allowing for Columbus-area supporters, as well as infantry commanders who fought in World War I, to testify about the need for the post;

Whereas, on March 8, 1919, the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate voted to resume building Camp Benning;

Whereas the post quickly outgrew the Macon Road location, and on June 17, 1919, Camp Benning was moved to its present site, which included the 1,800 acre plantation of local businessman Arthur Bussey;

Whereas, on January 9, 1922, the War Department issued General Order No. 1 making Camp Benning a permanent military installation and appropriating more than $1,000,000 of additional building funds for the Infantry School of Arms, which later became the Infantry School;

Whereas, on May 12, 1920, 10 Army aircraft were assigned to Camp Benning as the air detachment of the post, marking the first use of aviation at Camp Benning;

Whereas, on February 8, 1922, Camp Benning was redesignated Fort Benning;

Whereas, on June 17, 1932, the tank school of the United States Army officially moved from Fort Meade, Maryland, to Fort Benning;

Whereas Fort Benning played a critical role in World War II, training thousands of soldiers for the European, African, and Pacific theatres of war;

Whereas, on June 25, 1940, the commandant of the Infantry School was directed by the Adjutant General to provide a platoon of volunteers for parachute test duty, leading to the formation of the Parachute Test Platoon;

Whereas, on September 16, 1940, the War Department approved the formation of the first Parachute Battalion at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on October 1, 1940, the 501st Parachute Battalion was activated;

Whereas, in July 1941, the modern Officer Candidate School for Infantry was established at Fort Benning to provide a rigorous training venue for new officers;

Whereas, in December 1943, the 555th Parachute Infantry Company, later redesignated as Company A, 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first African-American parachute unit, which was known as ''Triple Nickles'', was activated at Fort Benning;

Whereas, after World War II, Fort Benning continued to play a vital role in training soldiers for every conflict involving the United States;

Whereas the Ranger Training Center was established October 12, 1950, which trained personnel for the Korean War;

Whereas, during the second longest conflict involving the United States, the Vietnam War, Fort Benning reopened the Officer Training School for Infantry and trained thousands of officers who participated in the war;

Whereas the 11th Air Assault Division was activated at Fort Benning on February 7, 1963, to test and develop the air mobile concept;

Whereas the 11th Air Assault Division was inactivated on July 1, 1965, and replaced by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and deployed to Vietnam on September 11, 1965, specializing in flying troops in and out of combat zones via helicopter;

Whereas Fort Benning served as a major staging ground for troops sent to the Middle

East during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, and later during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas, in 2009, tanks from the Armor School at Fort Knox arrived at Fort Benning, combining infantry and armor at 1 post and forming the Maneuver Center of Excellence;

Whereas the Maneuver Center of Excellence consists of—

(1) the Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate;

(2) the United States Army Infantry School;

(3) the 199th Infantry Brigade;

(4) the United States Army Armor School;

(5) the Directorate of Training and Doctrine; and

(6) additional tenant units;

Whereas some of the most respected United States military leaders in the 20th century were stationed at Fort Benning, including—

(1) General Omar Bradley;

(2) General Dwight Eisenhower;

(3) General George Marshall;

(4) General George Patton;

(5) General William Livsey; and

(6) General Colin Powell;

Whereas Fort Benning has helped foster changes in the role of women in the military;

Whereas, on December, 14, 1973, Privates Joyce Kutsch and Rita Johnson became the first women to graduate the Basic Airborne Course, and later, United States Army Quartermaster School Parachute Rigger Course;

Whereas, on August 21, 2015, Captain Kristen Griest and 1st Lieutenant Shaye Haver became the first 2 women to graduate from the Army Ranger school at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on December 1, 2016, 13 women became the first ever to graduate from the Army Armor Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on May 19, 2017, Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade, graduated 137 new Infantry soldiers, including 18 women who completed the first inter-gender Infantry One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on June 22, 2017, 4 women became the first ever to graduate from the Cavalry School of the Army at Fort Benning;

Whereas Fort Benning is the sixth largest military installation in the United States covering approximately 182,000 acres, with a $5,500,000,000 economic impact to the ''Tri-Community'' and approximately 120,000 military and civilian personnel;

Whereas the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Columbus, Columbus 2025, and other partnering groups fought to establish and have continued to support Fort Benning from its inception;

Whereas the people of the Tri-Community fought to establish and have continued to support Fort Benning from its inception; and

Whereas the following visionary citizens displayed the foresight, vision, and leadership to fight to establish Camp Benning near Columbus, Georgia:

(1) Mr. John Betjeman.

(2) Mr. Rhodes Browne.

(3) Mr. John Ralston Cargill.

(4) Mr. Lucius H. Chappell.

(5) Mr. Henry B. Crawford.

(6) Mr. J. Homer Dimon.

(7) Mr. Robert Ernest Dismukes.

(8) Mr. W.J. Fielder.

(9) Mr. Reynolds Flournoy.

(10) Mr. Frank U. Garrard.

(11) Mr. Ralph Curtis Jordan.

(12) Mr. Albert Kirven.

(13) Mr. A.F. Kunze.

(14) Mr. Frank G. Lumpkin.

(15) Mr. Leighton W. MacPherson.

(16) Mr. H.R. Mcclatchey.

(17) Mr. T.T. Miller.

(18) Mr. Marshall Morton.

(19) Mr. Roger M. Page.

(20) Mr. T.G. Reeves.

(21) Mr. Walter A. Richards.

(22) Mr. H.C. Smith: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, on its 100th anniversary;

(2) commends the thousands of men and women who have worked and trained at Fort Benning;

(3) honors the people of the ''Tri-Community'' including those in Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, for their continued support of Fort Benning; and

(4) encourages Fort Benning to continue its instrumental role in preparing the brave men and women of the United States for the battlefield.

SENATE RESOLUTION 489—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 489

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;

Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being preventable and treatable;

Whereas fighting malaria is in the national interest of the United States because reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the Armed Forces and other people of the United States serving overseas in malaria-endemic regions, and reducing malaria deaths helps to lower risks of instability in less developed countries;

Whereas United States support for efforts to fight malaria—

(1) is in the diplomatic and moral interests of the United States;

(2) generates goodwill toward the United States; and

(3) highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, 91 countries and areas had ongoing malaria transmissions;

Whereas nearly ½ of the population of the world is at risk for malaria, with sub-Saharan Africa carrying a disproportionately high burden, with 80 percent of malaria cases and 91 percent of malaria deaths in the world;

Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to, and disproportionately affected by, malaria;

Whereas malaria greatly affects the health of children, since children under the age of 5 account for an estimated 70 percent of malaria deaths each year;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2017 by the World Health Organization states that, in 2016, approximately 445,000 people died of malaria, which is a 50-percent decrease since 2000;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to ending malaria deaths through the President's Malaria Initiative, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) welcomes ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–293; 122 Stat. 2918);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with developing countries to create long-term strategies to increase ownership over malaria programs; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for, and financial contributions to, efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 490—DESIGNATING APRIL 2018 AS ''FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH''

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 490

Whereas, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (referred to in this preamble as the ''FDIC''), at least 26.9 percent of households in the United States, or nearly 33,500,000 households with approximately 66,700,000 adults, are unbanked or underbanked and therefore have not had an opportunity to access savings, lending, and other basic financial services;

Whereas, according to the FDIC, approximately 30 percent of banks reported in 2011 that consumers lacked an understanding of the financial products and services banks offered;

Whereas, according to the 2017 Consumer Financial Literacy Survey final report of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling—

(1) 80 percent of adults in the United States acknowledged that they could benefit from additional advice and answers to everyday financial questions from a professional;

(2) 39 percent of households in the United States reported carrying credit card debt from month to month;

(3) only 40 percent of adults in the United States maintain a budget;

(4) 25 percent of adults in the United States do not have any money saved for retirement; and

(5) 16 percent of adults in the United States identified not having enough ''rainy day'' savings for an emergency, and 18 percent of adults in the United States identified not having enough money set aside for retirement, as the most worrisome area of personal finance;

Whereas the 2017 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that 73 percent of workers are not currently saving for retirement;

Whereas, according to the statistical release of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the fourth quarter of 2017 entitled ''Financial Accounts of the United States: Flow of Funds, Balance Sheets, and Integrated Macroeconomic Accounts'', outstanding household debt in the United States was $15,660,000,000,000 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2017;

Whereas, according to the 2018 Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation's Schools, a biennial report by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 22 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement; and

(2) only 17 States require students to take a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement, either independently or as part of an economics course;

Whereas, according to the Gallup-HOPE Index, only 52 percent of students in the United States have money in a bank or credit union account;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared—

(1) to manage money, credit, and debt; and

(2) to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions and reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth; and

Whereas, in 2003, Congress—

(1) determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

(2) in light of that determination, passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2018 as ''Financial Literacy Month'' to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 491—RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF PROVIDING 1,000,000 RIDES TO OLDER AND VISUALLY CHALLENGED PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 491

Whereas the number of people of the United States aged 65 and older is projected to more than double from 46,000,000 today to almost 100,000,000 by the year 2060, when people of the United States aged 65 or older will represent nearly a quarter of the total population of the United States;

Whereas transportation is necessary for access to the basic necessities of life and most people of the United States outlive their decision to stop driving by more than a decade;

Whereas 3 out of 4 older people in the United States live in rural and suburban communities that lack the density for traditional transportation solutions;

Whereas the scarcity of transportation for older people of the United States leads to social isolation, diminishing quality of life, limited access to health care services, and a strain on families and caregivers;

Whereas the Independent Transportation Network of America (referred to in this preamble as ''ITNAmerica'') is a nonprofit transportation network company that integrates social capital through volunteerism and local community support with traditional capital to increase the resources available to meet the mobility needs of older people, visually challenged people, and the families of older and visually challenged people;

Whereas the average age of ITNAmerica riders is 84, and 58 percent of riders are 85 years and older;

Whereas ITNAmerica has built Rides in Sight, a searchable, online database of all senior transportation services in the United States, with 15,000 services catalogued, and offers it to the public as a free service; and

Whereas ITNAmerica has provided 1,000,000 rides to older and visually challenged people of the United States and, of those rides—

(1) 40 percent were for the purpose of obtaining health care services;

(2) 21 percent were for people who are visually challenged; and

(3) 44 percent have been provided by volunteer drivers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the volunteers and staff of the Independent Transportation Network of America in communities across the United States for the 1,000,000 rides they have provided to older and visually challenged people, their families, and their communities;

(2) recognizes the Independent Transportation Network of America as a nonprofit transportation network company that serves the common good and has helped people remain in their own homes and communities after they can no longer drive safely; and

(3) anticipates many more millions of rides in the future as the Independent Transportation Network of America helps to meet the mobility needs of older and visually challenged people and the needs of small and rural communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 492—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 492

Whereas each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to locating underground utility lines often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State ''One Call'' systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated ''811'' as the nationwide ''One Call'' number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities;

Whereas the 1,700 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national ''Call Before You Dig'' campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators calling 811 to find out the exact location of underground lines;

Whereas the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–90; 125 Stat. 1904) affirmed and expanded the ''One Call'' program by eliminating exemptions given to local and State government agencies and their contractors regarding notifying ''One Call'' centers before digging; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as ''National Safe Digging Month'' to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national ''Call Before You Dig'' number: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; and

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to call 811 before digging.

SENATE RESOLUTION 493—CONGRATULATING THE FIGHTING IRISH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2018 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 493

Whereas, on Sunday, April 1, 2018, the University of Notre Dame Women's Basketball Team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Fighting Irish'') won the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the ''NCAA'') Division I title with a 61–58 win over the Mississippi State Bulldogs, becoming 1 of only 7 women's basketball programs to win multiple NCAA championship titles;

Whereas the Fighting Irish displayed their grit and determination to overcome a 15-point disadvantage to the Bulldogs in the championship game, setting a record for the largest comeback in a NCAA title game;

Whereas the victory marked the second national title, the first of those titles coming on Sunday, April 1, 2001, for the Fighting Irish under the leadership of Head Coach Muffet McGraw;

Whereas Head Coach McGraw has excelled during her 31 seasons with the Fighting Irish, having—

(1) led the Fighting Irish to their 800th win under her leadership to secure their second national championship title;

(2) been inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017; and

(3) been named 2018 AP, USA Today, and espnW Coach of the Year;

Whereas Head Coach McGraw has been supported by assistant coaches and staff including—

(1) Carol Owens;
(2) Niele Ivey;
(3) Beth Cunningham;
(4) Katie Capps;
(5) Erica Williamson; and
(6) Sharla Lewis;

Whereas the full roster of the 2017–2018 national championship Fighting Irish team includes—

(1) Kristina Nelson;
(2) Lili Thompson;
(3) Mychal Johnson;
(4) Kathryn Westbeld;
(5) Brianna Turner;
(6) Marina Mabrey;
(7) Maureen Butler;
(8) Arike Ogunbowale;
(9) Jessica Shepard;
(10) Kaitlin Cole;
(11) Jackie Young;
(12) Mikayla Vaughn;
(13) Nicole Benz; and
(14) Danielle Patterson;

Whereas Arike Ogunbowale, junior guard for the Fighting Irish, was awarded Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four and scored 145 total points throughout the course of the 2018 NCAA tournament, which included the game-winning shots in both the semifinal and final rounds of play;

Whereas Jackie Young, sophomore guard and a native of Princeton, Indiana, led the Fighting Irish to a victory over the then-undefeated University of Connecticut Huskies with a dominant, breakout performance, racking up 32 points and pulling down 11 rebounds;

Whereas the tradition of the Fighting Irish of excelling in both athletics and academics continues to advance the sport of women's basketball and provide inspiration for future generations of young female athletes; and

Whereas the spirit and achievement of the Fighting Irish in the face of adversity and the dramatic conclusion of their championship run inspired the respect and admiration of the basketball-loving State of Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team for its victory in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolving clause as the ''NCAA'') tournament claiming the 2018 NCAA Division I title;

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the University of Notre Dame in the NCAA women's basketball championship; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Reverend John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., President of the University of Notre Dame;

(B) Muffet McGraw, Head Coach of the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team; and

(C) Jack Swarbrick, Vice-President and Athletic Director of the University of Notre Dame.

SENATE RESOLUTION 494—CONGRATULATING THE HOOSIERS OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE 2018 WOMEN'S NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT

Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 494

Whereas, on March 31, 2018, the Indiana University women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Hoosiers'') defeated the Virginia Tech Hokies by a score of 65–57 in the final game of the Women's National Invitation Tournament (referred to in this preamble as the ''WNIT'') in Bloomington, Indiana;

Whereas the Hoosiers won their first national postseason championship, and became only the sixth Big Ten school to earn a WNIT championship;

Whereas the Hoosiers hosted a record 13,007 fans in Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall for the WNIT championship game to mark the largest crowd to watch a Big Ten women's basketball game this season, the largest crowed in Indiana University women's basketball history, and the sixth largest crowd in WNIT history;

Whereas the Hoosiers tied a program-record 23 wins for the second straight season, finishing 23–14 overall and 9–7 in the Big Ten Conference;

Whereas the Hoosiers have shined under the leadership of Head Coach Teri Moren and have been supported by assistant coaches and staff including—

(1) Rhet Wierzba;
(2) Janese Banks;
(3) Glenn Box;
(4) Liz Honegger;
(5) Briana Bass;
(6) Erin McKinney;
(7) Eddie Praley; and
(8) Ashley Williams;

Whereas the full roster of the 2017–2018 WNIT championship Hoosier team includes—

(1) Tyra Buss;
(2) Amanda Cahill;
(3) Grace Withrow;
(4) Kym Royster;
(5) Brenna Wise;
(6) Bre Wickware;
(7) Bendu Yeaney;
(8) Keyanna Warthen;
(9) Linsey Marchese;
(10) Jaelynn Penn;
(11) Alexis Johnson; and
(12) Ali Patberg;

Whereas senior Tyra Buss was named Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American Honorable Mention and First Team All-Big Ten, setting 8 school records, including the scoring record for Indiana University with 2,364 points;

Whereas senior Amanda Cahill was named College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American and Second Team All-Big Ten, scoring over 1,800 points and racking up 1,100 rebounds during her college career;

Whereas freshman Jaelynn Penn became the first Indiana University freshman to be named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team; and

Whereas the consistent excellence, both academically and athletically, of the Hoosiers has advanced the sport of women's basketball and inspired countless generations of young women athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the Indiana University women's basketball team and its loyal fans on the performance of the team in the 2018 Women's National Invitation Tournament;

(2) recognizes and commends the dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the players, parents, families, coaches, and managers of the Indiana University women's basketball team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Dr. Michael A. McRobbie, President of Indiana University;

(B) Teri Moren, Head Coach of the Indiana University women's basketball team; and

(C) Fred Glass, Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics of Indiana University.

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 495

Whereas the week of May 6 through 12, 2018, has been designated as ''Public Service Recognition Week'' to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and

promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service, and as members of the uniformed services, in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and parks in the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve knowledge on how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and of dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and

(2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 6 through 12, 2018, marks the 34th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 6 through 12, 2018, as ''Public Service Recognition Week'';

(2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees, and members of the uniformed services, for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, public service;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives in service to their country;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession;

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at every level of government; and

(7) supports efforts to promote an efficient and effective public service that serves the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 496—RECOGNIZING APRIL 30, 2018, AS ''EL DIA DE LOS NINOS–CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS''

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 496

Whereas, each year in the United States, El Día de los Niños–Celebrating Young Americans is recognized as a day to affirm and recognize the importance of young children in the United States;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States and the well-being of children and adolescents is emphasized as a top priority in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States should nurture and invest in children and adolescents in order to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the free and open exchange of ideas, which are concepts that are essential to the spirit of the United States;

Whereas, according to data of the Bureau of the Census, the Hispanic population in the United States is the youngest major racial or ethnic group in the United States, as—

(1) 17,900,000 Hispanics in the United States, a group that represents nearly ⅓ of the Hispanic population in the United States, are younger than 18 years of age; and

(2) in 2014, approximately 14,600,000 Hispanics in the United States, a group that represents ¼ of the Hispanic population in the United States, were individuals between 18 and 33 years of age (commonly referred to as ''millennials'');

Whereas the Hispanic population in the United States is the youngest and largest ethnic minority group in the United States, continues to grow, and is a significant part of the workforce in the United States and children in that population will be consumers, taxpayers, and voters in the future;

Whereas, as the United States becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse, the people of the United States must strive to bring about cultural understanding and celebrate a tradition that honors all children on El Día de los Niños–Celebrating Young Americans, a day that acknowledges and shares traditions and customs with all people in the United States;

Whereas parents are at the center of teaching children about family values, morality, life preparation, health, survival, and culture;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor children and adolescents in the United States will help affirm the significance of family, education, health, and community among the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for children in the United States will provide an opportunity for those children to reflect on their futures, to articulate their aspirations, to find comfort and security in the support of their family members, communities, and schools, and to grow to contribute to the United States;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, which serves as an advocate and a voice for young Latino children—

(1) will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2018;

(2) has partnered with States and cities throughout the United States during the 20 years preceding 2018; and

(3) will declare April 30, 2018, as ''El Día de los Niños–Celebrating Young Americans'', a day to bring communities and Latinos together across the United States to celebrate and uplift children;

Whereas April 30, 2018, would be an appropriate day to recognize as ''El Día de los Niños–Celebrating Young Americans''; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children and to help children take their rightful place in the future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes April 30, 2018, as ''El Día de los Niños–Celebrating Young Americans''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with children, families, communities, schools, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe El Día de los Niños–Celebrating Young Americans with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center on children and are free or of minimal cost so as to facilitate full participation by all people;

(B) uplift and help children positively envision a path to their futures by allowing children to voice their hopes and dreams;

(C) offer opportunities for children of diverse backgrounds to learn about the cultures of one another and to share ideas;

(D) include family members, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to—

(i) promote understanding and communication among generations within families; and

(ii) enable young people to learn from, and respect and benefit from the experiences of, their family elders;

(E) enable diverse communities to build relationships of understanding; and

(F) provide children with an education, safe environments in which to learn, live, and develop, and long-term support in order to become confident young adults who are ready and eager to believe in and contribute to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 497—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 497

Whereas May 5, or ''Cinco de Mayo'' in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of importance by Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which Mexicans defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, one of the many battles that the Mexican people won in their long and brave fight for independence, freedom, and democracy;

Whereas the victory of Mexico over France at Puebla represented a historic triumph for the Mexican government during the Franco-Mexican war fought between 1861 and 1867 and bolstered the resistance movement;

Whereas the success of Mexico at the Battle of Puebla reinvigorated the spirits of the Mexican people and provided a renewed sense of unity and strength;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican army;

Whereas the courageous spirit that Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas, in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez, the president of Mexico during the Battle of Puebla, once said, ''El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz'', meaning ''respect for the rights of others is peace'';

Whereas the sacrifice of Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination while, in the United States, the Union Army battled Confederate forces in the Civil War;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States was built by people from many countries and diverse cultures who were willing to fight and die for freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo encourages the celebration of a legacy of strong leaders and a sense of vibrancy in communities; and

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder to provide more opportunity for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic struggle of the people of Mexico for independence and freedom, which Cinco de Mayo commemorates; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 498—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 5, 2018, AS ''NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK'' WHILE COMMENDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE IMPACT THEY HAVE ON THEIR COMMUNITIES

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 498

Whereas 2018 marks the 55th anniversary of ''National Small Business Week'';

Whereas there are nearly 30,000,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas 2 of every 3 new jobs are created by small businesses;

Whereas small businesses in the United States—

(1) employ nearly ½ of the workforce in the United States;

(2) comprise 99.7 percent of all employers in the United States;

(3) employ veterans, as 9.1 percent of all small business owners served in the Armed Forces;

(4) produce ⅓ of exported goods in the United States; and

(5) account for nearly ½ of private sector output;

Whereas, on July 30, 1953, Congress created the Small Business Administration to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the small business community;

Whereas, in its 54 years of existence, the Small Business Administration has—

(1) aided countless people in the United States in attaining their entrepreneurial dream;

(2) preserved and advanced the interests of small businesses through advocacy; and

(3) ensured fairness in the contracting process of the Federal Government; and

Whereas the President designated the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as ''National Small Business Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as ''National Small Business Week'';

(2) celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of the small business owners of the United States;

(3) understands the importance of creating a small business climate that allows for sustained, entrepreneurial success;

(4) celebrates the invaluable contributions small businesses make to the United States as the backbone of the economy of the United States; and

(5) supports increasing consumer awareness of the value and opportunity small businesses bring to their local communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 499—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 499

Whereas the Senate is committed to the awareness, prevention, and deterrence of sexual violence affecting individuals in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, an estimated 323,450 individuals ages 12 and older in the United States experienced sexual violence during 2016;

Whereas, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 1995 and 2010, approximately—

(1) 3,900,000 women were victims of completed rape;

(2) 1,100,00 women were victims of attempted rape; and

(3) 584,800 men were victims of sexual assault;

Whereas, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (commonly known as ''RAINN''), an individual is sexually assaulted every 98 seconds in the United States, but for every 1,000 rapes committed in the United States, on average only—

(1) 310 rapes are reported to law enforcement agencies;

(2) 57 reported rape cases lead to an arrest;

(3) 11 rape cases are referred for prosecution;

(4) 7 rape cases lead to a felony conviction; and

(5) 6 convicted rapists are sentenced to some form of incarceration;

Whereas, according to the Criminal Victimization Summary for 2016 of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, only 22.9 percent of rapes or sexual assaults in the United States were reported to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas studies have suggested that American Indians and Alaska Natives are at a significantly higher rate of violent victimization than other individuals in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than ½ of all female rape victims reported being raped by an intimate partner;

Whereas sexual violence is a burden for many individuals who serve in the United States Armed Forces, and the Department of Defense estimates that approximately 14,900 service members experienced some form of sexual assault during 2016;

Whereas sexual assault does not discriminate on any basis and can affect any individual in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, elder sexual abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation of disabled persons, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault can have numerous adverse consequences for the victim, which may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, which enables many perpetrators to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional complications long after their physical scars have healed;

Whereas advances in deoxyribonucleic acid (commonly known as ''DNA'') technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of previously unsolved sexual assault cases;

Whereas incarceration of sexual assault perpetrators can prevent perpetrators from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

(1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(A) by telephone at 800-656-HOPE; and

(B) online at https://hotline.rainn.org; and

(2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(1) in 2017, helped nearly 210,000 survivors of sexual assault, which represented the greatest number of survivors assisted through the hotline since the founding of the hotline in 1994; and

(2) continues to receive record requests for support in 2018;

Whereas the Department of Defense provides the Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile application, each of which offer support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at https://safehelpline.org;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no victim of sexual assault to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2018 is recognized as ''National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to—

(i) educate the people of the United States about sexual violence; and

(ii) encourage—

(I) the prevention of sexual assault;

(II) improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault; and

(III) the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in—

(i) promoting awareness about sexual assault;

(ii) providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault; and

(iii) increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 500—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF PETER P. TRUMAN V. PAULA ARMSTRONG, ET AL

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 500

Whereas, two Senate employees, Paula Armstrong and Edie Smith, have been named as defendants in the case of *Peter P. Truman v. Paula Armstrong, et al.*, D. Me., currently on appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, No. 18–1095; and

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend employees of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Paula Armstrong and Edie Smith in the case of *Peter P. Truman v. Paula Armstrong, et al.*

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing representation by the Senate Legal Counsel and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns a pro se civil action filed in Maine Federal court against two employees of Senator KING's office regarding claims arising out of volunteer assistance the pro se plaintiff provided to that office. The District Court, on its own initiative, dismissed the lawsuit without needing to hear from the defendants, and the plaintiff has filed a notice of appeal.

This resolution would authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate employees in that appeal in order to seek dismissal of the appeal or affirmance of the lower court's dismissal of this suit.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I have 4 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 2644 and S. 2559 and following nominations: Mark Jeremy Bennett, of Hawaii, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Nancy E. Brasel, and Eric C. Tostrud, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Robert R. Summerhays, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, and Gregory Allyn Forest, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina, and Bradley A. Maxwell, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, both of the Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 2 p.m. to conduct a closed hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Oversight of HHS and DHS Effort to Protect Unaccompanied Alien Children from Human Trafficking and Abuse.''

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Alexandra Webb, an intern in the office of Senator SULLIVAN, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 440.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 440) designating April 2018 as ''Second Chance Month.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 440) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 20, 2018, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 464.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 464) supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 464) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 16, 2018, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of S. Res. 489 through and including S. Res. 500, which were submitted earlier today.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018, THROUGH MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 30, at 2:30 p.m. and Thursday, May 3, at 10:30 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 3, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, May 7, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Engelhardt nomination; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018, AT 2:30 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:38 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JOHN LOWRY III, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, VICE MICHAEL HERMAN MICHAUD.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CRAIG S. FALLER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL F. FAHEY III
BRIG. GEN. HELEN G. PRATT

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RYAN J. GARLOW

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

NICHOLAS C. MUMM

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 26, 2018:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD GRENELL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

YLEEM D. S. POBLETE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE).

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

ROHIT CHOPRA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2012.

NOAH JOSHUA PHILLIPS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

JOSEPH SIMONS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2017.

CHRISTINE S. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2011.

CHRISTINE S. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREA L. THOMPSON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TIMOTHY A. GARRISON, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

KENJI M. PRICE, OF HAWAII, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JOHN CARY BITTICK, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID L. LYONS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RODNEY D. OSTERMILLER, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HANNIBAL WARE, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KENNETH STEVEN BARBIC, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

THE JUDICIARY

JOSEPH L. FALVEY, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PAUL R. LAWRENCE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NICOLA T. HANNA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

STEVEN L. GLADDEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

BRENDAN O. HEFFNER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THEODOR G. SHORT, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIKE POMPEO, OF KANSAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE.

THOMAS J. HUSHEK, OF WISCONSIN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

KIRSTEN DAWN MADISON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS).

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8036 AND 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DOROTHY A. HOGG

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. RICHARD P. SNYDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. JOHN C. AQUILINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. CHARLES A. RICHARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. GREGORY N. TODD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JOHN S. LEMMON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) RONALD C. COPLEY
REAR ADM. (LH) KATHLEEN M. CREIGHTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRIAN K. COREY
REAR ADM. (LH) LORIN C. SELBY
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHNNY R. WOLFE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5149:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DARSE E. CRANDALL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KRISTEN B. FABRY
CAPT. JOSEPH D. NOBLE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. HEIDI K. BERG
CAPT. MICHAEL A. BROOKES
CAPT. WILLIAM E. CHASE III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JOHN J. ADAMETZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. THOMAS J. ANDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JAMES A. AIKEN
CAPT. RICHARD J. CHEESEMAN, JR.
CAPT. CRAIG A. CLAPPERTON
CAPT. KEITH B. DAVIDS
CAPT. JOSEPH A. DIGUARDO, JR.
CAPT. LEONARD C. DOLLAGA
CAPT. CHRISTOPHER S. GRAY
CAPT. JOHN E. GUMBLETON
CAPT. JAMES A. KIRK
CAPT. TIMOTHY J. KOTT
CAPT. FREDRICK R. LUCHTMAN
CAPT. BRENDAN R. MCLANE
CAPT. SCOTT W. PAPPANO
CAPT. RYAN B. SCHOLL
CAPT. LANCE G. SCOTT
CAPT. PHILIP E. SOBECK
CAPT. JOHN D. SPENCER
CAPT. DOUGLAS C. VERISSIMO
CAPT. GEORGE M. WIKOFF

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. TERRENCE J. O'SHAUGHNESSY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL T. GEROCK

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN G. FOGARTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RAYMOND S. DINGLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. FRANCIS M. BEAUDETTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. EUGENE J. LEBOEUF
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. STRAND

To be brigadier general

COL. AIDA T. BORRAS
COL. VINCENT E. BUGGS
COL. BARRY E. EDBERG
COL. CHERYN L. FASANO
COL. STEPHEN IACOVELLI
COL. ISAAC JOHNSON, JR.
COL. JAMES J. KOKASKA, JR.
COL. JOSEPH M. LESTORTI
COL. EDWARD H. MERRIGAN, JR.
COL. MICHAEL D. ROACHE
COL. BETH A. SALISBURY
COL. CHARLES S. SENTELL III
COL. JAMELLE C. SHAWLEY
COL. ROBERT E. SUTER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. PHILIP S. DAVIDSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DAVID M. KRIETE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHELLE C. SKUBIC

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) EUGENE H. BLACK III
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM D. BYRNE, JR.
REAR ADM. (LH) MARC H. DALTON
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN V. FULLER
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL P. HOLLAND
REAR ADM. (LH) HUGH W. HOWARD III
REAR ADM. (LH) JEFFREY W. HUGHES
REAR ADM. (LH) THOMAS E. ISHEE
REAR ADM. (LH) ROY I. KITCHENER
REAR ADM. (LH) STEPHEN T. KOEHLER
REAR ADM. (LH) SAMUEL J. PAPARO, JR.
REAR ADM. (LH) JEFFREY E. TRUSSLER
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM W. WHEELER III
REAR ADM. (LH) KENNETH R. WHITESELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS OF THE NAVY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5142:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

REAR ADM. (LH) BRENT W. SCOTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DARIN K. VIA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MICHAEL G. DANA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. DAVID H. BERGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN E. LISZEWSKI
COL. LORNA M. MAHLOCK
COL. DAVID L. ODOM
COL. ARTHUR J. PASAGIAN
COL. SEAN M. SALENE
COL. KEVIN J. STEWART
COL. WILLIAM H. SWAN
COL. CALVERT L. WORTH, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES G. CHIAROTTI

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

JON PARRISH PEEDE, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

REBECCA KELLY SLAUGHTER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2015.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD G. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH JOEL K. WARREN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RONNELLE ARMSTRONG AND ENDING WITH JOHN MARION VON ALMEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALISON LEE BEACH AND ENDING WITH CORTNEY LYNN ZUERCHER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL J. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH DAVID RUSSELL WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 9, 2018.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIA W. CAPHART, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NAPOLEON A. CAMPOS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KEVIN R. EMBRY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW J. FURJANIC, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DANIEL L. LEE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN M. WILLIAMS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERTO SORIANOOLIVAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JASON PALATAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSE R. REVELES, JR. AND ENDING WITH KENNETH J. STRAUSS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 9, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D012279, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RUSSELL B. GILLILAND, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIK M. BAUER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LAWRENCE W. HENRY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KENNETH A. WILLEFORD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D012941, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROXANNE T. SICKLES, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES F. HUGGINS II, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DENNY L. ROZENBERG, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS R. BURIAN, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHAD R. FITZGERALD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF EDWARD M. CROSSMAN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NANA K. APPIAWIAH AND ENDING WITH AUSTIN R. YOUNGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 12, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF ROBERT F. GRECH.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KAREN S. SLITER AND ENDING WITH ELIA P. VANECHANOS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF TUYVAN NGUYEN.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN THOMAS ARDELL AND ENDING WITH ALEXANDER ZVINAKIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 12, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF ABIGAIL MARIE NGUEMA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF THE MAFFS MISSION SUPPORTED BY THE 302D AIRLIFT WING AT PETERSON AFB, CO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Citizen Airmen serving in the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing, Air at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Today I recognize their 25 years of dedicated support of the Department of Defense's C–130 Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS mission.

In 1993, the Air Force Reserve portion of the MAFFS mission was moved to the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado from March Air Force Base, California.

On October 28, 1993, two aircrews from the 302nd Airlift Wing's 731st Airlift Squadron and maintenance personnel from the 302nd Maintenance Group departed for Point Mugu Naval Air Warfare Center, California for their first MAFFS activation.

Since that first activation, hundreds of Reserve Citizen Airmen have trained, supported and executed the Defense Support of Civil Authorities Mission assisting in the tireless efforts of ground firefighting crews through reaching inaccessible areas by air, supporting the containment of hundreds of wildland fires and saving lives and property throughout the United States of America and Mexico.

In addition to supporting fire suppression efforts across the U.S., 302d Airlift Wing Reservists have responded to fires in their own backyards supporting suppression of major Colorado fires including the Hayman fire (2002), Waldo Canyon fire (2012) and Black Forest fire (2013).

Innovation is in their DNA, and it comes from the diverse experiences our Reserve Citizen Airmen bring to the mission. We honor all who work tirelessly to support and make this special mission possible both in the air and on the ground. We recognize the hundreds of hours of labor expended by the Reserve aircraft maintenance crews who ensure the MAFFS-equipped C–130s, call-signs MAFFS 2 and MAFFS 5, are mission ready. We honor the highly-experienced Air Force Reserve aircrews flying one of the most challenging missions in the U.S. Air Force.

When not supporting the wildland firefighting mission, the 302nd is always ready to answer our nation's call with the agility to shift to its tactical airlift mission supporting rapid global mobility.

Today, it is also important to remember the six Reserve Citizen Airmen who lost their lives in support of the MAFFS mission, specifically the crew of SUMIT 38, a MAFFS support mission from Boise, Idaho that did not make it back to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado on May 13, 1995; and four members of the crew of MAFFS 7 from the 146th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard who were lost during a MAFFS mission in White Draw, South Dakota on July 1, 2012.

Today, the Reserve Citizen Airmen from Colorado's Peterson Air Force Base along with their Air National Guard counterparts continue to provide the surge support to wildland firefighting efforts when requested by the National Interagency Fire Center at a moment's notice. To make it happen, we seek the best and brightest minds from across the nation to fill critical career fields such as Air Force Reserve pilots and maintenance technicians.

Today, in 2018, the continued bravery, sacrifice, expertise and dedication to this mission by our Reserve Citizen Airmen has allowed for 25 years of unwavering support of the MAFFS mission by the Air Force Reserve at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAULA LINKER

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a very special member of my community. For as long as I have been involved in working for Arizona, Paula Linker has been a friend and supporter. Those who know Paula admire her for her courage and determination. She is forthright and dependable. She works every single day to make sure that the causes and people she cares for most have all the support she has to give. And, it is in that spirit that I am so pleased she is being awarded the Lincoln Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maricopa County Republican Committee.

The community celebrates Paula, and it is with great enthusiasm that I include these remarks into the RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives.

DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM AND THE GLOBAL THREAT TO FREE SPEECH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today we held a hearing on China's digital authoritarianism. China has the world's largest number of internet users as well as the world's most sophisticated and aggressive internet censorship and control regime. The Chinese government, under the leadership of Xi Jinping, views digital controls as necessary for its political stability and control of core digital technologies as necessary for its economic future.

The Chinese government spends $10 billion on maintaining and improving their censorship apparatus. The U.S. government has an annual internet freedom budget of $55 million and Congress still has little idea how this money is spent.

Over the past year or so, Chinese companies were ordered to close websites that hosted discussions on the military, history, and international affairs and crack down on "illegal" VPNs (in response, Apple was forced to remove VPNs from the China App store). New regulations were announced restricting anonymity online and the Chinese government rolled out impressive new censorship technologies, censoring photos in one-to-one WeChat discussions and disrupting WhatsApp.

Beijing has also deployed facial and voice recognition, artificial intelligence, and other surveillance technologies throughout the country, but particularly targeting the Uyghur ethnic minority, where between 500,000 to 1 million Uyghurs have been detained arbitrarily.

The Chinese government and Communist Party's attempts to enforce and export a digital authoritarianism poses a direct threat to Chinese rights defenders and ethnic minorities and poses a direct challenge to the interests of the U.S. and the international community.

The U.S. must recognize that we are engaged in a battle of ideas with a revitalized authoritarianism—online, in the marketplace, and elsewhere—and we need up our "competitive game" to meet the challenge.

The Administration's National Security Strategy says quite clearly that the Chinese government and Communist Party (along with Russia) seek to "challenge American power, influence, and interests, attempting to erode American security and prosperity. They are determined to make economies less free and less fair, to grow their militaries, and to control information and data to repress their societies and expand their influence."

[The Chinese government and Communist Party] is using economic inducements and penalties, influence operations, and implied military threats to persuade other states to heed its political and security agenda. . . China gathers and exploits data on an unrivaled scale and spreads features of its authoritarian system, including corruption and the use of surveillance."

The Chinese government and Communist Party want to shape a world antithetical to U.S. values and interests and to export its economic, political, and censorship models globally.

In response, the U.S. and like-minded allies must stand resolutely for the freedom of religion, fairer and freer trade, labor rights, freedom of navigation, the rule of law and the freedom of expression—including online.

A coherent and engaged internet freedom strategy must be a critical part of the U.S. diplomatic toolbox. This strategy should have at its core a commitment to protect fundamental freedoms, privacy, and promote the free flow of news and information.

But it is not a matter of just having a strategy; it should be the right one. The Bush and Obama Administrations pursued cyber diplomacy; yet internet freedom has declined

around the world, privacy is increasingly under threat, and the free flow of information has become more endangered.

The right strategy must start with some humility. Cyberspace is a place to spread democratic ideals and a place where criminals, extremists, corporations, traffickers, and governments exploit vulnerabilities with impunity. Online communication can convey are highest ideals and our worst fears. It can shine a light on repression and be the source of hatred, manipulation, fake news, coercion, and conflict. It can bring people together or push us apart.

Despite all this, I agree with the NSS's conclusions which says, ''The Internet is an American invention, and it should reflect our values as it continues to transform the future for all nations and all generations. A strong, defensible cyber infrastructure fosters economic growth, protects our liberties, and advances our national security.''

Central to a revitalized U.S. internet freedom strategy should be a priority to open gaping holes in China's Great Firewall.

Right now, I'm just not confident that this is the policy of the Broadcasting Board of Governors or the State Department right now.

I think there are certain goals we should prioritize in our internet freedom strategy regarding China.

First, China's netizens require easy, reliable and free access to uncensored information through anti-censorship technologies, so that anybody can freely access information regardless of their technical ability. Reliable solutions should work all the time, regardless of intensified crackdowns or major events (Party Congress, June 4th anniversary) taking place in-country.

Second, solutions should also present difficult choices for the Chinese authorities—if the authorities want to disrupt these solutions, then they must disrupt many online services which they would normally be hesitant and unlikely to block.

Third, Access to solutions should also come at no cost for Chinese netizens, the Chinese authorities often block access to payment providers so even if Chinese can afford a circumvention solution, they cannot get past censorship by their payment provider.

Fourth, holistic anti-censorship solutions should be encouraged, including not just technical circumvention but also distribution of those tools (getting around Google Play being blocked, and censorship in the Apple App Store) and well as helping users share anti-censorship tools, as well as content, through messaging apps, social networks and QR codes.

These are just a few starting principles. I am open to a conversation about these goals with experts and allies. But given the stakes and possible outcomes, moving quickly to fund and distribute anti-censorship technologies should be a priority.

The future of our grandchildren—in the U.S. and China alike—may very well depend on open, interoperable communications online, with minimal barriers to the global exchange of information, data, ideas, and services.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF GAIL WRIGHT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Eastern Kentucky's greatest champions for economic development and infrastructure enhancement, my friend Gail Wright, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of dedication as Executive Director of the Gateway Area Development District.

Gail was raised on a farm in rural Menifee County, Kentucky, where she learned the value of basic infrastructure, a frugal family life and hard work. She developed a deep passion for helping others while on the farm, which inspired her love for community development.

Gail has been an overcomer from day one, including being first in her family to graduate from college and serving as one of the first female Executive Directors for an Area Development District in Kentucky. Most recently, about ten years ago, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor and a genetic defect in her heart that would ultimately test her strength and tenacity. Once again, she never slowed down, overcoming two major health issues back-to-back.

She has utilized that same determination and courage of conviction to fuel her leadership for the Gateway Area, covering Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, and Rowan Counties. She has been an incredible force in the field of community and economic development; she knows the often-complex inner workings of grant funding and administration; she knows how to bring strategic partners together at the federal, state and local levels; and ultimately, she has a genuine love and understanding for the people, the culture, the talent and the heritage of Eastern Kentucky.

As you look around the communities in the Gateway Area, her fingerprints are visible on countless projects from water and wastewater expansion, industrial parks, transportation enhancements, tourism growth, educational access and other revitalization activities. She has served as Chair of the Kentucky Area Development District's Executive Directors and has dedicated her time and resources to multiple boards in the region, across Kentucky and nationally. Most importantly, she has simultaneously devoted her life to her husband, Dean, with whom she has raised two wonderful sons, Abraham and Jordan.

Gail has been a true jewel for Eastern Kentucky and we will do our best to continue the work she envisioned for the region we all love. As she enters retirement, my wife, Cynthia, and I wish Gail and her family immense joy and blessings in the years to come.

HONORING PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MARK KOZAK

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Kozak from Kodiak, Alaska. After 30 years of work with the City of Kodiak Public Works Department, Mark is retiring on May 18, 2018.

Mark was born and raised in Kodiak. Following high school, he learned to fly and for ten years worked as a commercial bush pilot in Kodiak, operating single and twin-engine aircraft. He was well known for flying the Grumman Goose and transporting fishermen, hunters and villagers to all points on the island.

In 1988, Mark began working for the City of Kodiak as a Utility Worker in the Public Works Department. He was quickly promoted to Equipment Operator and from there became the Maintenance Supervisor. In 2002, Mark was asked to serve as the Public Works Director.

The 27 employees of the Public Works Department have many responsibilities that directly impact the health and safety of the community. These include street, building and equipment maintenance and repair, operation and maintenance of the municipal airport and float-plane facilities, building permits and inspections, a water treatment and distribution system designed for up to ten million gallons per day, wastewater treatment and collection, a United States Council Certified compost facility, and nine regulated dams with a total holding capacity of 1.0 billion gallons of water. Kodiak is one of the top fishing ports in the nation and it is vital that the water system be reliable and of sufficient quantity for processing the millions of pounds of seafood each year.

Throughout his career, Mark has held to the highest standards, and his dedication and commitment to the taxpayers of Kodiak is well known. With his leadership the Public Works Department has accomplished numerous achievements for the community. Major projects have included extensive water, sewer and road renovation and replacement, an ultraviolet plant for the water treatment facility, the planning and building of a compost facility, and a new pump house at the Monashka Dam.

Following retirement, Mark and his wife, Linda, plan to remain in Kodiak where they enjoy boating, sport fishing, hiking, and photography.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mark Kozak for his many years of selfless service for the people of his community and for the City of Kodiak. Please join me in congratulating Mark on his retirement and to wish him our best.

COMMEMORATING PASTOR B.R. DANIELS, JR.'S 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT THE FIRST GREATER NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Pastor B.R. Daniels, Jr.'s 25th Pastoral Anniversary at the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Fort Worth, Pastor Daniels attended and graduated from O.D. Wyatt High School. After completing high school, he answered the call of duty and enlisted in the

United States Army where he faithfully served his country for 8 years. Pastor Daniels was honorably discharged in 1992, at the rank of Sergeant E–5.

In early 1993, when the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church often referred to as ''The Hope,'' was in search of a new pastor and leader, Reverend Daniels was called upon to occupy the pulpit. The congregation knew right away that they had the right man for the job.

On May 2, 1993, Pastor Daniels became the second pastor of the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church, and he continues to lead his congregation today.

Under his leadership, the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church established multiple ministries and grew to over 600 active members.

If that is not enough, Pastor Daniels is also currently pursuing a master's degree in Theology at the Trinity Theological Seminary.

Most importantly, he is the proud father of Brittany and Brianna Daniels, and the proud grandfather of Britton Ray Daniels.

After 25 years, Pastor Daniels has certainly left his mark not only on his church but also in the City of Fort Worth. His passion and love for the ministry explain why so many follow his vision of hope.

Therefore, I include in the RECORD this statement in recognition of Pastor B.R. Daniels, Jr.'s 25 years of dedicated service to the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church.

CELEBRATING THE 2018 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented young men and women participated in the 2018 Congressional Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Their works of art are exceptional.

Sixty-three students from twenty-three high schools in Morris, Essex, Sussex and Passaic counties participated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Alyssa Talon from Pope John XXIII Regional High School for her oil painting entitled, ''Girl on the Bus.'' Second place was awarded to Ava Economou from Wayne Valley High School for her conte pencil work entitled, ''Reflections of Past.'' Third place was awarded to Rachel Cenicola from Madison High School for her photograph entitled, ''The Stories We Wear.''

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Tafari Dempster from Whippany Park High School for his colored pencil work entitled, ''Bioluminescence,'' Caitlin Gethins from Whippany Park High School for her photograph entitled, ''From Heaven Above,'' Morgan Hoover from Wayne Valley High School for her gel pen work entitled, ''Mel,'' and Katherine Hu from the Morris County School of Technology for her acrylic painting entitled, ''Perspicacious.''

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by including in the RECORD their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries:

Boonton High School: Ifrah Bajwa, ''Time Lapse''; Jaylene Combs, ''Self-Portrait''; Catharine Owens, ''Nick''; Zeeshan Qureshi, ''Kobi''.

Delbarton School: Lucas C. Acocella, ''Unexpected Beauty''; Sean Taylor, ''A Cut Above the Rest''.

Eastern Christian High School: Steve Blanco, ''What I Saw in the Water''; Angela Han, ''The Friend''.

Hanover Park High School: Jenna Glinko, ''Freedom Tower''; Ronald Petriella, ''Flashback''; Delaney Trignano, ''Utensils''.

Jefferson Township High School: Kaitlyn Hollar, ''Shapes of the Rainbow''; Katrina Jenisch, ''Child's Play''; Rachel Warncke, ''Oliver''.

Livingston High School: Tiffany Acosta, ''Four Eyes''; Bari Greenwald, ''Chivalrie Romance at the Abbey''; Rachel Leibel, ''Jurassic Art''; Breena Rettig, ''Fading''.

Madison High School: Loryn Camp, ''Acceptance''; Rachael Cenicola, ''The Stories We Wear''; Julia Ferranti, ''Distorted''; Kierran Matos ''Don't Go''.

Montclair High School: Tien Servidio, ''The Angriest Bois''.

Montville Township High School: Nicholas Corradino, ''Golden Tiers''; Alexandra DeLuise, ''Tessellate''; Cindy Xie, ''Splendor''.

Morris Catholic High School: Tess Clemente, ''Sad Goodbye''; Yifan ''Coco'' Peng, ''Potter Peng''; Deok Hyeon ''David'' Yu, ''Bob Dylan''; Kelsey Zapana, ''Tess''.

Morris County School of Technology: Katherine Hu, ''Perspicacious''.

Nutley High School: Zawar Ahmed, ''Fair and Lovely''; Barbara Benda, ''Detached''; Paul Ibrahim, ''Entropy''; Sabrina Kuo, ''Individuality''.

Parsippany Hills High School: Emma Mykowski, ''Connection to the Past''.

Passaic County Technical Institute: Christopher Cortez, ''Narcissus''; Emmalie Foti, ''Space Mammals''; Ava Liguori, ''Colors''.

Passaic Valley High School: Jonathan Alarcon, ''Earth's Sanctuary''; Danielle Burden, ''Oasis''; Matthew Nelson, ''1:05''.

Pope John XXIII Regional High School: Margaret Butler, ''Teeth''; Anne Ilardi, ''Do You Want to Build a Snowman?''; Alyssa Talon, ''Girl on the Bus''; Jessica Whittam, ''Taz''.

Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School: Maya Homa, ''American Beauty Rose''; Noa Mobilia, ''Lone Bonsai''.

Sparta High School: Sydney Van Brunt, ''Country Girl''; Sarah Wille, ''Freedom of Speech''; Ande Wittenmeier, ''Veteran''.

Trinity Christian School: Ben Genberg, ''Mesa Verde''.

Villa Walsh Academy: Lucy Anderson, ''Midnight in the Garden''; Maureen Walsh, ''Coming of Age''.

Wayne Valley High School: Ava Economou, ''Reflections of the Past''; Morgan Hoover, ''Mel''; Kaitlyn Lauckner, ''Proud''; Amanda Piszczatoski, ''Looking Forward, Looking Back''.

West Orange High School: David Fernandez, ''Dream Deferred''.

Whippany Park High School: Tafari Dempster, ''Bioluminescence''; Emily Garcia, ''Lantern Study''; Caitlin Gethins, ''From Heaven Above''; Sara Kahn, ''Playful Elephants''.

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE BROAD INSTITUTE

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate National DNA Day, which marks the completion of the Human Genome Project that produced the first complete DNA sequence of a human being. On the 15th anniversary of this milestone, the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard will reach another remarkable achievement: having now sequenced a total of 100,000 human genomes since the conclusion of the Human Genome Project.

Connecting MIT, Harvard, the Harvard teaching hospitals, and the life sciences and technology industries in Cambridge, MA and beyond, the Broad Institute is one of the world's leading biomedical research institutions. In the service of its mission to propel the understanding and treatment of disease, the Broad Institute is also one of the largest producers of human genomic information; it has made more genomic data available for health research than any other organization.

Over the last decade, the Broad Institute has generated about ten percent of the world's entire knowledge base of human genomic data. Scientists in the United States and around the globe have used its data to research the underlying causes of devastating diseases, from common conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer to very rare childhood disorders.

That tremendous progress reflects not only on the Broad Institute, but on the wisdom of our government to meaningfully invest in biomedicine with its launch of the Human Genome Project in 1990, from which we are still reaping the returns.

I want to thank the Broad Institute for their commitment to science, health, and progress. I am incredibly proud to have this institution and their historic achievements within my district.

HONORING CURTIS W. THAYER

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the 50th birthday of a former employee, colleague and more importantly, friend on May 4, 2018.

Mr. Curtis Thayer of Anchorage, Alaska has worked tirelessly on behalf of Alaskans for over half of his very young 50 years. He has served his time in a wide variety of public service and private practice to bring Alaska economic development, jobs and a solid foundation of community.

Moreover, Curtis is a devoted husband, father and son who dedicates his life to his family and many charitable and non-profit organizations. In a very brief time, Curtis has completed more than most people could in three lifetimes and I have a tremendous amount of respect for him, even selling him one of my precious guns at one point in time. That never happens as I really love my guns—but I gave him a great deal.

Curtis has a great wit, a sharp mind, and sometimes a sharp tongue, but you can always count on him to be there for you. He epitomizes loyalty, honesty and courage. He has stood by my side through all of the political and personal ups and downs and I cannot thank him enough for all he has done for the great State of Alaska and for me as a politician and a person. He is just simply a great guy with an even better wife and son.

Mr. Speaker, Curtis's wife Josie and his son Matthew stand beside a great man who will have many more years to make Alaska an even better place to live. Fifty is just the beginning for this young man.

Happy birthday to my friend, Curtis W. Thayer.

HONORING THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the staff of The Press Democrat for being awarded the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting ''for lucid and tenacious coverage of historic wildfires that ravaged the city of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.''

The Press Democrat is a locally-owned, daily newspaper that was founded in 1897 and is headquartered in Santa Rosa, in my district. This national recognition of its exemplary reporting reinforces what our community already knows—that The Press Democrat is a world class newspaper with exceptional reporters, photographers, editors, online producers and page designers.

During the historic October 2017 wildfires, the staff at The Press Democrat filled a dual role. They told the larger stories, reporting on the devastation and community-wide heartbreak and photographing the looming flames and incredible heroism. They also kept people in our community informed of whether they needed to evacuate, where they could go if they did and how to search for and locate missing family, friends and neighbors. Their updates were critical in keeping people in the Sonoma, Napa and Lake Counties aware of the rapid movement of the fires and events unfolding in our community.

The Pulitzer Prize is well-deserved acknowledgment of the hard work of the staff of The Press Democrat. During the long days and nights and extreme uncertainty, the reporters, photographers and editors worked on the front lines and around the clock to keep the community informed and shared the horrors with the rest of the country and the world. Reporting on the fires demanded everything of them and they delivered, even as some were evacuated from their homes and unsure if they would have a home to return to.

Mr. Speaker, The Press Democrat is an important newspaper and institution in our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the staff and their accomplishment of winning a Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting.

HONORING RABBI STEVEN KUSHNER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM TEMPLE NER TAMID

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Steven Kushner upon his retirement from serving as the spiritual leader of Temple Ner Tamid in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Since its inception in 1980 when two Bloomfield congregations—one reform and one conservative-merged, the Jewish community at Temple Ner Tamid has not just grown, but thrived, under Rabbi Kushner's tenure.

Rabbi Kushner has been instrumental in the growth and expansion of the Ner Tamid congregation to hundreds of families serving three generations of members. In that time he has developed adult education, interfaith, social action, outreach, and family programming at the synagogue. Whether officiating at B'nai Mitzvah, confirmations, weddings, bris ceremonies, baby namings, or funerals, Rabbi Kushner has played an integral role in major life events of thousands of New Jersey families. His high-holiday sermons were always thought-provoking, and included the right dash of movie references or popular culture.

By all accounts, Rabbi Kushner took his title very seriously. The word ''rabbi'' means Jewish teacher in Hebrew, and Rabbi Kushner is a tremendous educator. In fact, Rabbi Kushner helped prepare my Chief of Staff, Ben Rich, for his Bar Mitzvah almost three decades ago. And through leading his confirmation class trip to Washington, D.C., helped influence Ben's path toward what has been a long career working for the people of northern New Jersey on Capitol Hill.

Rabbi Kushner is certainly a figure of respect in the Jewish community, and he has made his mark in the community at large as a distinguished and respected member of the clergy in Essex County and throughout New Jersey.

Rabbi Kushner is past president of the New Jersey Association of Reform Rabbis, the Coalition of Religious Leaders of New Jersey, and the Metro West Conference on Soviet Jewry, and also served on the Ethics Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). Rabbi Kushner is a member of Reform Judaism's Commission on Worship, Music and Religious Living, and chairs the Beth El Memorial Park Foundation of the United Jewish Communities of Metro West. He is a Trustee of The Blue Card, a unique charity that provides emotional and monetary assistance to Holocaust survivors and their families.

A native of Michigan and long suffering Lions fan, Rabbi Kushner received a Bachelor of Arts from Wayne State University in Detroit before earning a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Kushner has also received Certification in Pastoral Counseling from the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health in New York City, and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in March of 2002.

Rabbi Kushner served on the faculty of Bloomfield College from 1983 to 2003. In May of 1995, the college honored him with a Doctor of Laws honoris causa degree.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the dedicated service given. Let us come together to join Rabbi Kushner's family, including his daughters A viva and Hannah, his friends, and the Ner Tamid congregation, clergy and staff, in congratulating Rabbi Steven Kushner on his retirement after thirty-eight years of serving the Jewish community of northern New Jersey and Temple Ner Tamid of Bloomfield.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF RONDA WALLACE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the career and achievements of Chief Ronda Wallace of Kodiak, Alaska, who has served her community and the Kodiak Police Department with distinction for the past 20 years. Chief Wallace first joined the Department in 1997 as a Public Safety Dispatcher, and the next year was commissioned as a patrol officer. She steadily rose through the Department's ranks and held numerous positions including Narcotics and Investigative Detective, Patrol Sergeant, and Lieutenant, until becoming Kodiak's first female Police Chief in 2013.

Chief Wallace's leadership by example, care for the community of Kodiak, and compassion for its citizens have come to define the Kodiak Police Department. During her career she has gotten countless drugs off our streets, solved homicides, worked tirelessly to help women and children who are victims of abuse and assaults, and consistently raised the bar for professional police work. And, like all true leaders, her shining example will continue through the legacy she has created in Kodiak and the many people she has mentored, both within her police department and the community at large.

Throughout her 20-year career she has displayed the highest possible standards of police work, and is an inspiration to future generations of law enforcement professionals and public servants. I greatly appreciate and admire her selfless dedication to Kodiak, to her fellow citizens, to our great State of Alaska, and to our Nation as a whole through her cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

Therefore, it gives me distinct pleasure to honor Chief Wallace today, and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ronda and wishing her continued success.

ALEXANDER OLSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander Olson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Alexander Olson is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Olson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexander Olson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VULCRAFT GRAPELAND

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of the Nucor Corporation's Vulcraft Steel Plant in Grapeland, Texas.

In 1946, a small steel fabrication company, the Vulcraft Corporation, was founded in Florence, South Carolina. For sixteen years, the company grew and prospered, ultimately transforming into an exclusive manufacturer of steel span joints, before the Nuclear Corporation, a company tracing its roots to the founder of Oldsmobile, purchased its facilities in 1962.

After expanding its steel manufacturing operations to facilities in Nebraska and Alabama, Nucor, previously known as the Nuclear Corporation, made its move to the Lone Star State on April 1, 1968, when it opened a fourth steel plant in Grapeland, Texas.

With this foundation, Vulcraft's operations expanded to three additional states and two production facilities in Canada. Despite experiencing such massive growth and success in business, Vulcraft maintained its high levels of customer satisfaction and standards of excellence. In fact, Vulcraft is known worldwide for exceptional safety standards, high-quality steel products it manufactures, and the commitment it has made to producing environmentally friendly products.

Look no further than Vulcraft's Grapeland facility for proof that the company is dedicated to serving its customers and its employees. Since its foundation in 1968, Vulcraft Grapeland has tripled in size, and it continues to serve as a beacon of success and excellence in our community.

Notably, Vulcraft and its parent company, Nucor, are now looking to use their years of experience, successful business practices, and high standing in the steel industry to advocate for free trade policies and the safety of men and women in the workplace.

On April 1, 2018, Vulcraft celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its plant in Grapeland. I am proud to join the men and woman of Vulcraft, and the entire Eighth District of Texas to recognize this significant mile-marker and their continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIERRA PACIFIC HS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sierra Pacific High School Golden Bears Girls Basketball Team for their victory as California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division V Basketball Champions.

The Golden Bears of Hanford, California defeated Lowell High School of San Francisco, California by a margin of 52–26 at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, California. Their victory capped a 32–5 overall record for the 2017–2018 season.

Starting varsity play in 2011, Sierra Pacific's basketball program quickly evolved from the upstart to champions. This season, the Golden Bears were undefeated both at home and in East Sequoia League play.

Led by Head Coach Amy Bush and Assistant Coaches Heather Brasil and Victor Chavarin, Jr., Sierra Pacific High School was proudly represented by Cristina Avila, Haley Bettencourt, Kylie Brasil, Kalea Bush, Arianna Chavarin, Ciana Gonzales, Hailey Leslie, Celeste Lewis, Rose Miller, Alana Roberts, Kaylie Rocha, Annabelle Saavedra, Janae Tolbert, and Savannah Torres.

I further congratulate players Kalea Bush, Haley Bettencourt, and Alana Roberts for their terrific performance this season. By the conclusion of the season, Miss Bush became the all-time leading scorer for the Golden Bears, earning 1,099 points.

Miss Bettencourt, who is the second all-time leading scorer for Sierra Pacific, was awarded the Pursuing Victory with Honor Award for her performance and sportsmanship during the State Championship game.

In the Championship game, Miss Roberts led Sierra Pacific in both scoring and rebounds, collecting twenty points and twelve rebounds.

The success of the ladies of Sierra Pacific High School is an inspiration to our Central Valley community, their victory is a testament to the bonds of sportsmanship, dedication, and camaraderie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the players and coaches of Sierra Pacific High School Golden Bears Girls Basketball Team for their terrific athletic achievement during their 2017–2018 season.

CONGRATULATING LINDSEY JENSEN

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lindsey Jensen, who was named the 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Jensen began her teaching career 12 years ago, and her positive spirit and passion for education has profoundly impacted countless lives across our community.

As an English teacher at Dwight Township High School for the last 10 years, Mrs. Jensen has continually demonstrated her passion for teaching and her commitment to serving students, her colleagues, and her community. High School is such a pivotal and exciting time for students, especially as they prepare themselves for their next steps. These young adults need teachers like Mrs. Jensen who can inspire them, motivate them, and push them to reach their full potential.

Colleagues of Mrs. Jensen have described her as an educator who radiates with infectious positivity, saying she is more than a teacher of English, but rather a teacher of the people. As the son of a public-school teacher, I know the importance of having passionate and creative teachers in the classroom, and I know how important a good education is to giving a student hope and opportunity for a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Jensen for her dedicated service to our students and the Dwight community. It is my honor to congratulate Mrs. Jensen on this much deserved recognition as the 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year, and we are truly proud to have this exemplary educator representing our community.

DAIMON OSWALT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daimon Oswalt for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Daimon Oswalt is a student at Wayne Carle Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daimon Oswalt is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daimon Oswalt for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN APPRECIATION OF MAURI GRAY'S WORK WITH THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today, as Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I join with Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, in expressing our appreciation for Mauri Gray's work with the Committee over the past two years.

Mauri came to us as a detailee from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, having worked for nearly six years as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Puerto Rico , representing indigent clients in federal criminal cases. Prior to starting her career as a public defender, Mauri attended the University of Florida and the University of Georgia School of Law.

At the conclusion of her detail to the Committee, she will be resuming her work, moving to the Federal Defender's office in Phoenix, Arizona.

As counsel to the Committee's Democrats, Mauri provided indispensable analysis and advice concerning oversight hearings and a wide range of proposed legislation, including various child protection bills, legislation to .combat opioid abuse, proposals to fight online sex trafficking, legislation concerning arrest authority of federal law enforcement officers, and bills concerning federal benefits for those with criminal records. Often, her counsel helped Members defeat or improve bills intended to inappropriately expand the scope of federal criminal law or to impose unjust penalties.

As the Committee has engaged in the beginnings of an initiative to reform our criminal justice system, Mauri's experience as a federal defender has informed our legislative efforts. She has helped us examine and prepare legislation to improve our sentencing laws as well as legislation to reform various aspects of federal prisons.

We have appreciated and benefited from Mauri's energy, enthusiasm, and insight over the past two years, during which she became an integral part of our team. We will miss her.

We thank Mauri for her selfless service to the Committee, and we wish her the best as she continues her career.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF SANDUSKY, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an important milestone in the life of one of the communities in my district. Sandusky Ohio celebrates it's bicentennial in the coming days, highlighted by a ball on Saturday April 28, 2018.

Founded two hundred years ago in 1818, Sandusky was developed near the town of Portland, which it soon overtook. According to history, part of the city was built on "land formerly occupied by a Native American man named Ogontz. Thus, the city is said to have been built upon 'Ogontz' place.'" The name "Sandusky" was taken from the Native American Wyandot word for "water." In fact, Sandusky sits on the Western Basin of Lake Erie. As a result of its location on the Lake, Sandusky's population grew quickly. It was one of Ohio's first major ports and was "an original terminus for the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad. Chartered by the state legislature in 1832 and envisioned to run between Sandusky and Dayton to the southwest, the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad was the first rail line located entirely in Ohio" when Sandusky was the site of its ground breaking on September 17, 1835.

The State of Ohio established Erie County in 1838 and set Sandusky as the county seat. Charles Dickens, who visited Sandusky in 1842, wrote this about the city in his travelogue American Notes: "At two o'clock we took the railroad; the travelling-on which was very slow, its construction being indifferent, and the ground wet and marshy; and arrived at Sandusky in time to dine that evening. We put up at a comfortable little hotel on the brink of Lake Erie, lay there that night, and had no choice but to wait there next day, until a steamboat bound for Buffalo appeared. The town, which was sluggish and uninteresting enough, was something like the back of an English watering-place out of the season."

However, the town soon grew and by 1846 Sandusky had become an economic hub, with its port and two railroads. According to the history, about three thousand people lived in Sandusky and were served by "numerous stores, two printing offices, two machine shops, two banks, six churches, one high school, and several iron furnaces." The city's downtown was laid out similar to the pattern in our nation's Capital.

Sandusky was a critical stop on the Underground Railroad. Many fugitive slaves who sought freedom in Canada boarded a boat in Sandusky to cross Lake Erie into Ontario. They were assisted in their journeys by a strong network of residents.

The history notes that by 1880, "Sandusky's population had reached almost sixteen thousand residents. This much larger population resulted in an increasing number of social institutions, including twenty churches and three newspapers. The community also became more economically diverse, with at least twenty-nine businesses with ten or more employees. Among the items that Sandusky businesses produced were lime, railroad locomotives and cars, carriages, wheels, crayons, chalk, beer, paper, baskets, and tools. In 1886, residents boasted that they were the leading manufacturers of wooden wheels in the United States. That same year, Sandusky was home to the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Home and the Ohio State Fish Hatchery."

Sandusky continued to grow and develop through the Twentieth Century. Today, Sandusky is known for its tourism: its beaches, boating and fishing, parkland and Cedar Point. It is home for higher education for adults of all ages at the Firelands Campus of Bowling Green State University, a thriving arts community and the MerryGoRound Museum, the active Sanduky Chapter of the NAACP, historic religious institutions and many thriving businesses. The. Ohio Veterans Home—one of only two in the state—continues to serve veterans. Its nearly 30,000 residents are members of a town that proudly celebrates its history while looking toward its future.

DANTE PADRO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dante Padro for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Dante Padro is a student at Arvada K–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dante Padro is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dante Padro for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF SANFORD M. SAUNDERS, JR.

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Sanford M. Saunders, Jr., whom we lost too soon at the age of 59. A constituent of McLean, Virginia, Sandy is survived by his wife of nearly 22 years, Beth Saunders and predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Paulette David.

Sandy was loved immensely, sharing a special bond with his wife, Beth that came from his great heart and genuine nature. They had similar personalities and together sought the adventures of life, year after year finding the treasures of the world. Love is not an easy feeling to put in words but with Sandy, his love for Beth was revolutionary and he devoted himself to her.

Sandy carried a joyous spirit throughout this world and always shared it unto others. He will be remembered affectionately as the "Sandman." A name given unto him to fit his calm and comforting personality. He was a supportive uncle and the oldest cousin among all family members. His wisdom and humor prevailed in every conversation.

Above all passions, Sandy was enthusiastic about serving people. With over thirty years of representing his clients, Sandy every day pledged to arm them in his work.

From a young age, Sandy understood the importance of a good education. He received his J.D., Cum Laude, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1983 and his B.A., with honors, from Johns Hopkins University in

1980. In addition to his time practicing law, Sandy also served as a Visiting Fellow at George Mason University's Center on Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption, imparting his decades of wisdom in these fields to the next generations.

Sandy deeply loved life and this was clear to all those around him. Psalms 34:22 speaks, "The Lord redeems the souls of his servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned. The dust returns to the earth as it was, but the spirit returns to God who gave it."

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the extraordinary life of Mr. Sanford Saunders, Jr., and I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our deepest condolences to the Saunders family.

RECOGNIZING THE BLUE VALLEY NORTHWEST TEAM

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the team from Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, Kansas that is representing our state this weekend at the 31st Annual We the People National Finals academic competition.

The We the People program is a civics education course that teaches K–12 students around the country about the U.S. Constitution. Each year, this program culminates in a national competition, in which state champion teams come to Washington, D.C. to test their constitutional knowledge against other students from around the country.

This will be Blue Valley Northwest's seventh year in a row as the Kansas champion, representing our state in the We the People national competition. Under the leadership of teacher Ken Thomas, they have earned the state title in nine out the last ten years. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the dedication of Blue Valley Northwest students and Mr. Thomas to learning about our nation's Constitution.

I applaud the Blue Valley Northwest team for this achievement, and I welcome them to our nation's Capital. Good luck to them in the competition, and go Huskies.

ANDREAS JERMAINE PEREA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andreas Jermaine Perea for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Andreas Jermaine Perea is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andreas Jermaine Perea is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andreas Jermaine Perea for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY I. GREGORY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable woman. Mary Gregory passed from this life on April 2, 2018. Her friends and family will gather this week to remember and honor her.

Mary Gregory was born to Louise and Richard Booker in Marion Indiana in 1930. Though they lived in town, the family owned a farm and Mary participated in its daily operation. She regularly attended the Methodist Church. Surely, Mary's faith and discipline were instilled at an early age. Some of her family left for work in Toledo and eventually the rest of the family, including Mary, joined them. Her mother established a beauty salon, one of the first African American owned salons in Toledo.

After graduating from Libbey High School, Mary was at first unable to pursue a nursing degree as she had chosen, because no nursing schools would admit an African American. In 1947 she was admitted into the St. Vincent School of Nursing and was the first African American to do so. She graduated in 1951, married Raymond Gregory, and together they raised a family of four children. Mary continued her education, completing her Masters of Education, Community Health and Administration Degree from the University of Toledo. She went on to a 47 year career at St. Vincent Hospital.

Mary Gregory's tenure at St. Vincent's was writ large. Beginning in the Emergency Room, she later was an operating room staff nurse. Then Mary really established herself. She instructed and trained students as surgical technicians for twenty years. During this time she developed a "patient centered" curriculum and initiated a two year Surgical Tech training program. The program was so successful it was transferred to Lawrence Tech so that it could grow and was replicated in other places. Mary also supervised the St. Vincent Sickle Cell Free Testing and Education Program provided to Toledo's African American community. She even wrote the grants to fund this service.

It was through her position as Manager of Health Promotions that Mary Gregory indelibly stamped her imprimatur on St. Vincent and the Toledo community. She developed free community health screenings and education, going out into the neighborhoods, migrant camps, and other underserved areas. She met the people where they were, at community events, shopping centers and health fairs. She talked to all people, especially those whose health and well-being were disproportionately addressed. Mary Gregory became the face of health promotion for many and fought to eliminate disparities in health care availability and accessibility.

At the same time her career progressed at St. Vincent Hospital, Mary Gregory served our community in many ways, committed to community health. She was a member of the Toledo-Lucas County Board of Health, the Toledo HIV-AIDS Task Force, and the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Mary was a co-founder of the Toledo Council of Black Nurses, serving as its first president. Additionally, Mary started a caregiver service at Warren AME Church, implemented health screenings at Toledo Public Schools, worked through the organizations of which she was a member to provide cancer, diabetes, and heart disease screenings, lupus support services, and smoking cessation help as part of April's Minority Health Month, and she was an Ambassador for the American Heart Association.

Mary Gregory used her time and talents for the benefit of others. Through her efforts our community was compassionate, and our most vulnerable neighbors were ministered to in many ways. She lived Christ's message of Love. Surely at her homegoing, she was greeted as in Matthew 25:23, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

To Mary Gregory's family and friends, we offer our condolences. We hope they find comfort in shared memories and the gift of her life.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the value and importance of international students in the United States. I am fortunate enough to represent numerous colleges and universities in my district. I have a deep appreciation for the important role these institutions play in providing opportunities for students around the globe.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the largest university in my district, enrolls over 10,000 international students from 122 different countries. Illinois State University boasts students from 67 countries and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has 325 international students from 50 countries.

I am proud to represent institutions like these that welcome the world's brightest learners. I believe that today's students become tomorrow's leaders. The former presidents of both Ecuador and the Philippines earned doctorate degrees from universities in my district, and I know that presidents and prime ministers all over the world have earned their college degrees right here in the United States.

Welcoming international students and scholars strengthens our diplomatic ties with countries across the globe and contributes significantly to national security and to our economy. International students are vital to our nation's fabric. Through the exchange of ideals, languages, and cultures, diplomacy is strengthened and ourworld is made a better place.

RICHARD (RICHIE) PRUETT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Richard (Richie) Pruett for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Richie Pruett is a student at The Manning School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Richie Pruett is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Richie Pruett for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on April 26, 2018, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted YES on the amendment proposed by Rep. DEFAZIO (42), NO on the Amendment proposed by Rep. ROHRABACHER (60), NO on the Amendment proposed by Rep. KING (IA) (63), NO on the Amendment proposed by Rep. LIPINSKI (78), NO on the Amendment proposed by Rep. DENHAM (79), YES on the Amendment proposed by Rep. LYNCH (87), and YES on H.R. 4744.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my congressional district, Haley Peretic from Cornerstone Christian Preparatory Academy. Ms. Peretic is the winner of the 2018 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Ms. Peretic's artwork, a drawing in colored pencil and marker entitled ''Happy Heart,'' was selected from a number of outstanding entries in this year's competition.

In fact, 90 works from 19 different schools in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists.

It's a real tribute to Ms. Haley's skill and vision that her work was chosen as the winner of this year's competition. I should add that Haley won fourth place in the competition last year for her pencil and colored pencil drawing entitled ''Every Day People.'' Ms. Peretic's artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year.

I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Ms. Peretic' s artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other congressional districts, which will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

Laurel Black from Springdale High School was awarded second place for her oil painting ''Sweet Innocence.'' Derek Kotecki from Baldwin High School received third place for his charcoal reduction drawing entitled ''Self.'' Rachel Simcic from Springdale High School was awarded fourth place for her composition involving mixed media, digital art, and markers entitled ''Thief,'' and Taylor Rebyanski from Westinghouse Arts Academy, was awarded fifth place for her colored pencil drawing ''Iris.''

In addition, Honorable Mention Awards were presented to works by Summer Bernotas from Baldwin High School, Nicole Ellwood from East Allegheny High School, Julia Conway from Gateway High School, Erin Douglass from Gateway High School, Aliza Hamid from Gateway High School, Shaina McKinney from Gateway High School, Anwitha Sherigar from Gateway High School, Jennifer Gustafson from Highlands High School, Sophie Gatesman from Oakland Catholic High School, Madison Pastore from South Allegheny High School, Kathleen Marsili from Springdale High School, and Sophia Lebiere from Winchester Thurston School.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition: Summer Bernotas, Morgan Bell, Meghan Bradley, Brian Genovesi, Derek Kotecki, and Tina Odato from Baldwin High School; Sam Chickini from Carlynton High School; Haley Peretic from Cornerstone Christian Preparatory Academy; Larrissa Bloom, Nicole Ellwood, Makenzie Freed-DePastino, Marissa Riggs, and Taya Tassone from East Allegheny High School; Kiera Harrell-Danks, Emma M. Harvey, Alexis Kentebe, Calista Martin-Singer, Lowrie Woodside, and Chiara Zuccoli from The Ellis School; Julia Conway, Erin Douglass, Aliza Hamid, Shaina McKinney, Ava Parker, and Anwitha Sherigar from Gateway High School; Maddie Cincala, Erik Frantz, and Jennifer Gustafson from Highlands High School; Kira Blenk, Claire Ishiyama, Madelyn Largent, and Emma Miller from Northgate High School; Sophie Gatesman, Noelle Pina, Giovanna Tatananni, Juliia Vrabel, and Angela Zenchak from Oakland Catholic High School; Sarah Artuhevich, Skye Cato, Kylie Meyer, Elizabeth Szurszewski, Mia Walker, and Dania Zaynullin from Penn Hills High School; Eva Curlee, Allison Patton, and Sydney Reyes from Riverview High School; Isabelle Analo from Shadyside Academy; Arianah Bellamy, Kourtnee Duval, Macy Kelly Ernst, Madison Pastore, Robert Nesky, and Morgan Templeton from South Allegheny High School; Laurel Black, Patricia Linderman, Kathleen Marsili, Alicia Matthews, Rachel Selzer, and Rachel Simcic from Springdale High School; Ashton Bowler, Reonna Collington, Renae Darcy, Alexus Frazee, and Alexis Sekinger from Sto-Rox High School; Jenny Rohach from West Mifflin High School; Caden Ferita, Anaeja Halliburton, Angelina Kukic, Alyssa Marchbank, Taylor Rebyanski, Pheobe Elise Richardson, and Allison Riley from Westinghouse Arts Academy; Yixin Allison Cai, Maya Husni, Sophia Labiere, Rivers Leche, and Isel Pollock from the Winchester Thurston School; and Mariah Faith Smith, Juliette Gough, Andre Hilliard, Colleen Malecki, and Erin Reichert from Woodland Hills High School.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talent, imagination, and creativity. The efforts these talented students have put into expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are deeply inspiring.

I hope that all of them will continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all great success in their future endeavors.

MARCUS SMALE-SCHEMMEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marcus Smale-Schemmel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Marcus Smale-Schemmel is a student at Arvada K–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marcus Smale-Schemmel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Marcus Smale-Schemmel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THEODORE ''TED'' VAN DER MEID

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor and remember the life of Theodore ''Ted'' Van Der Meid. A dedicated public servant here in the House of Representatives, Ted will be greatly missed by his former colleagues and friends.

Born in Rochester, New York in 1957, Ted displayed natural leadership qualities at a young age. During his high school years, Ted traveled to Western Europe as part of the People to People Student Ambassador Program, which exposed him to cultures and governments veiled by Russian influence during

the Cold War. These experiences taught him the importance of coalition building and the interconnectedness of humanity; lessons he carried with himself into his professional life on Capitol Hill.

Ted committed his life to service and was known throughout the halls of Congress for his compassion, leadership, and his pragmatic approach to politics. Ted was a trusted advisor to numerous members of Congress, including former House Republican Leader Bob Michel, of Illinois, Representative Nancy Johnson, of Connecticut, and, ultimately, the 51st Speaker of the House.

Ted's most enduring physical legacy in the U.S. Capitol is the Capitol Visitors Center, which enhances the visitor experience for three to five million visitors a year. From his position in the Speaker's office, Ted played an instrumental role in the completion of the building, which was created in the wake of the Capitol shooting in 1998 and the terrorist attacks in 2001. The Capitol Visitors Center safeguards millions of visitors every year and will remain a lasting memory of Ted's abilities. His ability to build consensus, combined with the care and compassion he had for those around him, made its completion possible.

We mourn the passing of Ted Van Der Meid, a friend and colleague to many. He left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of working with him and his memory will be forever entwined in the fabric of the Capitol.

HONORING MR. KENNETH L. TUCKEY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Kenneth L. Tuckey, who is receiving the Cumberland County Friends of Scouting Award. I know I will be neither the first, nor the last, to applaud Mr. Tuckey for this well-deserved honor.

The Friends of Scouting Award is given to individuals who have shown exceptional support for their local Boy Scouts of America programs. Cumberland County's division of Boy Scouts has chosen Mr. Tuckey as their honoree this year for his outstanding community service and his ambassadorship for the Boy Scouts.

A lifelong resident of South Central Pennsylvania, Mr. Tuckey has long been a pillar of the Carlisle community. Throughout his storied career, he has helped his community both economically and through countless volunteer ventures.

Mr. Tuckey owns and operates Tuckey Mechanical Services, Inc., Tuckey Metal Fabricators, Inc., and Tuckey Restorations, Inc. , and has led each of these companies to success. For instance, Tuckey Mechanical Services, Inc., just celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. He and his wife, Marsha, have two sons, Matthew and Nathan, who also work in the family businesses. Through his work, Mr. Tuckey has been integral in the revitalization and historic preservation of downtown Carlisle.

Additionally, Mr. Tuckey contributes to his community as Board Chairman of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Pinnacle-Carlisle's Board of Directors, and serves on many other non-profit boards, such as the Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation, the Cumberland County Industrial Development Authority, and the Pennsylvania State Workforce Investment Board.

I believe we can all take a cue from Mr. Tuckey's inspiring story and his personal motto of ''service above self,'' as a guiding principle. This award is proof that hard work and quality service do not go unnoticed, and that a positive impact on the region is widely recognized.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Tuckey for all he has done and continues to do for the Carlisle community and congratulate him on receiving the Cumberland County Friends of Scouting Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 153, on passage of H.R. 3144, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

PETE YAZZIE-RODRIGUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Pete Yazzie-Rodriguez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Pete Yazzie-Rodriguez is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Pete Yazzie-Rodriguez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pete Yazzie-Rodriguez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERIFF JOHN R. GOSSAGE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John R. Gossage's 31 years of service in law enforcement, including two terms as Brown County sheriff, and the successful legacy he leaves as Brown County's top law enforcement officer. Sheriff Gossage's long and reputable career includes many professional accomplishments that reflect the caliber of his leadership and service.

Sheriff Gossage joined the police department in May 1987 and proved himself a natural leader. He worked hard and steadily rose in the department as he mastered numerous life-saving skills from law enforcement operations to public-safety issues. He became the chief deputy under former sheriff Dennis Kocken's administration, and quickly received the endorsements of Mr. Kocken and other previous sheriffs in his campaign for county leadership.

Sheriff Gossage has served with distinction in what he calls ''the finest law enforcement agency in the nation.'' Brown County is the oldest sheriff's office in Wisconsin, but Sheriff Gossage has faced many challenging cases throughout his tenure. Nevertheless, he has provided steady leadership during times of change and supported his department while protecting Northeast Wisconsin communities.

The historic Brown County sheriff's office, Mr. Gossage once observed, is much like the Green Bay Packers—a local institution rich with traditions, achievements, and pride. There is no doubt that Sheriff Gossage will be missed by the officers who worked and served with him, the county officials who depended on him, and members of the communities he helped keep safe. As Sheriff Gossage steps down to pursue other opportunities, I have no doubt that he will continue to serve well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending Mr. Gossage for his service as sheriff and his long career protecting the great state of Wisconsin.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JOSEPH P. SILVA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joseph Silva, a resident of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who turned 100 years young on Thursday, April 12th.

Joseph has dedicated his life to serving his community and country. In World War II he was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving two years in North Africa and another in Italy. During his service, Joseph attained the rank of staff sergeant for the 22nd Quarter Master Battalion, Company A.

Upon returning home, Joseph joined the New Bedford Fire Department, and remains the first and only Cape Verdean to achieve the rank of deputy chief. Joseph served at the Fire Department for thirty-six years, where he routinely encouraged other Cape Verdeans to apply, even inviting them into his home to study for the firefighter's exam. On his days off he worked as a longshoreman for nineteen years.

In 1950, Joseph married Julia Barros. The two would go on to have two daughters together and today Joseph is a proud grandfather. Joseph has remained active in his community, receiving the Marian Medal from the Dioceses of Fall River for his dedicated service, and serving on his church's Building and maintenance Committee until just five years ago.

Mr. Silva's children and grandchildren speak incredibly highly of him, noting the value he placed on education, as well as the importance of listening and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Joseph Silva on this joyous occasion of his 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him many more years of health and happiness.

CALEB STOCKTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Caleb Stockton for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Caleb Stockton is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Caleb Stockton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Caleb Stockton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF FORMER FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES—BARBARA BUSH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, Barbara Bush, the former First Lady of the United States from 1989 to 1993. Barbara Bush was the only woman besides Abigail Adams to serve her country as both a wife and a mother to a president of the United States. However, her service to her country did not end there. She also dedicated her life to literacy efforts through the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Mrs. Bush, a dedicated wife and mother, committed her life to her family and community. Early on in her life she volunteered at YMCA and United Way and actively participated in her husband's campaigns. When her husband became U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, her time entertaining foreign dignitaries and traveling abroad to China gave her the experience and popularity that only rose when she began to represent the United States as the wife of the Vice President of the United States in the early 80s.

As the wife of the Vice President, Mrs. Bush found her passion in literacy and started to dedicate her life to supporting the cause. When her husband became President, she dedicated her life to supporting literacy efforts, and it was during this time that she started her non-profit, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. Once her husband left office and moved back to Texas, she continued to devote her life to her non-profit and later served as an ambassador-at-large for AmeriCares.

Today, I honor former First Lady Barbara Bush for her commitment to literacy efforts for children across the United States and her grace, poise, and leadership as she supported her husband and, later, her son in leading the United States.

HONORING UAPB'S GOLDEN LION BATTALION

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's historic ROTC officer program.

In 1968, the United States Department of the Army began holding classes under the Reserve Officers Training Corp at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Since the establishment of the Golden Lion Battalion, more than 500 Army officers have received their commission.

Students here learn many skills including teamwork, critical thinking, leadership theory, time management, and problem solving making them effective leaders in our Armed Forces.

I take this time to thank the alumni of the Golden Lion Battalion for their years of service, and for their continued commitment to training the next generation of leaders enrolled in the ROTC program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

JOSE VILLEGAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jose Villegas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jose Villegas is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jose Villegas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jose Villegas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ALLIE INGALLS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allie Ingalls from Royal Oak High School. I met Allie last week at a rally in Royal Oak as part of the student led National School Walkout. Allie is a senior and one of the student leaders in her school and community. I was so impressed with her courage and the passion with which she delivered her remarks that I wanted to share her speech with my colleagues. Therefore, I include in the RECORD the remarks of Allie Ingalls:

It is 5:30 AM. I have an hour before I need to wake up for school. But instead of sleeping, my body is shaking and I am sure I'm about to throw up. But this isn't new. I have had this nightmare before. Always in the same place in the hallway, leaving a class I'm not sure I even have. And I try to run. But we all know you cannot outrun a bullet. Do not tell me it is not about guns. Do not tell me it is not about guns, when it is not a face I see in my nightmares, but a trigger. Do not tell me it is not about guns, when middle schoolers tell me they're afraid of high school because we carry backpacks. Where a gun can be hidden. Our fears are not unprecedented. Shootings that have occurred on school grounds in 2018. Winston Salem, North Carolina. Italy, Texas. Benton, Kentucky. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Los Angeles, California. Oxon Hill, Maryland. Nashville, Tennessee. Parkland, Florida. Savannah, Georgia. Itta Bena, Mississippi. Norfolk, Virginia. Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Jackson, Mississippi. Birmingham, Alabama. Mobile, Alabama. Seaside, California. Lexington Park, Maryland.

We are four months into 2018. The only thing this is about, is guns.

I do not want clear backpacks. I do not want my teachers to carry a gun. I do not want bulletproof desks. I do not want to be taught the difference between the sound a firework makes, and the sound a gun makes. I want common sense gun control. I want to go to school, without wearing a bulletproof vest. I want Helena Ramsey in a classroom today. I want Peter Wang in a classroom today. I want Luke Hoyer in a classroom today. I want Charlotte Bacon to celebrate her eleventh birthday. I want Noah Penzer to see his sister again. I want Olivia Engel to go to dance class today. But their voices have been silenced, the only thing our politicians hear is the NRA. We live in a generation where a dollar has more of a voice, than the 16 million people who sit in a classroom. Today, I stand here for the 16 million people who have been silenced by the adults who are in a position to make change. Every single student in the United States is my classmate. Every single teacher in the United States is my teacher. In the wise words of Parkland survivor Michelle Lapidot ''Was the blood of my classmates and teachers worth your NRA blood money?''

To the adults who have failed us, to the politicians who have made it clear where their loyalty stands, to the Royal Oak School Board, to the individuals who have called us ''nitwits,'' among other names, I would like to personally thank you. Thank you for empowering me. Thank you for proving what we already knew, we are the change. We are the people who will vote them out. We are the generation who will put our children first. We are the generation on the right side of history. You have all

proved that we live in a society where the adults are compliant while the youth rise in resistance.

To the adults who have stood up with us, to my teachers who have encouraged me to use my strong voice, to Gabby, you have helped create a generation that is unstoppable. You have given us the tools to be louder than the NRA, you given us the tools to be what this country needs.

With that, to all my peers, WE ARE VICTIMS, WE ARE STUDENTS, WE ARE CHANGE. Soon we will all be armed with something much stronger than an AR–15: Our voter cards. Our ballots are stronger than their bullets. To everyone eligible, arm yourself today. Register to vote. To those who are not, your voice is just as powerful, our politicians represent all of us. Write your reps, call your reps, become so persistent they know your name, write letters till your fingers bleed. Our voices will no longer be silenced. Make way for the youth. Because we're coming, and we will not be quiet.

Allie Ingalls is just one of the thousands of young people throughout my district and our country who have stood up and said "Enough is Enough." Mr. Speaker, we must stand with these students and their allies who demand solutions to ending gun violence. We as leaders must do better by our young people. We as a Congress must act now.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Allie Ingalls. I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors and have no doubt we will be hearing more from her in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBBEY GLASS COMPANY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an achievement few American companies have attained: the 200th anniversary celebration of Libbey, a glass manufacturer in Toledo, Ohio. In fact, the company's legacy gave rise to Toledo's designation as "the glass capital of the world."

In 1818, the New England Glass Company was started in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Through successive generations including his father before him, Edward Drummond Libbey became the company's president in 1880. In 1888, the company's 70th year of operation, after studying a location for a move and noting the fine silica sand and natural gas qualities of the region, Mr. Libbey moved the entire plant—along with many of its skilled tradesmen and workers—to Toledo. In 1892, the company was renamed the Libbey Glass Company. The Libbey Glass Company produced bottles, containers, window glass and was best known for its cut glass .

Always a visionary, Edward Drummond Libbey obtained the exclusive right to build and operate a glass factory at the 1893 world's fair in Chicago. Michael J. Owens, a skilled blower and inventive wonder who came to the plant as it arrived in Toledo, managed the World's Fair factory. Guests could tour the factory, watching the tradesmen and production of blown, cut and etched glass pieces, and purchase such pieces in a gift shop. The exhibition put the Libbey Glass Company on the world stage so that the company and its products were widely known and valued.

The success of the Libbey Glass Company was due in significant part to the inventions of Michael J. Owens. In 1903, he invented an automatic bottling machine, revolutionizing the industry and lauded as the "most important invention since the blowpipe 2,000 years earlier." In 1904, a machine was developed to automatically produce light bulbs. That same year, Libbey Glass Company was featured at the 1904 World's Fair where an amazing 25 inch cut glass punch bowl was showcased. In 1907, machine blown glass was made possible. These inventions enabled Libbey and Owens to go on to found the Owens Bottle Machine Company (later Owens-Illinois) and the Libbey-Owens Sheet Glass Company (later Libbey-Owens-Ford) as the company produced windshields for automobiles. In 1935, Owens-Illinois purchased Libbey Glass. As the 1940 World's Fair in New York approached, Libbey Glass again dazzled the crowds. Michael J. Owens' genius for invention partnered with Edward Drummond Libbey's incredible business acumen made the pair among "the greatest developers in the 20th century."

The Libbey Glass Company has been one of the largest glass manufacturers in the United States throughout its 200 years. Even as the original founders passed into history, the company continued remarkable progress. In 1970, a machine was developed to blow and press stemware in one piece, in 1989 the company invented the marbelique glassware process and in 1995, a computer controlled stemware blowing machine. Revolutionary techniques continue to the present day.

Through the centuries Libbey has been a strong community partner. The company was responsive as a community leader and foundational investor in the revitalization of the farmers market complex in downtown Toledo, building a signature showroom as an anchor store. Libbey has even been a key partner in our annual Ninth Congressional District Art Competition.

Intertwined and indelibly Toledo, Libbey will toast its 200 years with a reception and a performance by the Toledo Symphony Orchestra on Friday, May 4, 2018. The company will share its journey with our community even as it looks toward a bright future. As the oldest brand name and American table and decorative glassware in continued existence, Libbey—and Toledo—have a lasting legacy proudly shared.

ELIJAH WAGNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Elijah Wagner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Elijah Wagner is a student at Arvada K–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Elijah Wagner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Elijah Wagner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

FLORIDA'S 16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Seven years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community:

Ms. Carolyn Mason, a citizen affiliated with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, will receive the Associate Service Award.

Lieutenant William Tracy of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Major John Baumann and Captain John F. Donovan of the Florida Highway Patrol, Detective David Tuck of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and Sergeant Michael Kenyan of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office will receive the Career Service Award.

Detective Frank Coleman of the City of Bradenton Police Department, Trooper Kenneth Watson of the Florida Highway Patrol, Sergeant Bruce King and Officer Chase Gloeckner of the City of Sarasota Police Department and Detective Joseph Petta of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Deputy Willie Finklea of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office and Detective Ashley Lindeman of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office will receive the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award.

Trooper Gerry Smith of the Florida Highway Patrol, Sergeant Jeffrey Steiner, Officer Elise Schanley, Officer Derrick Gilbert, Officer Devin Epps, Officer Ronald Dixon, Officer Sean Gleason, Officer Kevin Sullivan, Sergeant Anthony Frangioni and Officer Bryan Lundstrom of the City of Sarasota Police Department, Deputy Efrain Taveras of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Carmine Luper, Deputy Terry Blake, Deputy Timothy

Collins, Detective Dino Murges, Deputy Selina Sly and Deputy Jerod Wolfe of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office will receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Sergeant Shawn Johnson, Detective James Klay, Detective Eric Wedin, Detective Eric Ellis and Civilian Brook Buzzell of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office's Digital Forensics Lab will receive the Unit Citation Award.

Captain Jim Rieser, Captain (ret.) Kevin Stiff, Lieutenant Michael Schwieterman, Sergeant Jaymi Delcos, Officer Clifton Bishop, Officer David Dubendorf, Officer Dan Griesdorn, Officer Matthew Grochowski, Officer Matthew Kimball, Case Manager Krystal Frazier and Legal Advisor Joseph Polzak of the Sarasota Police Department's Homeless Outreach team will receive the Unit Citation Award.

Lieutenant Darin Bankert, Sergeant Karen DeVries, Detective Charles Butler, Detective Darryl Davis, Detective Daniel Dickerman, Detective Benjamin Main and Detective Rabun Moss of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant Bob Bourque of the Longboat Key Police Department, Detective Chad Oyler of the Palmetto Police Department, Sergeant Brian Hall of the Holmes Beach Police Department, Sergeant Lenard Diaz of the Bradenton Beach Police Department and Detective James Curulla of the City of Bradenton Police Department will receive the Manatee Homicide Investigative Unit Citation Award.

CONGRATULATING CALEB KLEMAN

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary student from the 1st District of Iowa. I am pleased to announce that Caleb Kleman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa has been accepted to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Mr. Kleman is an outstanding student—ranking in the top 1 percent of Iowa Assessments each year of his high school career. In addition to awards such as Academic Numerals, Academic Letter, and Academic Certificate, he is recognized as an AP Scholar with distinction in his third year. Mr. Kleman's academic recognition is well deserved as he ranks 5th of 309 students in his class with a weighted GPA of 4.492 while enrolling in over ten advanced placement courses.

Further developing his leadership skills, Mr. Kleman attained the position Vice President of the National Honor Society, Section Leader of Marching Band, and First Chair of both Jazz Band and Concert Band. His participation in the band as a first chair trumpet player for four years led to performances at All-State competitions. Serving as Captain of the Cross Country team, he developed skills identifying potential conflicts, problem solving, and team building.

I have full confidence in Mr. Kleman's ability to successfully pursue a degree in engineering while serving as a vital asset to the U.S. Army.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILCOX PRIMARY SCHOOL

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to acknowledge and congratulate Wilcox Primary School in Twinsburg, Ohio for being designated as a 2018 Hall of Fame School by the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators (OAESA). This award goes to exemplary educational programs that go above and beyond meeting the needs of students in elementary and middle level schools across the state. Wilcox Primary School perfectly fits that characterization. I think we can all agree, a child's education is one of the most important aspects contributing to a child's success in the future. Schools like Wilcox Primary School create a community that is both academic and fun for all students who go through there. They provide hands on education, while guaranteeing the state's and nation's highest standards.

Special congratulations to Wilcox Primary School Principal Lynn Villa and her staff for their remarkable contribution to their students' futures. The teachers, administrative leaders, and support staff all work together to make a safe and creative educational environment for their young students and their families. I am proud to have such impressive schools in Ohio's 14th District.

IN MEMORIAM: JEAN DE VELLIS (1935–2018)

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, the passing of any person always brings dismay, sadness and the sense of permanent loss. Hence, it is difficult if not impossible to avoid these sentiments when writing this tribute to a person like Jean de Vellis. For those of us who had the honor and privilege of knowing and working alongside him, Jean meant more than a simple professor, more than a creative scientist, more than an outstanding colleague, more than just another boss. Jean was a fatherly and wise man who forever touched the heart end enlightened the minds of uncountable people during his 60 years of work and service for the advancement of science and the formation of researchers. His scholars, colleagues, and friends will miss him deeply and we all share in the sadness of Jean's wife Phyllis, and his children, Genevieve and Philip.

Meeting Jean was an adventure in itself. There was the contrast between the quick smile of recognition and a twinkle in the eyes when you encountered him, and the thoughtful pause before addressing a difficult problem. With his characteristic demeanor, Jean would face any crisis with a rare mix of optimism, foresight and acceptance that life deals both good and bad hands. He would always remind us that it is up to ourselves to move forward in front of adversity. This pragmatic optimism in his conduct always felt natural, magnetic, iridescent. Jean had limitless faith in people, believing in our capacity to surpass the unsurpassable, and to constantly remake ourselves into something better, greater and more powerful. He would encourage, support, praise and believe in the potential of people, especially the young, and remarkably, those coming from dire socio-economic conditions. Jean's energy was contagious and an endless reminder that we all have the seed in ourselves to bloom into beautiful flowers. Not surprisingly, Jean was an excellent and patient gardener.

During his illustrious career, multiple societies, institutes, and boards, including the American Society for Neurochemistry, the International Society for Neurochemistry, the Winter Brain Conference, the Institute for Developmental Neuroscience and Aging, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Research Foundation, and the Mental Retardation Research Committee of the NICHD enjoyed from Jean's keen mind and expert advice. Jean was an editor for the Journal of Neuroscience Research (JNR) from 1980 and Editor-in-Chief from 1999 until 2015, remaining as Editor-emeritus until his death. JNR was more than a scientific publication for Jean, it was part of his family. As editor-in-chief of JNR, he was exceptionally supportive of multiple meetings such as the International Conference on Brain Energy Metabolism series and was a strong advocate of special issues dedicated to encompass broad areas of brain function. Jean was the Director of the Mental Retardation Research Center (now the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center) at UCLA, where he worked since immigrating to the U.S. in 1959 as a graduate student. He held the George Tarjan Chair in Mental Retardation at UCLA and was a Distinguished Professor in Neurobiology since 2004.

For decades, Jean and his colleagues shared successes and failures, both professionally and personally. Curiously partaking in the American dream and at the same time rooted to his French family and culture, he understood very well the global citizenship shared by all scientists. Jean often welcomed students from all around the world to work on their dissertations for one or two semesters. His laboratory was an example of a multicultural global environment, with postdocs from every continent. Being a creative and innovative neurochemist, Jean made seminal contributions, particularly to the field of oligodendroglial biology. He was the first to successfully develop the methods to obtain and culture primary oligodendrocytes and astrocytes from the brain. This technique, which provided investigators across the world with the revolutionizing capability to study oligodendrocytes, was the cornerstone of countless publications and it is still one of the most used approaches to culture glial cells in current research. In the lab, Jean was a warm, and engaging counsellor with so much enthusiasm for his research and that of others, and for studying all aspects of brain development and neurological disorders. He would be a strong and constant advocate for thinking outside of the box. Jean was generous to all, without distinction, and would always find the right way to help everyone succeed. So many of us have our paths and our lives shifted for better by Jean's advice. So many of us are in his debt forever.

Atop of his kind nature, was a gentleman who would always pay attention to details

such as bringing double delights roses from his garden to the secretary office, or oranges and grapefruits to our lab meetings, cultivated by his own hands in a small parcel of land in Venice, Los Angeles. He fondly loved that place, which he once told me, reminded him of his childhood at the old family orangery farm near Soliman, Tunisia on Cap Bon.

Jean was like a cool breeze bringing balsamic accords to the spirit at dawn of warm summer mornings. Although the sadness of losing Jean will never disappear, we owe it to him to stand up and stay in the race. He was a long-distance runner and he has now passed the baton of his legacy to us.

HONORING JONATHAN LAWSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jonathan Lawson. Jon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jon has become a member of both the tribe Mic-O–Say and Order of the Arrow. Jon has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jon built a fire pit at the Rush Creek Campus of Liberty United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jonathan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on final passage for H.R. 5447, the Music Modernization Act. The music industry is extremely valuable to Tennessee both economically and culturally. This bill recognizes the valuable work of songwriters and will help the music industry better serve its fans.

MUSIC MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, the Music Modernization Act, which the House is considering is a major step forward in providing fairness for those in the music industry. This legislation updates several key provisions of U.S. copyright law regarding music licensing, including the creation of a single licensing entity to administer mechanical reproduction rights for digital music compositions, and the establishment of royalty payments for pre-1972 artists. I am proud to support it.

While this legislation is a major achievement, there are additional issues around the public performance of musical works which have been a priority for me that must be addressed. Specifically, we need to address the fact that venues such as restaurants, bars, hotels, wineries, breweries and other retail establishments cannot rely on the repertories published by the Performing Rights Organizations to make decisions about what music to play. I've heard from many business owners in my district throughout the years that have had to decrease their use of live music as a result of a complicated and convoluted music licensing process. Currently, they face a ''take it or leave it'' situation: Either buy licenses from all the Performing Rights Organizations or don't play music. This not only hurts small businesses, it hurts the artists when their music isn't played.

This problem certainly isn't localized to Wisconsin. It's happening throughout the entire country, and it's up to Congress to take the necessary steps to fix it. For this reason, I introduced H.R. 3350, the Transparency in Music Licensing and Ownership Act, last year. This bill would establish a fully searchable, up-to-date, comprehensive digital database of historical and current copyright ownership and licensing information. By increasing transparency we can help ensure that when a business pays a music licensing fee, it knows exactly what it is buying. It is my hope that this and other issues can be addressed in subsequent legislation.

HONORING THE PUNAHOU SCHOOL NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL 2018 FINALISTS

HON. COLLEEN HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Punahou School's win in the Hawaii Regional High School Science Bowl and for earning the honor of competing in the National Science Bowl for the third year in a row.

Created by the Department of Energy's Office of Science in 1991, the National Science Bowl is one of the largest and most prestigious academic competitions in the United States. Over 290,000 students have participated throughout the National Science Bowl's 27 years. Each year, this competition has encouraged thousands of students—in all 50 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico—to expand their understanding of mathematics and science and pursue careers in such fields. This year, 1,211 teams competed nationwide.

The team from Punahou will face the remaining 64 high school teams in the National Science Bowl Finals in Washington, D.C. this week. To the Punahou School team—Alexander Apo, Anna Kimata, Evan Liu, Ryan Park, Dong-Woo Seo, and Coaches Tiffany Coke and Melissa Giresi—all the best in this year's competition. You are a shining example to your peers and I wish you continued success in your education and careers.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent these students and their families in the United States Congress and I know all my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Punahou School on competing in the National Science Bowl Finals 2018.

HONORING CALEB ZORN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caleb Zorn. Caleb is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Caleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Caleb has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Caleb has become a member of both the tribe Mic-O-Say and Order of the Arrow. Caleb has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Caleb built four wooden benches for the local Down Syndrome Guild.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caleb for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on April 24. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote Number 148 (Passage of H. Con Res. 111): YES; Roll Call Vote Number 149 (Passage of H.R. 5086, the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018): YES.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEVEN SZIEBERT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Steven Sziebert, who passed away at his home in Yakima, Washington on February 23, 2018.

Steve was an exemplary community member with an admirable life story. His family immigrated to the United States in 1957 during the Hungarian Revolution. He graduated from Santa Clara University and entered the Army,

serving 5 years as an Airborne Ranger stationed at Fort Lewis and in South Korea.

At Fort Lewis, he met his wife, Marcia, relocated to the Yakima Valley, and quickly fell in love with Central Washington and all it had to offer his growing family. It was in Yakima that Steve came to realize his knack for construction. He spent his career managing projects across Washington and improving local infrastructure.

Steve will be fondly remembered for his jokes and stories, his welcoming personality, his kindness, and his service to his community. He will be missed by many, and my prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE WORK OF GEORGE M. SMART

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated service of George M. Smart, Director of FirstEnergy Corp. Under Mr. Smart's leadership, Summit County, Ohio has directly benefited from FirstEnergy's growth and success.

Mr. Smart is currently a trustee at his alma mater, Defiance College, where he was an undefeated quarterback for the Defiance College Yellow Jackets. Now, Mr. Smart devotes his time and resources to the success of athletic programs at Defiance, through the George M. Smart Athletic Center, which opened in 2012. Mr. Smart's lifelong loyalty to the Cleveland Browns, from the victorious ''Kardiac Kids'' in the 1980s, to the challenges of rebuilding the franchise today, serves as an inspiration to NFL fans everywhere. In 2006, the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges (OFIC) inducted Mr. Smart into its Hall of Excellence, thereby honoring George for his service to Defiance College, as well as his impact on society through professional achievement, leadership and scholarship.

I am especially proud of the George and Sandy Smart Family Foundation, whose mission it is to help the needy and spread the word of the gospel in the Medina and Canton, Ohio area. Additionally, the Foundation sponsors children at churches in Ecuador, which the Foundation established.

FirstEnergy experienced significant growth during the period Mr. Smart served as Director, growing from Ohio Edison with 1 million customers, to having 6 million customers in six states. Mr. Smart is concluding his service to shareholders as Director of FirstEnergy Corp. on May 15, 2018. Throughout his life, Mr. Smart has been a respected business leader, while maintaining multiple leadership positions with civic and charitable organizations in the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my congratulations and well wishes to George for his many years of dedicated service as a Director of FirstEnergy Corp., his support of Defiance College and the OFIC, and the George and Sandy Smart Family Foundation's ongoing philanthropic efforts. While Mr. Smart served as chairman of its Board, FirstEnergy remained committed to the long-term prosperity and vitality of Summit County. His work has been critical in supporting economic development efforts that created jobs, sustained local suppliers and attracted new businesses to the 16th District of Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 VALLEY VIEW WE THE PEOPLE TEAM

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, 21 students from Valley View High School in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas will arrive in our Nation's Capital to compete in the We the People National Competition. For the better part of the past school year, these impressive students have given up their free time to study our Nation's constitutional democracy and thoroughly examine the history and principles of the Republic.

This weekend, they will put their knowledge to the ultimate test here in Washington. They will compete in a simulated Congressional hearing by evaluating and defending positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. Our government functions at its best when citizens engage in the political and policy making process, and I'm proud that these students are already preparing themselves for that process through their education.

Valley View has a history of excellence in We the People. Mrs. Traci Smith started We the People at Valley View nearly a decade ago, won the Arkansas state competition several times, and brought hundreds of students to the Capital to compete. Today, the program is led by Mr. Jacob Lamberson, who has coached at the national competition several times. Both teachers deserve our gratitude for their exceptional work preparing the rising generation for civic engagement and leadership.

I include in the RECORD the names of the competing students: Jesse Allison, Walker Bartels, Adrian Brown, Benjamin ''Benji'' Campbell, Aaron Dent, Cooper Fanning, Colin Ford, Simon Gomez, Dylan Johnson, Ryan Jones, Ilyse Levy, Taylor Martin, Carly Mason, Daniel Miao, Tanner Mote, Weston Myers, Camryn Pierce, Anna Rhodes, Jackson St. Pierre, Johnny Waters, and Kori Wood.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and the rest of Congress will join me in congratulating these young men and women for their achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future pursuits.

RECOGNIZING DEANNE HAENKE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to Deanne Haenke from Royal Oak. I met Deanne and her family last week at a rally in Royal Oak as part of the student led National School Walkout. Deanne is a mother and a parent ally who felt compelled to speak up and let the students in her community know that there are adults who will stand with them.

I was so impressed with her courage and the passion with which she delivered her remarks that I wanted to share her speech with my colleagues. Therefore, I include in the RECORD the remarks of Deanne Haenke:

Hello. My name is Deanne Haenke and I am a parent ally.

I was asked to speak because I attended a PTA meeting at the high school where there was a discussion about school safety and the walkouts. Much to my own shock, I stood up to say a few things. After the meeting, the student leaders thanked me for what I said and that was that. But, a few days later, I got a text that they wanted me to speak at today's rally. I was flattered but very hesitant because I am not a public speaker and I wasn't sure what more I could bring to this conversation. As I was talking to my husband about it, my eldest son came running into the house saying he had gotten a text from Jonah asking if I would speak at the rally. I was looking at my husband, who I knew would understand if I said no, and then looking at my sons who seemed so eager for me to say yes. And as we talked about it, I realized, there was no way I would not speak. How could I tell my sons, whose childhood reality is so completely different than what mine was and what I wanted theirs to be, that I am too afraid to speak at a rally when they are scared to walk into school, yet they do it anyway? When there was a rumor a few months ago that a kid was planning something at the high school, I asked my son if he wanted to stay home. He emphatically said, ''Yes, I want to stay home. I want to stay home every day! But if I stay home today, I won't go tomorrow and they win.'' So even though I didn't want him to go and as his parent I had the right to make him stay home, I listened to him, I said ok, told him I love him and, with terror in my heart, watched him walk out the door.

People who try to dismiss him because he is young are extremely ignorant to what this generation is facing and what courage they are capable of. You have all been forced to grow up far too quickly and you have every right to be heard.

This is not going to be easy. It is not going to be quick. As we see on a daily basis, common sense falls on deaf ears. I know how hard it is to listen to the adults who are not listening to you. But if you do listen to them, you will hear what they are really saying. Every dismissive comment, every immature insult is screaming that they are afraid of you. They are afraid of your determination, they are afraid of your numbers and they are most definitely afraid of your intellect because the reform you are demanding makes sense. And when they can't argue the sensible gun reform that is being proposed, they resort to personal attacks, name calling, fear mongering by shouting ''Those people'' want to take ALL the guns away or they try to place the blame anywhere else they can . . .

Yes there is a bullying problem.

Yes there are mental health issues.

Yes, for numerous reasons, there are some kids who don't have a good support system at home.

And of course it would be great if we could solve all of those problems and we must continue to strive to do so.

But there was bullying when I was kid. There were mental issues (and that was in a time when people didn't dare talk about mental issues so it was much harder to find help) and there were kids who didn't have a great support system at home.

Yet, we weren't dying in school.

Today, kids are the ones doing the dying. To those opposing any sensible gun reform . . . how is it possible those words do not shake

them to their core? Kids are the ones doing the dying. Sadly, we know that has not affected the NRA, or the politicians they have bought and paid for. And that is only because they are not the ones doing the dying. Their ability to turn a blind eye is indefensible.

At the board meeting last week, as students and parents asked the board repeatedly, passionately and eventually pleadingly to simply state for the record that they support the students and the march today to call for sensible gun reform . . . the board sat there stone faced and silent. It is said that it is hard to speak truth to power, but as I sat there watching 14 to 17 year old kids speak, I was stunned and embarrassed by every member of that board, as it became crystal clear that it is much harder for power to speak truth.

No matter what they tell themselves, there is no excuse that they would not stand up with their community and say ''we proclaim that we are with you, that enough is enough and we will not stop until sensible gun reform is passed.''

Unfortunately, everyone is not on your side. But a lot of people are. So keep doing what you're doing. Keep showing up. Keep speaking out and as soon as you can, vote for the people who will speak truth to power and will not continue to repeat the same generic rhetoric that too many elected officials spew.

If you do that, you are going to save this country and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. I have felt despair for far too long and I couldn't find solace anywhere, most certainly not from our leaders. And then you stood up. And now I have hope.

I look forward to voting with you in November and voting for you in the years to come.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand with mothers like Deanne Haenke and show our students that we support them in their efforts. We as leaders must do better by our young people. We as a Congress must act now.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deanne Haenke and to thank her for her compelling remarks.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOOR COUNTY RESIDENT JIM SARKIS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of long-time resident of Door County, Mr. Jim Sarkis.

Mr. Sarkis was a businessman, philanthropist, and, most importantly, a beloved husband, father, son and friend. Jim fought cancer for 4 years, never letting it prevent him from having a positive attitude and showing kindness for others. Jim will leave a lasting legacy on Northeastern Wisconsin.

When reflecting on Jim's time with us, the verses read at his memorial, Hebrews 12:1–2a are most certainly fitting, ''Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.''

A realtor by trade, Jim pursued many passions in life including golfing, reading, storytelling, and naturally the Green Bay Packers. In addition to these, Jim's deepest passions were to family, community, and hard work that brought him wonderful success in life. Men like Jim, who are so passionate about their family and community, are rare to find and extremely difficult to lose.

Jim's extraordinary memory will be cherished by many of the lives he touched in Wisconsin and across the United States. It is not often that everyone in a community will think of a common theme or description of a giant from their corner of the world. But ''if you don't know Jim Sarkis, you don't know Door County'' truly captures Jim and his legacy. May his passion, dedication, and loving spirit be remembered and carried on by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in honoring the legacy of Jim Sarkis and his lifelong dedication to his family, community, and the great state of Wisconsin.

RECOGNIZING THE CONSERVATION WORK OF SISTER JEREMIAS STINSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the Toledo Blade, dated the 20th of April 2018.

In doing so, I want to recognize the conservation work of the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, Ohio and Sister M. Jeremias Stinson.

As the superintendent of Environmental Stewardship, Gardens, Shrines and Woodland Management, in Sylvania, Sister Jeremias has committed her life to protecting over 250 native species of trees under her care.

With Earth Day being this past Sunday, and a few weeks away from Arbor Day, we as a Nation need to recognize the part we take in our environment.

As said by Sister Jeremias, ''To care for all creation, we have to balance the forces of creation. You have to make wise decisions.''

[From the Blade, Apr. 20, 2018]

NUN OVERSEES CONSERVATION OF SAINT FRANCIS' WOODED GROUNDS IN SYLVANIA

(By Nicki Gorny)

It's a bright spring afternoon at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, and Sister M. Jeremias Stinson is zipping around the grounds on a John Deere Gator, navigating stick-strewn paths through the woods as adeptly as the manicured lawns between buildings.

''We're going to fly,'' the 74–year-old nun tells a reporter beside her at one point, fully committed to showing off the full scope of the grounds within a time-crunched tour.

The tour, arranged just a few weeks before Arbor Day, celebrated in Ohio on the last Friday in April, covered just a sampling of the more than 5,000 mature trees that shade the grounds. As Sister Jeremias drove, she rattled off the names of species that stand tall in wooded areas and in deliberate clusters, like an arboretum between buildings just north of the Franciscan Center.

There are oaks, firs, and pines—250 native species in all to keep straight. Sister Jeremias, superintendent of the environmental stewardship, gardens, shrines, arid woodland management, has mapped and documented them all.

The motherhouseholds the distinction of having the most diverse number of plant specimens in the region, said Sister Jeremias, who undertook a canopy study of the grounds that began in 2006. The grounds are also recognized as a conservation sanctuary, as approved in 1930 by the Lucas County Conservation District and Ohio Forestry Division.

''They're a great leader in promoting conversation on private lands,'' said Jamie Kochensparger, education and outreach director of Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Her agency is one of several at the county, state, and federal level to interact with Sister Jeremias and the religious community on forestry and conservation-related matters. With the vast majority of land in the United States under private ownership, Mrs. Kochensparger said, conscientious private partners play an important role in this arena.

''They've been great ambassadors for that,'' she said.

The distinctions reflect deliberate planning and maintenance on the part of the sisters, who arrived in Sylvania. in 1916. Sister Jeremias sees practicality and spirituality in the number and diversity of trees on the grounds, pointing to their assistance as groundcover and windbreaks as well as their alignment with the values of St. Francis Assisi.

''Francis of Assisi; our founder, was extremely sensitive to all facets of nature,'' she said. ''He respected it in all its forms.''

''As Franciscans, we are each called—we are all called, but as Franciscans, we have a strong leaning and a strong responsibility—to look and care for all creation.''

Sister Jeremias has overseen the grounds since 1974, when she submitted a proposal to leave her position as a local schoolteacher and ''put full time into the witness to the dignity of manual work and contemplation.'' She started with the renovation of the Portiuncula chapel on the grounds, she said, and went on to maintain and, in many more instances, develop the shrines, paths, and other landscape elements that create to a prayerful environment on the campus.

Her work continues and forwards that of her predecessor, whose name came up frequently during her recent tour of the grounds.

''That fir tree over there, the tall one, was planted by Mother Adelaide,'' she said at one point, a variation on a theme that applied to some of the tallest trees on the grounds.

Mother Adelaide led the original sisters who established a convent in Sylvania in 1916. While some of the 89 acres they settled on were natively wooded, Sister Jeremias said, much was farmland. Mother Adelaide took it upon herself to obtain and plant trees on the campus to stabilize sandy hills, create windbreaks, and fulfill other practical functions.

''Her footprint is still here,'' Sister Jeremias said.

It's there, for example, in a cluster of Norway spruces behind the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. It's also there in a handful of original trees in the arboretum, whose establishment Sister Jeremias credited to Mother Adelaide, even if she's had to since replace many of the original trees that were planted there over the years.

This sort of maintenance has been an important part of Sister Jeremias' work on the grounds. She's overseeing several ponderosa pine seedlings in a patch near the Rosary Care Center, which will find permanent homes on the grounds as they grow larger. When the emerald ash borer more dramatically killed off 1,841 trees on the campus in 2006, she replanted an area that she now calls

the ''new woods'' on the grounds near Ten Mile Creek.

Whenever she removes trees from the grounds, with an eye toward long-term sustainability, she replaces them with new trees that maintain respect to species diversity and the individual site. While all species are native to the region, not all thrive in the same soil or at the same elevation.

''To care for all of creation, we have to balance the forces of creation,'' Sister Jeremias said. ''You have to make wise decisions.''

When Sister Jeremias proposed that she focus solely on grounds work in 1974, Mother Adelaide had died only about 10 years earlier. Sister Jeremias recalled that she began to notice downed trees and other effects of the community having gone without a dedicated grounds presence in these years.

It was a role for which the outdoorsy Sister Jeremias, who grew up in Port Clinton, tagging along to work sites with her father, a builder, felt she was well suited—and one that she's been fulfilling faithfully for more than 40 years.

''I followed her footprint,'' she said of Mother Adelaide.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2447–S2500

Measures Introduced: Thirty-one bills and fifteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2760–2790, and S. Res. 486–500. **Pages S2484–85**

Measures Reported:

S. 994, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2644, to ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2484**

Measures Passed:

Second Chance Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 440, designating April 2018 as ''Second Chance Month'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2497**

Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 464, supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2498**

World Malaria Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 489, supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day. **Page S2498**

Financial Literacy Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 490, designating April 2018 as ''Financial Literacy Month''. **Page S2498**

Recognizing the Independent Transportation Network of America: Senate agreed to S. Res. 491, recognizing the Independent Transportation Network of America on the occasion of providing 1,000,000 rides to older and visually challenged people of the United States. **Page S2498**

National Safe Digging Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 492, supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month. **Page S2498**

Congratulating the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish: Senate agreed to S. Res. 493, congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I women's basketball championship. **Page S2498**

Congratulating the Indiana University Hoosiers: Senate agreed to S. Res. 494, congratulating the Hoosiers of Indiana University for winning the 2018 Women's National Invitation Tournament. **Page S2498**

Public Service Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 495, expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States. **Page S2498**

El Dia de los Ninos: Senate agreed to S. Res. 496, recognizing April 30, 2018, as ''El Dia de los Ninos—Celebrating Young Americans''. **Page S2498**

Recognizing Cinco de Mayo: Senate agreed to S. Res. 497, recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the Cinco de Mayo holiday. **Page S2498**

National Small Business Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 498, expressing support for the designation of the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as ''National Small Business Week'' while commending the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners of the United States, and the impact they have on their communities. **Page S2498**

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 499, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. **Page S2498**

Authorizing Representation by Senate Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 500, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Peter P. Truman v. Paula Armstrong, et al. **Page S2498**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 30, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.; Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 3, 2018, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, May 7, 2018. **Page S2498**

Engelhardt Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Page S2464**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, April 26, 2018, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, May 7, 2018. **Pages S2464–65**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2464**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2464**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, May 7, 2018; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Thursday, April 26, 2018 ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, May 7, 2018. **Page S2498**

Brennan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Page S2465**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Page S2465**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2465**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2464**

Carson Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. **Page S2465**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Page S2465**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2465**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2465**

Nalbandian Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. **Page S2465**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. **Page S2465**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2465**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2465**

Scudder Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Page S2465**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. **Page S2465**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2465**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2465**

St. Eve Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Page S2465**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Pages S2465–66**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2465**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2465**

Zais Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary of Education; that there then be 10 hours of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S2466**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 84), Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State. **Pages S2448–60**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 83), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2460**

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 85), Richard Grenell, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. **Pages S2460–61**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, be withdrawn. **Page S2460**

Thomas J. Hushek, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan.

Hannibal Ware, of the Virgin Islands, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

Andrea L. Thompson, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

Yleem D. S. Poblete, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance).

Kenneth Steven Barbic, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., of Michigan, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years.

Rohit Chopra, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2012.

Noah Joshua Phillips, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2016.

Joseph Simons, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2017.

Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2011.

Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2018.

Kirsten Dawn Madison, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

John Cary Bittick, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Timothy A. Garrison, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years.

Steven L. Gladden, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Nicola T. Hanna, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California for the term of four years.

David L. Lyons, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Rodney D. Ostermiller, of Montana, to be United States Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of four years.

Kenji M. Price, of Hawaii, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years.

Paul R. Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jon Parrish Peede, of Mississippi, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years.

Brendan O. Heffner, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Theodor G. Short, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of four years.

Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2015.

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

19 Army nominations in the rank of general.

11 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

56 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Pages S2466–68, S2473–74

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, and Army.

Page S2498

Messages from the House: **Page S2483**

Measures Referred: **Page S2483**

Executive Communications: **Page S2483**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S2483–84**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2484**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2485–87**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2487–97**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2479–82**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2497**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2497**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—85) **Pages S2460, S2464**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:38 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2498.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Defense Health Program, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Nadja West, USA, Surgeon General of the Army, Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison, III, USN, Surgeon General of the Navy, Lieutenant General Mark A. Ediger, USAF, Surgeon General of the Air Force, and Stacy Cummings, Program Executive Officer, Defense Healthcare Management Systems, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND FAMILY HOUSING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed Department of Defense budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for military construction and family housing, after receiving testimony from Lucian Niemeyer, Assistant Secretary for Energy, Installations and Environment, Lieutenant General Gwendolyn Bingham, USA, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Vice Admiral Dixon R. Smith, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, Major General Vincent A. Coglianese, USMC, Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command and Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Facilities), and Major General Timothy S. Green, USAF, Director of Civil Engineers and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, all of the Department of Defense.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from James N. Mattis, Secretary, David L. Norquist, Under Secretary (Comptroller), and General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

concluded an oversight hearing to examine Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Homeland Security efforts to protect unaccompanied alien children from human trafficking and abuse, including actions still needed to improve transfers and monitoring of care, after receiving testimony from James W. McCament, Deputy Under Secretary, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security; Steven Wagner, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; Kathryn A. Larin, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Allison E. Herre, Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio, Cincinnati; Jessica A. Ramos, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc., Dayton, Ohio; Kelsey R. Wong, Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center, Staunton, Virginia; Pattiva McKean Cathell, Sussex Central High School, Georgetown, Delaware; and Laura Carothers Graham, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2644, to ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Gregory Allyn Forest, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina, and Bradley A. Maxwell, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, both of the Department of Justice.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 5624–5644; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 119; and H. Res. 849–854, were introduced. **Pages H3705–06**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3707–08**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4743, to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–655);

H.R. 2121, to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to revise regulations to specify that certain funds shall not be taken into account when calculating any supplementary leverage ratio for custodial banks, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 115–656); and

H.R. 5076, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to extend the examination cycle for certain insured depository institutions, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–657). **Page H3705**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Harper to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3577**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:21 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3587**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Chaplain Phil Crenshaw, Lubbock, TX. **Page H3587**

Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018: The House considered H.R. 4, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, April 27th. **Pages H3590–H3688**

Agreed to:

Shuster amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that improves aviation safety by addressing issues such as airline engines, air ambulances, certification processes, and airspace operations; adjusts FAA authorization levels to conform with updated CBO baseline for FY 2018; makes counter-UAS systems AIP eligible; continues the contract weather observer program and requires the Secretary to define the roles and responsibilities of the FAA Tech Center; reforms and provides transparency to FAA organization and programs; addresses consumer concerns, including sexual misconduct on flights, treatment of passengers with disabilities, and harmonization of service animal standards; and improves the Airport Investment Partnership Program; **Pages H3636–43**

Shuster en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650: Lewis (GA) (No. 2) that allows AIP and PFC funds to purchase generators in passenger areas of the airport, to separate backup power supplies from main power supplies, and for similar projects; Soto (No. 3) that requires sinks or sanitizing equipment to be provided in any Mothers' Rooms at airports; Watson Coleman (No. 4) that requires medium or large hub airports to maintain baby changing tables in one men's and one women's restroom in each passenger terminal building; McMorris Rodgers (No. 5) that exempts Airports with more than 25,000 passenger enplanements in calendar year 2014 from any cost-share requirements under the contract tower program; Westerman (No. 6) that clarifies the application of Qualifications-Based Selection procedures on airport projects; Krishnamoorthi (No. 7) that adds ''economic impacts'' to the study on the effects of airport noise on communities near busy airports; Jayapal (No. 8) that adds the city of Seattle to the list of communities to be studied on the potential health impacts of overflight noise; Lipinski (No. 9) that adds contract tower construction as an eligible activity under 49 USC 47116, the AIP small airport fund; Smith (NE) (No. 10) that extends small airport regulatory relief for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020; Torres (No. 11) that amends section 158, the Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program, to allow DOD to provide additional funding for mitigation projects on sites previously managed by DOD; Ted Lieu (CA) (No. 12) that requires a report from the Secretary of Transportation and the National Research Council on aviation gasoline that assesses non-leaded fuel alternatives to the aviation gasoline used by piston-powered general aviation aircraft; Meng (No. 14) that permits the Secretary to carry out an aircraft noise, emission, and fuel burn reduction research and development program (CLEEN II); Bass (No. 15) that requires a Report to Congress on the status of Terminal Sequencing and Spacing (TSAS) implementation across all completed NextGen Metroplexes with specific information provided by airline regarding the adoption and equipping of aircraft and the training of pilots in its use; Speier (No. 16) that requires a GAO report studying: (1) while maintaining safety as the top priority, whether air traffic controllers and airspace designers are trained on noise and health impact mitigation in addition to efficiency; and (2) the prevalence of vectoring flights due to over-crowded departure and arrival paths, and alternatives to this practice; McSally (No. 18) that adds a representative to the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee for airport owners and operators; Kildee (No. 19) that requires the FAA to allow airports to use non-fluorinated chemicals in firefighting foam as long as it abides by the National Fire Protection Association's standards; Estes (No. 20) that expands the scope of the FAA Task Force on Flight Standards Reform to address issues involving flight standards offices and aircraft originalequipment manufacturers; Soto (No. 21) that requires the Administrator to also consider the potential emergency medical needs of pregnant women when evaluating the minimum contents of approved medical kits—currently the bill only specifies the consideration of children's emergency medical needs; Keating (No. 22) that directs FAA to lead efforts to publish guidance for improving workforce readiness, and directs GAO to include in their report recommendations for strengthening and developing aviation workforce training programs; Long (No. 23) that directs the FAA Administrator to review the current safety procedures regarding unoccupied exit rows on commercial aircraft; Crist (No. 24) that commissions a GAO study on whether or not FAA ''Compliance Philosophy''—favoring communication over enforcement—is effective; Sanford (No. 25), as modified, that clarifies and tightens the 336 modelers exemption to ensure that those utilizing the exemption are following an appropriate course of safety, and allows the FAA to create rules for recreational UAS; DeFazio (No. 26) that modifies existing prohibition in regard to FAA issuing any regulation on model aircraft flown for hobby/recreational purposes and provides FAA flexibility to collaborate with industry to update operational parameters needed for unmanned aircraft flown for hobby/recreational purposes, to mitigate risks to aviation safety and national security; Hanabusa (No. 27) that ensures the role of state and local government is considered during an emergency situation where an unmanned aircraft system may pose a threat to public safety; Lewis (MN) (No. 28) that codifies the Department of Transportation's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program; Schiff (No. 29) that directs FAA to establish a program to utilize available remote detection and identification technologies for safety oversight, including enforcement actions against operators of unmanned aircraft systems that are not in compliance with applicable Federal aviation laws, including regulations; requires annual reporting by FAA to Congress to report the number of drones entering restricted airspace, the number of enforcement cases brought by FAA or other agencies, and recommendations by FAA for detection and mitigation systems; and Grothman (No. 30) that requires the Administrator of the Federal

Aviation Administration to issue regulations necessary to authorize the use of certain actively tethered public unmanned aircraft systems by government public safety agencies without any requirement to obtain a certification of waiver, certificate of authorization, or other approval by the Federal Aviation Administration; **Pages H3643–51**

Roskam amendment (No. 13 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that directs the FAA Administrator to study the relationship between jet aircraft approach and takeoff speeds and corresponding noise impacts on communities surrounding airports; requires the FAA Administrator to submit the results of the study in a report to Congress; **Page H3651**

Denham amendment (No. 17 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that harmonizes the statute of limitations for Section 1309 of Public Law 114–94 with other Department of Transportation projects; **Pages H3651–52**

Shuster en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650: Cramer (No. 31) that requires the FAA, NTIA and the FCC to submit to Congress a report on whether UAS operations should be permitted to operate on spectrum designated for aviation use; the report would also include recommendations of other spectrum frequencies (such as LTE) that may be appropriate for flying UAS; LoBiondo (No. 32) that requires the FAA to review interagency coordination and standards for the authorized federal use of C–UAS systems; Davis (CA) (No. 33) that directs the FAA to partner with non-governmental organizations, state, and local agencies to prevent recreational unmanned aircrafts from interfering with the efforts of emergency responders; Sanford (No. 34) that aligns the FAA's critical programs supporting UAS integration and the development of commercial UTM; Cicilline (No. 35) that requires air carriers to outline rebooking options, refunds, meals, and lodging to the public in instances where a costumer's flight is diverted; Cárdenas (No. 36) that requires a study on the impact of over-booking policies of air carriers on the US economy, including effects on cost to passengers; Meng (No. 37) that requires GAO to submit a report to Congress reviewing airlines' training policies for employees and contractors regarding racial, ethnic, and religious nondiscrimination, and requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop and disseminate best practices based upon the findings of the report; Bonamici (No. 38) that creates the position of Aviation Consumer Advocate at the FAA; the Aviation Consumer Advocate would assist consumers in resolving complaints with air carriers, recommend actions the FAA could take to improve enforcement of consumer protection rules, and recommend policies to more effectively resolve complaints; Langevin (No. 39) that ensures passengers with disabilities receive timely and effective assistance at the airport and on the aircraft; personnel providing physical assistance to passengers with disabilities may be required to receive hands on training to perform assistance and use any needed equipment; O'Halleran (No. 40) that requires the Comptroller General to include in its report an analysis of the impact of any option for EAS reform on local communities with airports receiving EAS funding; Espaillat (No. 43) that states that not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of theUnited States shall conduct a study that examines the ground transportation options at the Nation's 10 busiest airports in order to understand the impact of new and emerging transportation options for travelers to get into and out of airports, including the fees charged to ground transportation providers for airport access; Sanford (No. 45) that requires the GAO to study airport finances under § 47107(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code; Fleischmann (No. 48) that states that the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration will encourage the use of durable, resilient, and sustainable materials, including the use of geosynthetic materials and other innovative technologies in carrying out the activities of the Federal Aviation Administration; Meng (No. 50) that requires the Secretary to issue a rule creating designated areas at airports at which pets and service animals traveling with their owners may relieve themselves; Mitchell (No. 51) that establishes a pilot program with specified parameters for aircraft with certain NextGen avionics to have limited preferential access to certain airports designated by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration; the pilot program has a sunset and a reporting requirement; Mitchell (No. 52) that requires the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to study the potential impacts of a significantly delayed, significantly diminished, or completely failed delivery of the Next Generation Air Transportation System modernization initiative by the Federal Aviation Administration, including impacts to the air traffic control system and the national airspace system as a whole; DeGette (No. 54) that limits FAA regulation of non-federally sponsored property to facilitate airports' ability to generate non-aeronautical revenue; Banks (No. 55) that designates the main hangar at Smith Field in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as the National Airmail Museum, as the United States Postal Service began commercial airmail service at Smith Field in 1930; Sinema (No. 56) that directs the Administrator of the FAA to conduct a review of the effectiveness, safety, and consistency of its approval process for air tankers used for wildland firefighting, with the goal

of developing standardized next-generation requirements for air tankers; requires an FAA report to Congress describing the outcome of its review; Biggs (No. 57) that ensures the Secretary of Transportation must publicize for comment a cost-benefit analysis before implementing the additional baggage reporting requirements of 14 CFR 234.6; Esty (No. 58) that directs the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to create and facilitate the Women in Aviation Advisory Board; the Board would promote organizations and programs that provide education, training, mentorship, outreach, and recruitment of women into the aviation industry; Graves (MO) (No. 59) that creates a GAO study on the use of proprietary exclusive rights by airports; Kilmer (No. 61) that requires the FAA to consider the emergency preparedness needs of a community served by an airport when evaluating that airport's master plan under the Airport Improvement Program; Panetta (No. 62) that directs the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to evaluate alternative metrics to the current average day night level standard, such as the use of actual noise sampling and other methods, to address community airplane noise concerns and provide a report to Congress; Hill (No. 64) that requires the FAA to report on the status of the LIT VORTAC Agreement; and Lowey (No. 65) that requires the FAA to study and submit a report on the prevalence of allergic reactions on board flights, the reporting of reactions on flights, and the frequency of first aid inventory checks; **Pages H3652–58**

Higgins (LA) amendment (No. 41 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that requires the Administrator of the FAA to initiate a pilot program to permit the operator of a State 2 airplane to operate that airplane in non-revenue service into medium hub airports or non-hub airports if certain parameters are met; **Page H3658**

Cohen amendment (No. 46 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650), as modified, that alleviates delays in compliance with existing federal regulations to vet prospective pilots, by enabling 3rd party access to the National Driver Register; **Page H3660**

Burgess amendment (No. 47 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that establishes prohibitions to prevent the use of unmanned aircraft systems as a weapon while operating in the national airspace; **Pages H3660–61**

Perlmutter amendment (No. 49 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that implements recommendations from the FAA's Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group to require all newly manufactured helicopters to meet certain standards to improve helicopter fuel system crash resistance within 18 months; **Pages H3661–63**

Shuster en bloc amendment No. 3 consisting of the following amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650: Fortenberry (No. 66) that allows Airport Improvement Program funds to be used to construct storage facilities to shelter snow removal, aircraft rescue, and firefighting equipment meeting certain conditions regardless of whether federal funding was used to acquire the equipment; Suozzi (No. 69) that asks for a report on airline and passenger safety pertaining to aging commercial aircraft: the average age of commercial aircraft owned and operated by United States carriers, overall use of planes, including average lifetime of commercial aircraft, the number of hours the aircraft are in flight, and the impact of metal fatigue on aircraft safety, review on contractor assisted maintenance of commercial aircraft and re-evaluation of the rules on inspection of aging airplanes; Maxine Waters (CA) (No. 70) that requires the FAA to issue a report on diversions of aircraft from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to Hawthorne Municipal Airport; Pearce (No. 71) that makes a technical correction to the Military Airport Program (MAP) to ensure MAP benefits are available to all former installations, as was the original intent of the enacting law; Fleischmann (No. 72) that states if the Secretary determines that safety is not affected, highway specifications of a State may be used for airfield pavement construction and improvement at nonprimary airports with aircraft under 60,000 pounds; Takano (No. 73) that provides a sense of Congress that the Administrator of the FAA and Secretary should produce a smart airports initiative plan that focuses on creating a more connected and consumer-friendly airport experience; Speier (No. 74) that directs the FAA Administrator to review and evaluated the design and effectiveness of commercial airline oxygen masks, and determine whether changes to the design could increase correct passenger usage; Gibbs (No. 76) that amends age adjustment for Part 135 and Part 91 that perform at least 150,000 turbojet operations; Hastings (No. 77) that requires the FAA to study and submit to Congress a report on technologies developed by international entities that have been installed in American airports and aviation systems, and aviation safety technology implemented by international entities that may assist in improving American aviation operations and safety; Denham (No. 80) that sets a one year deadline for FAA to issue a rulemaking in accordance with Section 2209 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 to establish procedures for unauthorized UAV use over critical infrastructure; Doggett (No. 82) that requires second-class medical certifications for operators of a commercial air balloon; Carter (GA) (No. 83) that requires federal agencies, in their cost-benefit analysis

for acquisition of heavy equipment, to factor in renting as a viable alternative; Lance (No. 85) that requires the FAA to study the economic impact of TFRs on local airports and recommend ways to mitigate negative effects, including but not limited to, the potential of using security procedures to allow limited use of certain airports during a TFR; Jayapal (No. 86) that directs the FAA Administrator to conduct astudy on the infrastructure needs of fast-growing airports; Meng (No. 89) that requires the FAA to develop a 5-year aircraft noise research and mitigation strategy; Meng (No. 90) that requires the FAA within 1 year of enactment of the bill to complete the ongoing evaluation of alternative metrics to the current Day Night Level (DNL) 65 standard; Meadows (No. 91) that codifies a directive of President Clinton's 1993 Executive Order 12866, Section 1(b)(8), which stipulates that, whenever possible, any new standards promulgated by the FAA shall be performance-based standards providing an equal or higher level of safety; DeSaulnier (No. 92) that requires a review of the feasibility of expanding the use of systems capable of detecting wrong surface alignment; DeSaulnier (No. 93) that requires recommendations to ensure aviation safety in the event of power outages at airports; DeSaulnier (No. 94) that requires a review of the risks and benefits of equipping aircraft with runway awareness advisory systems; DeSaulnier (No. 95) that requires a progress report on improving the Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing program; Lawrence (No. 98) that requires FAA to develop and transmit to Congress a report on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence standards plan for FAA operations; Cárdenas (No. 99) that expresses a sense of Congress that the aviation industry should hire more of the Nation's veterans; Lipinski (No. 100) that directs a GAO study to quantify the costs and burdens imposed by significant airline network disruptions; and Moore (No. 101) that authorizes FAA to take steps to improve compliance with the existing Department of Transportation Prompt Payment rule that requires subcontractors to be paid within a certain time period for satisfactory performance of their contracts; would also require the FAA to keep track of violations of this rule; **Pages H3666–70**

Smith (NE) amendment (No. 68 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that directs the Comptroller General to assess the current state of the aviation workforce, barriers to entry to the aviation workforce, and options to increase the future supply of individuals in the aviation workforce; **Pages H3670–71**

Lewis (MN) amendment (No. 75 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that clarifies that MPOs established prior to December 18, 1991 should also have local elected officials on their governing boards; **Pages H3671–72**

González-Colón amendment (No. 81 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that requires a study/assessment and data collection of the air cargo traffic in the Caribbean region; **Pages H3677–78**

Comstock amendment (No. 84 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650), as modified, that requires a study on possible funding options for a potential federal grant program for spaceport activities; requires a report on a National Spaceports Policy which evaluates the national security and civil space launch demands; proposes policies designed to ensure a robust and resilient orbital and suborbital spaceport infrastructure; reviews the development and investments made by international competitors; and other aspects; establishes an Office of Spaceports within the FAA to support, promote, and enable infrastructure improvements at FAA-licensed spaceports in the U.S.; **Pages H3678–80**

Zeldin amendment (No. 96 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that requires the FAA administrator to review the North Shore Helicopter Route to address the noise impact on affected communities, to improve altitude enforcement, and to assess alternatives including an all water route over the Atlantic Ocean; **Pages H3682–83**

Lawrence amendment (No. 97 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that requires the FAA Administrator to conduct a study on the diversity of the cybersecurity workforce of the FAA in order to develop recommendations to increase the size, quality and diversity of such workforce; and **Page H3683**

Denham amendment (No. 79 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that clarifies the intent of the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994 for motor carrier meal and rest regulations (by a recorded vote of 222 ayes to 193 noes, Roll No. 159). **Pages H3673–77, H3686–87**

Rejected:

Beyer amendment (No. 67 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that sought to require the FAA to review and revise helicopter flight paths for all helicopters, including military helicopters, flying in the National Capital Region—identifying and issuing new official paths if helicopters are able to fly at higher altitudes (agreed by unanimous consent to withdraw the earlier request for a recorded vote to the end that the Chair put the question de novo); **Pages H3670, H3677**

Meng amendment (No. 88 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that sought to require the FAA

to develop global-scale probabilistic convection guidance capability so that aircraft can avoid encounters with convection that causes turbulence;

Pages H3681–82

DeFazio amendment (No. 42 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that sought to repeal a prohibition on U.S. regulation of air transportation of flammable lithium batteries unless there has been an accident; restores the DOT's authority to regulate lithium batteries beyond international baselines, without waiting for an accident to occur (by a recorded vote of 192 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 155);

Pages H3658–60, H3684

Rohrabacher amendment (No. 60 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that sought to ensure that aircraft transitioning from flight over ocean to flight over land fly at safe altitude and no lower than specific flight operations require (by a recorded vote of 37 ayes to 375 noes, Roll No. 156);

Pages H3663–64, H3684–85

King (IA) amendment (No. 63 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that sought to ensure that none of the funds authorized by the Act are used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements of the antiquated Davis-Bacon Act (by a recorded vote of 172 ayes to 243 noes, Roll No. 157); **Pages H3664–66, H3685–86**

Lipinski amendment (No. 78 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that sought to direct a DOT rulemaking to require airlines to interline and provide accommodations to passengers who are displaced due to events within an airline's control (by a recorded vote of 92 ayes to 323 noes, Roll No. 158); and **Pagess H3672–73, H3686**

Lynch amendment (No. 87 printed in part A of H. Rept. 115–650) that sought to direct the FAA Administrator to engage and cooperate with air carriers to identify and facilitate opportunities for air carriers to retrofit aircraft with devices that mitigate noise, including vortex generators (by a recorded vote of 187 ayes to 227 noes, Roll No. 160).

Pages H3680–81, H3687

H. Res. 839, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4) and (H.R. 3144) was agreed to yesterday, April 25th.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, April 24th.

Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act: H.R. 4744, amended, to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 161. **Page H3688**

Authorizing the printing of "United States Capitol Grounds: Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmstead's Design for Democracy" as a House document: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Con. Res. 118, authorizing the printing of "United States Capitol Grounds: Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmstead's Design for Democracy" as a House document. **Pages H3688–89**

Senate Referral: S. 2758 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H3643.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3684, H3684–85, H3685–86, H3686, H3686–87, H3687, and H3688. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a markup on the FY 2019 MILCON/VA Appropriations Bill. The FY 2019 MILCON/VA Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION; FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION; U.S. MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the U.S. Maritime Administration. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration; Brandye Hendrickson, Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; and K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS—SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Securities and Exchange Commission. Testimony was heard from Jay Clayton, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission.

FY 2019 PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing entitled ''FY 2019 Public Witness Hearing''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a budget hearing on the U.S. Agency for International Development. Testimony was heard from Mark Green, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Justice. Testimony was heard from Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a markup on the FY 2019 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. The FY 2019 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

APPROPRIATIONS—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency. Testimony was heard from Scott Pruitt, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; and Holly Greaves, Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Federal Communications Commission. Testimony was heard from Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a budget hearing entitled ''Member Day''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Long, Schneider, Johnson of Ohio, Hill, and Jackson Lee.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a markup on H.R. 5515, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019''. H.R. 5515 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a markup on H.R. 5515, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019''. H.R. 5515 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a markup on H.R. 5515, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019''. H.R. 5515 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a markup on H.R. 5515, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019''. H.R. 5515 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a markup on H.R. 5515, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019''. H.R. 5515 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a markup on H.R. 5515, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019''. H.R. 5515 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

WORKER-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS: EXAMINING THE NEED TO MODERNIZE FEDERAL LABOR LAW

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled ''Worker-Management Relations: Examining the Need to Modernize Federal Labor Law''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a markup on April 25, 2018, on H.R. 3528, the ''Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act''; H.R. 449, the ''Synthetic Drug Awareness Act

of 2017''; H.R. 5261, the ''TEACH to Combat Addiction Act of 2018''; H.R. 1925, the ''At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act of 2017''; H.R. 4275, the ''Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act''; H.R. 5041, the ''Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act''; H.R. 5554, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs; legislation on FDA and International Mail; H.R. 4284, the ''Indexing Narcotics, Fentanyl, and Opioids Act of 2017''; H.R. 5228, the ''Stop Counterfeit Drugs by Regulating and Enhancing Enforcement Now Act''; H.R. 4684, the ''Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act of 2017''; H.R. 5176, the ''Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms Act of 2018''; H.R. 5197, the ''Alternatives to Opioids (ALTO) in the Emergency Department Act''; H.R. 5272, the ''Reinforcing Evidence-Based Standards Under Law in Treating Substance Abuse Act of 2018''; H.R. 5327, the ''Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act 2018''; H.R. 5353, the ''Eliminating Opioid-Related Infectious Diseases Act of 2018''; H.R. 3331, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to promote testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology; legislation on Welcome to Medicare; legislation on Post-Surgical Injections as an Opioid Alternative; legislation on Alternative Payment Model for Treating Substance Use Disorder; legislation on Use of Telehealth to Treat Opioid Use Disorder; legislation on Incentivizing Non-Opioid Drugs; legislation on Mandatory Lock-In; legislation on Beneficiary Education; legislation on Evaluating Abuse Deterrent Formulations; legislation on CMS Action Plan; legislation on Adding Resources on Non-Opioid Alternatives to the Medicare Handbook; legislation on Prescriber Notification; legislation on Prescriber Education; legislation on Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Expansion; legislation on CMS/Plan Sharing; H.R. 5002, the ''ACE Research Act''; H.R. 5009, the ''Jessie's Law''; H.R. 5102, the ''Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018''; legislation to improve fentanyl testing and surveillance; H.R. 4841, the ''Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization for Safe Prescribing Act of 2018''; H.R. 3192, the ''CHIP Mental Health Parity Act''; legislation on Prescriber Education; legislation on Medicaid IMD ADDITIONAL INFO Act; legislation on Require Medicaid Programs to Report on All Core Behavioral Health Measures; legislation on HUMAN CAPITAL in Medicaid Act; legislation on Medicaid Pharmaceutical Home Act; legislation on Limited repeal of the IMD Exclusion for adult Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorder; legislation on Medicaid DRUG Improvement Act; legislation on Medicaid PARTNERSHIP Act; legislation on Medicaid Graduate Medical Education Transparency Act; H.R. 5202, the ''Ensuring Patient Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatments Act of 2018''; legislation on Improving Access to Remote Behavioral Health Treatment Act of 2018; legislation to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicaid coverage protections for pregnant and postpartum women while receiving inpatient treatment for a substance use disorder; legislation on 21st Century Tools for Pain and Addiction Treatments; legislation on FDA Opioid Sparing; legislation on FDA Misuse/Abuse; legislation on FDA Packaging and Disposal; legislation to enhance and improve state-run prescription drug monitoring programs; legislation to support the peer support specialist workforce; H.R. 5329, the ''Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2018''. H.R. 3528, H.R. 449, H.R. 5261, H.R. 1925, H.R. 4275, H.R. 5041, H.R. 5554, legislation on FDA and International Mail, H.R. 4284, H.R. 5228, H.R. 4684, H.R. 5176, H.R. 5197, H.R. 5272, H.R. 5327, and H.R. 5353 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3331, legislation on Welcome to Medicare, legislation on Post-Surgical Injections as an Opioid Alternative, legislation on Alternative Payment Model for Treating Substance Use Disorder, legislation on Use of Telehealth to Treat Opioid Use Disorder, legislation on Incentivizing Non-Opioid Drugs, legislation on Mandatory Lock-In, legislation on Beneficiary Education, legislation on Evaluating Abuse Deterrent Formulations, legislation on CMS Action Plan, legislation on Adding Resources on Non-Opioid Alternatives to the Medicare Handbook, legislation on Prescriber Notification, legislation on Prescriber Education, legislation on Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Expansion, legislation on CMS/Plan Sharing, H.R. 5002, H.R. 5009, H.R. 5102, legislation to improve fentanyl testing and surveillance, H.R. 4841, H.R. 3192, legislation on Prescriber Education, legislation on Medicaid IMD ADDITIONAL INFO Act, legislation on Require Medicaid Programs to Report on All Core Behavioral Health Measures, legislation on HUMAN CAPITAL in Medicaid Act, legislation on Medicaid Pharmaceutical Home Act, legislation on Limited repeal of the IMD Exclusion for adult Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorder, legislation on Medicaid DRUG Improvement Act, legislation on Medicaid PARTNERSHIP Act, legislation on Medicaid Graduate Medical Education Transparency Act, H.R. 5202, legislation on Improving Access to Remote Behavioral Health Treatment Act of 2018, legislation to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicaid coverage protections for

pregnant and postpartum women while receiving inpatient treatment for a substance use disorder, legislation on 21st Century Tools for Pain and Addiction Treatments, legislation on FDA Opioid Sparing, legislation on FDA Misuse/Abuse, legislation on FDA Packaging and Disposal, legislation to enhance and improve state-run prescription drug monitoring programs, legislation to support the peer support specialist workforce, and H.R. 5329 were ordered reported, without amendment.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2019 Environmental Protection Agency Budget''. Testimony was heard from Scott Pruitt, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

PERSPECTIVES ON REFORM OF THE CFIUS REVIEW PROCESS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection held a hearing entitled ''Perspectives on Reform of the CFIUS Review Process''. Testimony was heard from Richard E. Ashooh, Assistant Secretary, Export Administration, Department of Commerce; Heath P. Tarbert, Assistant Secretary, International Markets and Investment Policy, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SEC'S DIVISION OF CORPORATION FINANCE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance''. Testimony was heard from William Hinman, Director, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission.

MASS MIGRATION IN EUROPE: ASSIMILATION, INTEGRATION, AND SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled ''Mass Migration in Europe: Assimilation, Integration, and Security''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GRADING COUNTERTERRORISM COOPERATION WITH THE GCC STATES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a joint hearing entitled ''Grading Counterterrorism Cooperation with the GCC States''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR NATION: THE PRESIDENT'S FY2019 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Strengthening the Safety and Security of Our Nation: The President's FY2019 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security''. Testimony was heard from Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

FILTERING PRACTICES OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Filtering Practices of Social Media Platforms''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Himes and Blackburn.

EXAMINING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF OFFSHORE ENERGY REVENUE SHARING FOR GULF PRODUCING STATES

Committee on Natural Eesources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Critical Importance of Offshore Energy Revenue Sharing for Gulf Producing States''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 211, the ''Chugach Region Lands Study Act''; and H.R. 5317, to repeal section 2141 of the Revised Statutes to remove the prohibition on certain alcohol manufacturing on Indian lands. Testimony was heard from Representative Herrera Beutler; Darryl LaCounte, Acting Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Trust Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

WASTE AND INEFFICIENCY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: GAO'S 2018 DUPLICATION REPORT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Waste and Inefficiency in the Federal Government: GAO's 2018 Duplication Report''. Testimony was heard from Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

SURVEYING THE SPACE WEATHER LANDSCAPE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Space held a joint hearing entitled ''Surveying the Space Weather Landscape''. Testimony was heard from Neil Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Jim Spann, Chief Scientist, Heliophysics Division, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and public witnesses.

NO MAN'S LAND: MIDDLE-MARKET CHALLENGES FOR SMALL BUSINESS GRADUATES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce held a hearing entitled ''No Man's Land: Middle-Market Challenges for Small Business Graduates''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IDENTIFYING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGY IN HEALTH CARE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Identifying Innovative Practices and Technology in Health Care''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Hearing''. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

ARMENIA

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on the protest movement in Armenia from Stephen Nix, International Republican Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Elen Aghekyan, New York, New York.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled ''Do Not Call: Combating Robocalls and Caller ID Spoofing'', 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Implementation of FinCEN's Customer Due Diligence Rule—Financial Institution Perspective'', 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the Bitkov case and the United Nations International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, 9:15 a.m., 2172, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2:30 p.m., Monday, April 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, April 27

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Complete consideration of H.R. 4—FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

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