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No. 20

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 30, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON 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.

THE VITAL ROLE OF MENTORS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the vital role that mentors play in the lives of young people every day. Mentors provide our young people with guidance and support at a time when they begin to make important decisions that will affect their lives forever.

Mentoring programs have demonstrated positive impacts on youth across the country. Young people who

meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely to use illegal drugs. Young people who are at risk for dropping out of high school but who had mentors are 55 percent more likely to enroll in college and 78 percent more likely to begin volunteering regularly in their own communities.

We have great mentoring programs in our San Joaquin Valley that I have the honor and privilege to represent filled with individuals dedicated to providing support and guidance to youth. Some of the critical programs include, but are not limited to, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California, Focus Forward, and Care Fresno.

When I was a senior at Fresno State, just a few years ago, I was a mentor in the Big Brother program. And let me tell you, my little brother, Phillip Yancey, I still remember to this day. I thought I was doing a good thing by giving some of my time, but I will tell you that I gained much more in appreciation for the challenges that this young man had. For the 18 months I was his mentor, I hope I made a difference; but, clearly, I know that Phillip made a difference in my life. So, it is a two-way street. Mentoring is not just helping those young people in our communities, but, I will tell you, it is a rewarding experience.

Sadly, still, there are an estimated 9 million young people throughout the United States who do not have mentors or positive adult role models as a part of their lives outside of their home. That is why I join with many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the resolution to make January National Mentoring Month. We need to raise awareness of the significant roles that mentors play in the lives of young people across the United States, and we need to promote the creation and expansion of quality mentoring programs.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank out there all who have participated in various types of mentoring

programs across this great country of ours. You are making a difference.

HONORING THERESA DIMAGGIO

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Theresa DiMaggio as the Heroine of the Month for California's 16th Congressional District.

Theresa is a fierce advocate for veterans. She has dedicated her career to ensuring that veterans receive only the best care and treatment.

Why? She is a veteran herself. For over 11 years she has worked in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, including the VA medical facility in Fresno, California, which serves veterans in my district, an important hospital. Here, I had the pleasure to work with Theresa to make sure that our San Joaquin Valley veterans and their families received the high-quality care and service they deserve.

Theresa will continue to serve our veterans in the Veterans Administration San Diego Healthcare System. We will miss her in our valley.

Stephen Bauman, the director of the Fresno VA hospital, described Theresa in this way:

In my 40 years in working with the Federal Government, I have rarely worked with someone that is so focused on supporting our fellow veterans. Theresa's dedication and her commitment to our Nation's heroes is unparalleled. She works tirelessly to ensure each veteran is provided the best support possible and has truly been an inspiration to me. She will be missed by all of us who worked with her.

Theresa is a veteran herself. She proudly served, as I said, this country in the United States Army. Altogether, she has been serving our Nation honorably for 19 years, an incredible record.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding service of Theresa DiMaggio, her strong commitment to supporting our veterans, and the example that she has set for all of us. We cannot thank her enough for her service to our country.

Congratulations on a job well done, and God bless.

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

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



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LOOKING FORWARD TO THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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 just hours before our 45th President, Donald Trump, will deliver his first State of the Union Address.

Members of Congress and guests will fill this Chamber tonight to hear the President speak about a host of issues impacting America, from economic growth to trade deals and infrastructure investments, to immigration reform. I look forward to hearing the President speak about the administration's successes to date and the plans for the future.

The President and the First Lady, Melania Trump, have invited 15 guests to attend the speech tonight, including veterans, law enforcement officers, first responders, and families who have lost loved ones in the fight against the MS-13 street gang. All the guests in this Chamber tonight, invited by Members of both parties, represent a wide cross section of America, and I know that all have hope that our greatest days truly do lie ahead.

Just weeks ago, the House passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for the American people to get our economy moving again. In February, Americans will see and are beginning to see, today, more money in their paychecks. We delivered a fairer, simpler, pro-family Tax Code to give more money back to taxpayers and spur economic growth.

As the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is implemented, we are hearing story after story about how this is already making a difference in millions of people's lives across the country. We have already seen positive results, and we look forward to hearing more from President Trump tonight on his vision for a safe, strong, and proud America.

Hundreds of companies across the Nation are sharing the benefit of the GOP tax reform with their workers. They are raising wages, awarding bonuses, and increasing 401(k) matching contributions. I want to highlight just some of the companies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that are investing in their employees:

1st Summit Bank in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, provided a \$1,000 bonus to all full-time employees on top of their 2017 year-end bonuses, raised its salary ranges, and increased its charitable giving budget by 10 percent.

AccuWeather of State College in my Fifth Congressional District provided special year-end bonuses to all employees over and above other compensation benefits and year-end bonuses to which employees may be entitled. Company leaders said: "The bonuses are possible due to the company's robust financial performance in 2017 and strong confidence in the growing U.S. and global economy now that the tax bill has passed."

Fulton Financial in Lancaster raised its base wage to \$12 per hour, awarded bonuses for its 3,700 employees, and is increasing charitable contributions by \$2 million.

Kish Bancorp in Belleville awarded \$500 bonuses to part-time employees, \$1,000 bonuses to full-time employees, is adding \$10 million to capital expenditures over the next 3 years, and will raise their base wage.

This is just a fraction of what is happening in the Commonwealth and in States across the Nation. The benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are just beginning to be seen, and I have great faith that the benefits will just continue to grow for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I know the President will be talking about his record-setting accomplishments in his first year, how the policies of his administration are lifting all Americans and setting a foundation for building a safe, strong, and proud America. From jobs and the economy to his \$1 trillion plan for rebuilding our depleted infrastructure, to important immigration reforms, I know that he will cover a lot of ground tonight and will speak from the heart.

I also hope to hear about our national security, from rebuilding our military to the ongoing efforts to defeat terrorists around the world who try to harm America and Americans.

I know the President's State of the Union Address will resonate with our American values and unite us with patriotism and greater opportunities. I welcome the President tonight to this Chamber, as well as the First Lady and all the guests, and I look forward to hearing his important message for the future of our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BISHOP ALEXIS THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Alexis Thomas, who passed away on January 18, 2018.

Bishop Thomas was many things to many people. He was an inspiring pastor. He was a father, a son, and a brother. He was a dynamic and passionate leader not just at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, but throughout our community in Phoenix. Under his careful stewardship, Pilgrim Rest grew by leaps and bounds.

However, Bishop Thomas' service extended well beyond the church. Bishop Thomas founded the African American Christian Clergy Coalition and co-founded the African American Strategic Alliance Coalition in Phoenix. Thanks to these endeavors and many others, Bishop Thomas will be remembered as a man with a remarkable vision for change who was taken from us way too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to call Bishop Thomas my friend. I can per-

sonally attest that he worked miracles, large and small, every day in Phoenix and in Arizona. He touched more lives than we will ever know. And though we are devastated by his loss, we know that his legacy of service and love will live forever in our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYLE WELLS

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to two leaders, one from the First Congressional District of New York, from the North Fork.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lyle Wells, whose family farm is over 350 years old. Lyle was taken from our community too soon. He was a leader, a former president of the Long Island Farm Bureau, and a one-time member of the Riverhead Town Planning Board.

He positively led and left a great impact and legacy on the next generation of farmers who really do need to be better cultivated to give that opportunity to be able to thrive.

Long Island Farm Bureau Administrative Director Rob Carpenter, talking about Wells' impact and a relationship going back decades, said: "He would take all the time needed to explain a program to anyone who wanted to learn about farming—a legislator, a community member, another farmer. It's a big loss. You just can't replace a Lyle."

It was also observed that everyone would start laughing because of his style of laughter. It was an honor that he graced our community and our town. Him having gone through life in this community made the rest of us better. That was the positive impact of Lyle Wells.

A memorial service will be held for Lyle this Thursday, February 1, beginning at 11 a.m. on the hill at Wells Homestead Acres, located at 185 Phillips Lane in Aquebogue.

We will pray for Lyle's family. We are thinking about Lyle, and he will certainly be looking over what hopefully will be 350 more years of great farming on that family farm.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI ISAIAH ZELDIN

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, who just passed away at the age of 97.

For me, Rabbi Zeldin was Uncle Shy. For the Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles, he was their founder, their rabbi, their teacher, and their friend, according to the announcement they posted on their website.

Rabbi Zeldin was born in Brooklyn, New York. His father's picture, Morris, is in my office. Morris Zeldin was a respected scholar and ardent Zionist. Rabbi Zeldin moved to Los Angeles in 1954 to establish the California branch of Hebrew Union College and served as an 11-State regional director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

In 1964, he and a nucleus of 35 families founded Stephen Wise Temple on a beautiful 18-acre mountain site situated between the city's two largest Jewish population centers: the West Side and San Fernando Valley.

□ 1015

It is a beautiful temple. When you are there for a service and hear the great singers and see the sunset out the windows, you know that you are in a very special place. This temple became one of the largest Jewish congregations in the entire world.

Uncle Shy, we miss you. We thank you, and we know that you have impacted tens of thousands of people so positively, and we will honor you, remember you for your legacy and your impact on generations to come.

RECOGNIZING OFELIA RUDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in recognition of Ofelia Ruder, who will be celebrating her 90th birthday this May.

Ofelia Ruder is the executive director of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation, a religious organization in my congressional district that was dedicated to providing a home for Jews coming out of Cuba.

Like me and my family and so many others, Mr. Speaker, Ofelia Ruder was forced to flee Castro's brutal tyranny. In 1960, she arrived in the United States, this great land of opportunity, with her husband and two boys. Soon thereafter, sadly, she lost her husband to cancer and was faced with a challenge of raising her two small children by herself. They both eventually became dedicated civil servants working to improve our south Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, in the 50 years that Ofelia Ruder has served at the synagogue, she has touched the lives of so many and has been a beacon of hope for all those who know her. Her work has earned her many awards and recognitions for her contributions to our county, to the Cuban Hebrew Congregation, and to Israel. I am very thankful for Ofelia Ruder's service.

"Feliz cumpleaños," "happy birthday," Ofelia.

HONORING PALMETTO BAY NATIVE, MIKI EREZ

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Palmetto Bay resident Miki Erez, a constituent of my congressional district who recently competed in the 2018 Fitbit Miami Marathon and Half Marathon.

Miki was injured while serving in the Israeli Air Force during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, where he suffered multiple spinal injuries. Despite three spinal operations over an 18-month period, Miki never let his injuries slow him down.

Miki's experiences led him to create a revolutionary home training system

for wheelchair users called Wheelchair Fitness Solutions. This system, the first of its kind, was designed specifically for disabled individuals.

Miki also participates in a range of activities in south Florida, including wheelchair basketball and swimming, as well as contributing to the spinal cord injury community and veterans associations. Forty years later, his injuries have not prevented him from being an active and inspiring member of our south Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent people like Miki who inspire others each and every day.

Congratulations to Miki Erez.

PROVIDE TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH LIFESAVING TREATMENT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again urge this House to put right-to-try legislation on the floor and to provide Americans with terminal illnesses potentially lifesaving treatment.

Matt Bellina, my constituent, a 31-year old Navy veteran, husband, father of three, and an ALS warrior who has been a partner in this fight, recently sent me the following message: "In ALS there is only one active phase III trial. The drug is NurOwn, and it looks incredibly promising, but I didn't meet the exclusion criteria, so I am unable to participate in this trial. It looks like the drug has a good shot of making it to market in quarter one of 2020. Unfortunately, there is a good chance that I will be dead by then.

"The right-to-try bill is the only viable option for me at this point. I am begging you and the rest of Congress to get this done. I want to be there to watch my three boys grow up."

Mr. Speaker, we must not delay this lifesaving legislation any longer. I urge House leadership to put this bill on the floor for a vote. Terminally ill patients across this country are depending on us.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIANS FROM BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional athletes from Bucks County who will be representing our Nation in the 2018 Winter Olympics next month.

Jamie Greubel Poser, from Newtown, Pennsylvania, will represent the United States as a member of the bobsled team.

Ryan Gunderson, from Bensalem, Pennsylvania, will be joining the U.S. Olympic hockey team as a defender.

Brian O'Neill, from Yardley, Pennsylvania, will join the U.S. hockey team as a forward.

Jamie is a veteran of competition at this level, having won a bronze medal at both the 2017 World Championships—also held in South Korea—as well as the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

For Brian O'Neill, this will be his first experience as an Olympic competitor. A standout player at Germantown Academy and Yale University, Brian went on to play for the New Jersey Devils before eventually playing for the Kontinental Hockey League.

Ryan Gunderson, also a first-time Olympic competitor, led Holy Ghost Prep to its first Flyers Cup. He currently plays in the Swedish Hockey League.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Ryan, Jamie, and Brian great success. They will, no doubt, make Bucks County and our entire Nation proud.

DEFENSE BUDGET

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have an explicit constitutional responsibility to provide for the common defense. Yet some of my colleagues would rather use our military as a bargaining chip for political reasons.

For 3 days, our military was held hostage while the government shut down for an unrelated immigration issue. For 3 days, military families across the globe faced fear and uncertainty over whether they would be paid on time. Unfortunately, this is not the last time or the first time our military has been used as a political pawn. Year after year, defense spending is held hostage, causing our readiness to reach a dangerously low level.

In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Secretary Mattis stated: "No enemy in the field has done more to harm the readiness of our military than sequestration."

We are facing a host of threats from every direction; threats that jeopardize our safety, our freedom, and our way of life. North Korea is aggressively pursuing a nuclear arsenal that can target the United States and our allies. China's land reclamation has sparked international clashes. Russian opportunistic aggression is threatening our allies and could trigger a NATO alliance response. Violent extremists are threatening global stability as their evil ideology poisons minds and induces followers to kill innocent people. Iran continues to invoke instability by sponsoring terrorism around the globe.

We expect our military to be able to respond to each of these threats, yet years of budget cuts and continuing resolutions have degraded our military's capabilities and destroyed morale.

Here are the stunning and sobering facts:

Less than half of the Navy's aircraft can fly due to maintenance and spare parts delays.

Of the 58 Army combat brigade teams that our Nation depends on to deploy overseas to defend our freedoms, only five could be called upon to fight tonight.

Last year, two Navy destroyers were involved in collisions that tragically claimed the lives of 17 sailors. These ships will undergo repairs for years to come.

I saw this personally in September when I toured the USS *Fitzgerald* in a naval base in Japan. I stood in the room where seven sailors died when their ship collided with a commercial freighter, tearing a hole in the side of the ship and flooding their room where they were sleeping with water in less than 2 minutes, giving them too little time to escape. It was heart-wrenching to see, and it remains heartbreaking to think about the pain these families will endure for years to come.

Perhaps saddest of all is that these accidents were not due to an enemy attack. They were due to training lapses and poor leadership which was exacerbated by high demand for service, combined with a lack of funding for needed ships and a lack of training because of defense cuts.

Last year alone, 80 U.S. servicemembers were killed in readiness-related accidents, nearly four times the number that were killed in hostilities.

Our men and women in uniform deserve better. We owe it to them to provide them with all that they need as they stand ready to actively fight a resurgent Russia, an emergent China, an unstable North Korea, an unpredictable Iran, and widespread violent extremism.

We cannot expect our sons and daughters to volunteer for military service and thereby volunteer to be placed in harm's way without proper equipment and adequate training.

Mr. Speaker, we must end this deadly cycle of continuing resolutions. We must end sequestration and provide for the common defense. We must approve a long-term budget that provides desperately needed increases in funding for the military.

American military superiority is not a God-given right or a law of nature. It has been earned on the backs of a motivated volunteer force. It is our duty to ensure that force is well-equipped and well-trained. The current normal is unacceptable and irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to end this travesty and to stand with our military as they stand for freedom for us every day.

A DEVOLUTION IS TAKING PLACE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise and stand in the well of the Congress of the United States of America to address the question of the State of the Union.

What is the State of the Union?

Mr. Speaker, the State of the Union is one of devolution. We are devolving into the normalization of inequality; inequality in a way that allows us to pass a \$1.5 trillion giveaway that will

reward the rich for being rich and punish the poor for being poor.

We are devolving into hyperpartisan political events by the hijacking of a Supreme Court Justice when Justice Gorsuch was appointed to the Supreme Court.

We are evolving and devolving into the hijacking of justice itself because we now find that there are those who believe that there is a deep-state conspiracy within the Justice Department; that somehow there is this belief that the Justice Department should be assaulted and attacked; that it should be demeaned; that it should be discredited.

We are devolving into, Mr. Speaker, the normalization of disqualifying bigotry, as evidenced by some of the statements that have come from the Presidency; statements that would normalize language such as: there are some "fine people" among those who are bigots, racists, and persons perpetrating hate in Charlottesville, as evidenced by the notion that we can allow people to say ugly things about other countries and, in a sense, develop a race-based immigration policy.

Mr. Speaker, we are devolving into a society that recognizes a rising stock market as the acid test for everything when, in fact, it is only proof that some people are doing better while many others are not.

There is a devolution taking place, and I, Mr. Speaker, contend that there is a solution to this devolution. The solution is the impeachment of an unfit President.

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

□ 1030

TONIGHT

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight I will have the privilege of hearing the State of the Union Address that I have been waiting to hear since I first came to Congress 7 years ago.

Tonight our entire country will hear a confident message of undeniable good news for all Americans—not based on fantasy and hope, but on facts and undeniable success.

Tonight the President of the United States will come to the people's House and speak to a nation that is far better off today than we were just 1 year ago in every measurable way.

Now, this success did not come by accident. Over the past year, by working with a unified Congress, President Trump was able to begin implementing his agenda to Make America Great Again.

Let's revisit what he has done when it comes to accomplishments.

The signing of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act marked the first time our Tax Code was updated in over 31 years. It lowered tax rates for all taxpayers across the board, and it cut the corporate tax rate down from 35 percent to 21 percent which allows us to compete globally. It permanently repealed ObamaCare's individual mandate. It opened up ANWR for drilling and brand new energy exploration.

When it comes to deregulation, he signed 15 CRA bills into law in less than a year, imposed a groundbreaking rule on the Federal bureaucracy to kill two regulations for every new regulation written, and has rolled back more job-killing red tape than every President before him combined.

When it comes to the courts, by appointing conservatives like Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and a historic number to the appellate courts, he is restoring constitutionalism and common sense to our judiciary system. These appointments will reverberate for generations to come.

Now, when it comes to the outcomes, the entire stock market is at an all-time high. Contrary to what some people will speak, this affects the pensions of all Americans. Female unemployment is at its lowest level since 2001. Black and Hispanic unemployment are at their lowest levels ever. For 13 different States, overall unemployment is at its lowest rate since we first began recording it.

New manufacturing orders are increasing at their fastest pace in 14 years. Quarterly GDP is exceeding expectations and is on track for a 3 percent annual growth rate for the first time in 13 years. Consumer confidence is at its highest level since 2000. Job market confidence is at its highest level ever, and because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act alone, more than 3 million American workers—and counting—are receiving \$1,000 bonuses, or more, wage increases, and/or benefit increases. Now, in my own city that I live in, NexTier Bank gave over 250 of its associates a \$1,000 bonus. Those are hardly crumbs when it comes to hard-working American taxpayers.

Abroad, the Islamic State—once thought to be unstoppable—is now shattered. Military morale, recently at rock bottom, is now soaring. Our troops are currently receiving their largest pay raise in 8 years.

When it comes to liberty and conscience issues, we ended the war on religious liberty. We tore up the so-called HHS contraceptive mandate; no more nuns fighting for their survival in the Supreme Court; and we reinstated the Mexico City policy the first weekend in office.

When it comes to energy, we ended the war on coal, we stopped the EPA's so-called Clean Power Plan, we approved both the Keystone XL and Dakota pipelines, and we have plans in place to dramatically expand offshore drilling.

When it comes to American leadership, we pulled out of the Paris climate accord, we ended the Cuba appeasement, we condemned and decertified the Iran deal, and Guantanamo Bay is still open with no threat of closing.

By changing the rules of engagement, trusting our generals, and unleashing our military might, he has overseen the total destruction of the ISIS caliphate. The entire world is safer because of American leadership. Through his words and deeds—most recently with Jerusalem—the world sees America leading with moral clarity and confidence again.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I will have the privilege of hearing the State of the Union that I have been waiting to hear for 7 years. Tonight we will look at an economy and a State of the Union that is as strong as Pittsburgh steel.

Our economy is roaring, and America's optimism is soaring. Our citizens are becoming more prosperous. Our law enforcement is becoming empowered and not undermined. Our military is growing stronger by the day. Our international credibility is being restored. Our friends, once again, trust us; and our enemies, once again, fear us. The whole world knows that we will also put America first.

But this is just the start. There is still much work left to be done. But as of today, the facts say it all: America is winning again.

MILITARY PAYCHECKS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to have the United States economy starting to win again. It was a great tribute to the President's leadership that we got a tax bill done that is already reaping fantastic benefits for so many across the country.

It is rather amazing to see people in some parts of the media who have taken surveys already to see if people have benefited from a tax bill that actually applies to the taxes due at the end of this year even before they get their February paycheck that will actually reflect those savings. But I guess if your goal is to undermine the President at every turn rather than to be fair and impartial media, that is the kind of thing you do in January. You do it quickly before individuals have a chance to say and know how much the tax bill will improve their lives.

It is also rather amazing to hear people from this body refer to a \$1,000 bonus as crumbs. One would think you would have to basically be a multimillionaire to think of \$1,000 as crumbs. But for those of us who cashed out most everything we had in order to come be a servant in Congress, \$1,000 is still a lot of money. It will pay a lot of bills. It is good for American families and individuals that they are able to do that.

I do want to call attention to something that my friend, Mrs. HARTZLER,

referenced, and that is the threat of paychecks not coming to our military when they are in harm's way protecting our very freedoms that allow us to debate and push through legislation.

Going back to 2011, I saw the military used as pawns in order to force—or try to force—Republicans to vote for a bad continuing resolution that broke many of our promises. I had encouraged the Speaker, at that time, that we needed to do something to make sure that our military—the military pay—was treated as our Social Security paychecks were treated where they are on automatic pilot, and even if there is a shutdown, those checks continue to go out.

I know that is a surprise to some of our seniors because, in the last administration, the President and others continually told people that, if there was a shutdown, the Social Security checks would not be going out. Unfortunately, that was just a problem of ignorance, and, of course, there is no House rule that objects to our pointing out ignorance of a fact. But the fact is Social Security checks go out automatically. If someone is entitled to an increase in their Social Security check, that does not occur until after the shutdown is over.

After I saw that the Republican Speaker, back in 2011, after being warned that we shouldn't use our military pay as leverage to get people to vote for a bill that they shouldn't vote for, I actually filed a bill before that CR came due that would ensure that the military was paid as Social Security. If you are entitled to a promotion or additional pay, that doesn't come until the shutdown is over.

That bill has again been filed in this Congress. The name is the ASAP bill, Armed Services Always Paid. We need to go ahead and bring that bill to the floor, push the Senate to do the same thing, and put our military's pay on automatic pilot. They would never have to worry.

Having served in the military, in the U.S. Army, for 4 years, I know our military is being paid better than we were back when I was on Active Duty. But even still, I know too many in our military who are barely getting by on what they are paid. The last thing they need is to be in harm's way dodging bullets or IEDs or rocket-propelled grenades and have to be worrying whether their loved ones back in the United States are going to have the check so that they can pay their car payment and their home payment.

Let's pass this ASAP bill immediately.

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 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

As You make available to Your people the grace and knowledge to meet the needs of the day, we pray that Your spirit will be upon the Members of this people's House, giving them the richness of Your wisdom.

Bless the Members of the majority party as they prepare and gather these next days. May they, with those who accompany them, travel safely and meet in peace.

Bless also the minority party as they prepare for their own gathering. May these days be filled with hopeful anticipation.

Bless also the President as he visits the people's House to address the Nation this evening.

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

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 gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PANETTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

AMERICANS ARE BETTER OFF

(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, the differences are stark between President Obama's first year in office and President Trump's first year in office. If you just listen to the liberal media, you would think our country is worse off under President Trump. However, if you follow the facts, Americans are far better off.

In 2009, 4 million jobs were lost. In 2017, 1.7 million jobs were created.

Gross domestic product in President Obama's first year went down 2.8 percent. It was up 2.3 percent last year.

Unemployment in 2009 increased from 7.8 percent to 9.9 percent. It fell in 2017 from 4.8 percent to 4.1 percent, a 17-year low.

The Standard & Poor's stock market index was at 1,115 President Obama's first year. It recently hit 2,673.

President Trump's policies are helping more Americans get back to work, pay less in taxes, and build their retirement and savings accounts. These are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, Americans can accurately say they are better off today than they were 8 years ago, or even 1 year ago.

BUILD BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, 2017 was a year marked with division and distraction, a disservice to Americans seeking solutions to real challenges facing our Nation.

My hope is that the new year provides an opportunity to move away from divisive discourse and toward constructive dialogue and real outcomes. This year, we can take real steps to strengthen Medicare and Social Security, as well as ensuring access to quality and affordable healthcare for all Americans.

This year, we can promote job growth and success for all Americans by making smart, targeted investments in education and scientific research, as well as preparing our workforce for the 21st century.

This year, we can commit ourselves to building a foundation for a stronger America by making investments in our Nation's roads, waterways, infrastructure, and communities.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the State of the Union, this Congress has two choices: build walls or build bridges. Bridges lead to better healthcare, to better jobs, to a better economy to make America great again, and again, and again.

ECONOMIC REVIVAL

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Madam Speaker, today is State of the Union day, and it is an opportunity for the Nation to hear from the President on the progress we have been making and the challenges that lie ahead.

One thing I am looking forward to is hearing about how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the regulatory reforms we have seen over the past year are causing our economy to roar back to life, creating more jobs and putting more money in people's pockets.

Fifty-five years ago, President Kennedy delivered a State of the Union that recognized the power of tax cuts that put money back into the private sector. Talking about the economy, President Kennedy said: "To achieve these greater gains, one step, above all, is essential . . . a substantial reduction and revision in Federal income taxes."

I am glad President Trump and Congress have followed President Kennedy's and President Reagan's model. The economic revival happening today is not only lifting incomes, it is what is going to generate the tax revenues that will help us meet the challenges that lie ahead. That is something for all Americans to celebrate.

REMEMBERING DARBY WORTH

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember Darby Worth, an activist, a community member of my hometown, and most importantly, she was one of the teachers at my elementary school.

Mrs. Worth, as I knew her, worked 20 years at Tularcitos Elementary School, the school where I went and my daughters go today. Now, I didn't know that at the time, but many years ago before she was a teacher, she was well versed in environmental and social activism.

By the time she did take up teaching, she had already traveled to San Francisco many times to protest the Vietnam war. Well after she retired from Tularcitos, Darby was unrelenting in her commitment to social justice, women's rights, challenging corporate power, and, yes, fighting climate change.

She had many movements that she was behind, and it is understandable considering that she felt strongly that everything is interconnected. That is why, at 90, she was already planning and fighting the county to be buried in her front yard.

Madam Speaker, I am not sure if she was laid to rest in that location, but I do know that Mrs. Worth will always be remembered not for just being a teacher to children, but because of her interconnectivity to all of us. She was somebody that we all learned from.

CELEBRATING MAPLE LEAF FARMS' 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maple Leaf Farms on celebrating 60 wonderful years. This family-owned operation has been a staple in northern Indiana and the U.S. duck industry since 1958.

While 60 years of successful operations is a tremendous accomplishment, Maple Leaf Farms' expansion,

production capabilities, and newest global ventures speak volumes to the dedication and ingenuity of the Tucker family. I am proud to learn of the strong business model and outstanding leadership of the Tuckers that has led Maple Leaf Farms to handle 10 million ducks a year and supply products worldwide.

It is truly an honor to represent such passionate and committed Hoosier farmers as the Tuckers. I am grateful for the positive contributions they have made to our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Second District Hoosiers, I want to thank Maple Leaf Farms for strengthening Indiana's farming community, and I wish them all the best in their next 60 years.

GIVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF

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

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, too often when we think about human trafficking as a tragedy, we think about it as something that goes on in someone else's country, in some other place other than our home.

Most people are surprised to find out that thousands of men, women, and children right here in the United States are enslaved by human trafficking every year. In my home State of Hawaii, an estimated 1,500 to 2,500 victims are impacted each year with girls as young as 10 and 11 years old recruited and kidnapped from malls, beaches, and schools.

So as we work to confront and stop perpetrators of human trafficking, we also need to change the way that we treat survivors of this heinous crime. Because even after the horrors that these individuals go through of rape, physical abuse, kidnapping, and so much more, these survivors are too often charged as criminals themselves, thrown in jail, and shackled with a criminal record that follows them wherever they go.

We need to end this cycle of criminalization and give survivors an opportunity to heal and move on with their lives by passing the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act.

Madam Speaker, as Human Trafficking Awareness Month comes to a close, I urge my colleagues to join me, to pass this important legislation and empower change for those who need it the most.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH—A STORY OF HOPE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tonya was 13 years old when she met Eddie. They struck up a relationship and the two moved in together in Dallas, Texas. But what seemed to be a "normal" relationship turned out not

to be. Eddie turned Tonya into a sex slave.

Eddie sold Tonya to men for money. She was the victim of sex trafficking. Night after night, Tonya was forced to be with potential suitors. With her body being used for profit and no escape in sight, Tonya had almost given up hope. But help arrived when Homeland Security Special Agent Keith Owens receive a tip and the outlaw was arrested. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Tonya was freed from her shackles of modern-day slavery.

This is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Madam Speaker, and our fight for Tonya and others is not over. We must remain vigilant. Society has to rescue their victims, restore them, and put the slave masters in the jailhouse.

And that is just the way it is.

CHINA IS DESTROYING TIBETAN BUDDHISM

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, last week, Human Rights Watch reported that the Chinese Government has imposed draconian new controls on Larung Gar, the famous Tibetan Buddhist center of learning.

An official document says Communist Party cadres are taking over management, finances, security, admissions, and even the choice of textbooks. This follows last year's demolitions and expulsions.

China says it respects constitutionally protected religious beliefs. That is a lie. When the state puts officials who are required to be atheists in charge of your religious institutions, that is not religious freedom. When admission requires a firm political stand, when the state tells you what to teach and students must honor the Communist Party, that is not religious freedom.

Sadly, the White House has been silent as human rights abuses in China worsen. Enough is enough. Congress must pass the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act. If the President won't act, Congress must ensure there are consequences for China's egregious actions to control and destroy Tibetan Buddhism.

CUBA: COMMUNIST FAILURE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, The Epoch Times this month presented an extraordinary expose by economist Daniel Lacalle that Cuba "still serves as the best example of why communism doesn't work and will never work."

Cuba was once one of Latin America's wealthiest countries when Communists seized power. But now the Cas-

tro regime—like any socialist government—is a machine of squandering subsidies.

Between 1960 and 1990, Cuba received more than \$65 billion from the Soviet Union, also hundreds of millions of dollars from international organizations. Despite this, the NationMaster ranking ranks Cuba last, 176th in the world, with an average salary of \$25.05 per month in 2014. The only way Cuba can catch up with other developing countries is by ridding itself of communism.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been proven right again: "The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Madam Speaker, our sympathy this week goes to the people of Afghanistan in the global war who have suffered mass murders in Kabul by the Taliban, reaffirming that we must defeat terrorism overseas.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY YOUTH OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some extraordinary youth from the Virgin Islands.

I want to start off by congratulating two distinguished scholars from my district, Rose Kleeger from Country Day High School, and Mansi Totwani from Antilles High School.

Of the nearly 3.6 million high school seniors graduating this year, Rose and Mansi are among the 4,500 students named as candidates for the 2018 Presidential Scholars Program.

In the world of athletics, Alabama State sophomore and St. Croix native, Nia Jack, was fifth in the women's 60-meter dash at the Fred Wilt Invitational this week. In the same meet, fellow Crucian and Purdue sophomore, Myia Dorsey, ran fourth overall in the women's 400 meters and led the winning women's 1,600-meter relay team.

At the Arkansas State University Invitational, St. Croix' Malique Smith won his men's 400-meter heat in a season's best.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate these scholars and athletes coming from the Virgin Islands. Despite the profound devastation of hurricanes this year which demolished our territory and the delay in funding to rebuild our islands, they are examples of the strength and resilience of Virgin Islanders to excel no matter what.

I thank them for their excellence.

□ 1215

TAX CUTS BENEFITING MONTANA'S SMALL BUSINESSES AND WORKERS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, because of the tax cuts passed by congressional Republicans and signed by President Trump, small-business owners in Montana are expanding their businesses and giving raises and bonuses to their employees.

An insurance broker in Harlem is giving a pay raise to all of his employees and hiring another staff member. A small business in Stevensville is giving pay raises to all of their employees, and a local grocery store owner in St. Ignatius is giving employees a raise, increasing the starting wage, and providing his workers with a bonus.

The leader on the other side of the aisle may deride these bonuses, raises, and investments as crumbs, but they make a real difference to the folks I represent back in Montana. I look forward to sharing more good news about how the tax cuts congressional Republicans and President Trump enacted last year are benefiting Montana.

HONORING A GREAT AMERICAN ON HIS BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on his birthday: my dad, Dick Cheney.

I can imagine no better role model than this good and great man. He loved his time serving in this Chamber as the gentleman from Wyoming. Throughout a career spanning decades, including during some of the most challenging times our Nation has faced, he was a steady and wise hand who always led with the courage of his convictions.

No matter the burden he carried, he has always been there for us as a listener and teacher. He taught my sister and me to love our country, to read history and learn from it, to listen more than you talk, that a man's word should be his bond, and that we owe all we have as Americans to the brave men and women in uniform who fought and died to keep us free.

Madam Speaker, the gratitude I have for my dad as an American is surpassed only by my love for him as his daughter.

Happy birthday, Dad.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE WILLIAM COUSINS

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute

to a dear friend, Justice William Cousins, who passed away a couple days ago at the age of 90.

Bill was a former member of the Chicago City Council, called an independent alderman; a circuit court judge; and an appellate court justice who always sought fairness. He was a gentleman, a scholar, and a Harvard graduate. I commend him for his public service.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, every year, over 14,000 people are trafficked into the United States. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and is going on in our communities all across the country. That is why, last week, in my district, I hosted a roundtable with local law enforcement, healthcare officials, victim advocates, and elected officials as part of a Human Trafficking Awareness Month seminar to discuss how we can combat this problem.

What we found is a lack of awareness and communication on this issue. The area that I represent contains major highways that are beltways for traffickers, which only makes it easier for this crime to continue.

What we determined is that we need further training for law enforcement and healthcare providers so that this kind of abuse can be more easily identified and reported. We should also re-examine sentencing, as criminals currently face harsher sentences for drug trafficking than for human trafficking.

The bills we voted on yesterday are positive steps in this fight against human trafficking and, hopefully, just the first of many to come. We must do all we can to raise awareness and end this humanitarian problem.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AYDEN O'MALLEY

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Ayden O'Malley. Ayden is the daughter of Denny and Rosalind O'Malley of Nokomis, Illinois.

Along with many of her friends and hundreds of other young people from Illinois, Ayden traveled here to D.C. earlier this month to attend the March for Life. During their trip, Ayden was hospitalized after she experienced a serious medical episode.

After countless prayers and 5 days of fighting, Ayden gained her angel wings. As her mom said: "So often answered prayers may not be the answers we want."

Ayden was an eighth grader at St. Louis Catholic School, where she was on the honor roll, played volleyball and

softball, and volunteered in her community as often as she could. Everyone who knew Ayden said she had a bright, vibrant spirit that brought joy to everyone around her.

While they were here in D.C., I met with Ayden's group, but, unfortunately, I never had the honor of meeting her. I admire Ayden's convictions and willingness to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

I ask this House to join me in praying for strength and healing for Ayden's family, friends, and the Nokomis community during this difficult time.

REMEMBERING THE "CHALLENGER" ANNIVERSARY 32 YEARS LATER

(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. Madam Speaker, Sunday marked 32 years since the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster.

On January 28, 1986, NASA launched the 10th flight of the space shuttle *Challenger*, and it broke apart 73 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crew members on board. It was devastating for those watching at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, for those viewing at home, and for our Nation as a whole.

I rise today to remember the *Challenger's* dedicated crew:

Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, and Judith Resnick.

As President Reagan said in a televised address 32 years ago: "We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved good-bye and 'slipped the surly bonds of Earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"

Madam Speaker, these crew members had a passion for exploration. They inspired children around the world who dreamed of going to space. Through encouraging STEM study—science, technology, engineering, and math—we can continue to preserve their legacy and inspire another generation of explorers.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 719

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Curtis.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 695, CHILD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 714 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 714

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 695) to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House: (1) concur in the Senate amendment to the title; and (2) concur in the Senate amendment to the text with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-56. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 714, which provides for consideration of a single motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 695, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Madam Speaker, we meet here today, 122 days into the current fiscal year. FY 2018 is one-third over, and yet the United States Congress has been unable to appropriate funds for the defense of our Nation.

I ask my colleagues, Madam Speaker, to pause and let that sink in. The fiscal

year is over 30 percent done, and we have been unable to appropriate the funds our military needs to defend the Nation.

Madam Speaker, this is nothing new. The United States Congress has forced the U.S. military to operate like this under continuing resolutions for 9 of the last 10 years. The rule and the underlying bill that we are debating and voting on today, Madam Speaker, is a crucial step towards reversing this dangerous trend.

This Defense Appropriations bill is a clean bill. It clears away all the politics. It clears away all the posturing. It clears away all the jargon and the process arguments.

Madam Speaker, this is an up-or-down vote on the one issue that matters more than any other: providing for the common defense of our Republic.

The question before this House today is whether we will do our constitutional duty and provide the funds for those who are putting their lives on the line for all of us. There is no other question, Madam Speaker. And for those who vote “no,” there will be no place to hide when history comes to ask why they failed to do their duty.

Our military has been strangled for the last decade, Madam Speaker. Obama-era budget cuts are certainly to blame. The Obama administration’s defense budgets were based on a set of dangerous policies and false assumptions:

They assumed we could withdraw from the Middle East and the terrorists would stop fighting.

They assumed we could talk North Korea out of their nuclear program with a policy of “strategic patience.”

They assumed Russian and Chinese efforts to upend the global world order the United States built and sustained with our allies over 70 years were no threat to our national security.

Perhaps worst of all, Madam Speaker, they assumed that paying billions of dollars to the regime in Tehran in exchange for unverifiable promises from the mullahs about their nuclear program would serve America’s interests. Never before, Madam Speaker, has an American President been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many.

But we in Congress must also accept some of the blame. While the previous administration was pursuing policies that aided our adversaries and harmed our national interests, the United States Congress adopted the Budget Control Act, a law that has proven devastating to the security of our Nation.

Beginning with the Budget Control Act in 2011, the United States Congress imposed arbitrary spending caps on domestic and defense discretionary spending. We handcuffed the military, Madam Speaker. No longer could they ask: What are the threats, and what do we need to defend ourselves? Instead, our men and women in uniform were faced with arbitrary caps and, in 2013, sequestration.

When the supercommittee that was established by the Budget Control Act failed to come to any agreement on cuts in mandatory spending—mandatory spending being the real driver, Madam Speaker, of our national debt—sequestration kicked in. This was like taking a meat cleaver to every account in the defense budget at a time of war when our adversaries are gaining in strength, readiness, and capability every day.

By every measure, Madam Speaker, the Budget Control Act has failed. Since its passage in 2011, the national debt has grown by nearly \$4 trillion.

□ 1230

Five years ago, the CBO estimated that the U.S. debt would reach 80 percent of GDP by 2029. Today, Madam Speaker, the CBO projects that will happen by 2022. The Budget Control Act has failed to do what it intended to do.

Madam Speaker, we have got to acknowledge something else. The Budget Control Act created the concept on which our current budget negotiations are stalled. The idea, espoused especially by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that we must have “parity”—for every dollar we increase defense spending, they demand a dollar increase in domestic spending—is lunacy, Madam Speaker.

We are the people’s elected Representatives with the responsibility for stewardship over taxpayer dollars. We are responsible for appropriating funds for the Nation. Those funds should be appropriated based upon our determination of the needs and priorities, not based upon some arbitrary concept of parity.

The dysfunction in this budget process is now so great, Madam Speaker, that, because of the BCA, we are in the process of actually spending more on programs we don’t need. It is time to fully repeal the BCA.

Madam Speaker, my colleague on the Rules Committee, Mr. MCGOVERN, will no doubt shortly point out that Republicans control the House and the Senate and the White House. He is right, of course. But Mr. MCGOVERN also knows that it takes 60 votes to pass anything in the Senate, which gives the Democrats and their leader, CHUCK SCHUMER, power far beyond what they would otherwise enjoy to block action.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, we have passed all 12 appropriations bills through this body, including this Defense Appropriations bill, only to have these bills languish in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the defense of this Nation must no longer be held hostage to the rules of the United States Senate. If 60 United States Senators cannot be found to do what is right and fund our military, then, Mr. Speaker, that body has a constitutional obligation to change its rules and stop allowing a small minority to hold our military hostage for political reasons.

The threat is real and the situation is dire, Mr. Speaker. Today, we have

the smallest Army since before World War II, the smallest Navy since before World War I, and the smallest and oldest Air Force we have ever had.

Only 5 of 58 brigade combat teams in the Army are “ready to fight tonight.” Funding for future readiness against competitors like Russia and China has been cut by over 70 percent in the last 10 years. As North Korea’s missile program advances, the U.S. inventory of missile defense interceptors is dangerously low. Less than half of the Navy’s aircraft can fly, due to maintenance and spare parts issues. Only 50 percent of the Air Force’s combat forces are sufficiently ready for a highly contested fight against a peer adversary.

Mr. Speaker, we are running out of bombs. Our supply of precision munitions has been depleted by budget cuts and increased operations. Fatal accidents are increasing. This is all happening, Mr. Speaker, as the global threat environment is more complex, more imminent, and more grave than at any time since World War II. Every day we fail to do our duty in this body, the risk to our troops increases, and it becomes easier for our adversaries to close the capabilities gap.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, on this issue we can set politics aside and do what is right for our Republic, for our freedom, and for every man and woman standing watch on the front lines for all of us. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this rule and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) for the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again, literally. Today we are considering, for the third time, the FY 2018 Defense Appropriations Act. The House took up and passed this bill in July. The House took up and passed this bill in September. And now, we will take it up and pass it once again under a completely closed process for the third time.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that many people think that the third time is the charm, but in this case, I think the third time is a farce.

There are a couple of minor changes to this version of the bill. For example, once again, it has \$1.18 billion to fund President Trump’s request to send 3,500 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, funding which has been attached to prior spending bills.

It also has a general provision that turns off sequestration for defense spending. So it busts the budget caps but exempts itself from any consequences. That is a neat little trick, Mr. Speaker.

But, really, why are we wasting our time on this bill for a third time?

Here is a little bit of a reality check, Mr. Speaker. Neither this defense bill nor any other appropriations bill can move until the House and Senate Republican leadership get their act together, negotiate a budget agreement that works for all our Federal programs, and finally set the top-line numbers for all the appropriations bills. Then, and only then, will our appropriators be able to begin negotiations on the final FY 2018 omnibus spending bill to fund all our Federal programs, defense and nondefense alike, through the rest of the fiscal year.

It would have been nice if this had been done in September, Mr. Speaker, or maybe by October or the end of November or the end of December. One might have hoped to have finally completed the job by the end of this month. That would be 4 whole months into fiscal year 2018. But we all know that is not going to happen.

Now, I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but I sure hope we can get these FY 2018 appropriations bills all done before we have to start working on the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills.

There is a very simple reason why there is no budget agreement. The Republicans are squabbling among themselves over either raising the budget caps or making even deeper cuts in domestic spending. It is like the Republican rightwing is fighting with the Republican extreme rightwing.

I will again remind my colleagues, as my colleague from Wyoming did, Republicans control everything. They control the House. They control the Senate. They control the Presidency. I wish they didn't, but they are in charge. It is their job to keep the lights running. But there is an incompetence that is on display here that I have never, ever seen in all my years of government.

What should be happening is that the Republican leadership should be reaching out to the House and Senate Democratic leadership and negotiating a real bipartisan budget agreement, one that has votes in both Chambers.

What a radical idea, to actually sit down and negotiate a bipartisan agreement that will get bipartisan votes. The notion that they can present legislation on the House floor in this kind of my-way-or-the-highway approach and expect Democrats to vote for it is ludicrous. We are not going to get everything we want. We know that. We are in the minority. But our values need to be represented in these overall budget negotiations as well.

So they should do their job. Sit down and work out a deal. That is what they are supposed to do when they are in charge. Instead, here we are entering our fifth month of fiscal year 2018 and no budget agreement, which translates into no final appropriations bills because the appropriations committees don't know what their top-line spending ceiling is for any of the remaining bills, including defense.

It doesn't matter how many times they send this same bill over to the Senate. It can't come back to us as a final House-Senate conference report without a budget agreement.

They should do their job. We can't get a budget agreement until the Republicans stop fighting amongst themselves and decide to work for the good of the American people and the American military. They should do their job.

I know today that we will hear a lot about how important it is to fund our military. Of course, that is important. You won't hear anybody in this House argue against that. But it is also important to fund things like the Department of Homeland Security. They help protect us here in the United States from potential terrorist attacks.

It is also important to fund the Justice Department. There are many anti-terrorism programs in the Justice Department that are important to protecting the citizens of this country. To suggest that somehow they don't matter, I think, is just wrong.

Isn't it important that we support our Veterans Affairs Department to support our veterans who have sacrificed so much for this country? To say that somehow they are not a priority, I don't think that is right.

It is important to fund the State Department. It is important to fund Transportation, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Education, Housing and Urban Development, the Energy Department, the Interior Department, and all our Federal bureaus, agencies, and programs.

America's national security is more than just our military. It is our local law enforcement. It is our courts. It is our hospitals, our schools, our roads, and our bridges. It is investing in our communities, cities, and our towns. It is taking care of our veterans, our seniors, and our children. It is helping our local farmers, businesses, and companies survive and thrive.

If we fail in these duties, Mr. Speaker, then what is there left to defend?

Time and time again, Secretary of Defense Mattis has declared that the greatest damage to our military comes from continuing to fund defense by a series of short-term continuing resolutions, one after another after another. Yet that is exactly what Republicans in Congress are doing.

So, please, Mr. Speaker, let's have no more crocodile tears about defense spending and how important our military is. If the military were really a priority for the Republican leadership and not just a good sound bite, then they would have reached a budget agreement and finished the FY 2018 appropriation bills—all of them—last year.

Mr. Speaker, right now, Federal agencies, including the Pentagon, are operating under a fourth continuing resolution. Even if, by some miracle, a budget agreement is reached today or by next Monday, Congress will still need to pass a fifth CR by next Thurs-

day, February 8, because there is no way the appropriators will be able to start and finish their negotiations on a final omnibus in just a few days.

So, Mr. Speaker, the bill before us, under a completely closed process, is theater. It is not about our military. It is not about the defense of this country. It is about a sound bite. It is about trying to provide some smoke so the people don't realize that the Republicans who run this government don't know how to do their job. It is nothing more than face-saving for the most extreme Members of the Republican Conference. It does nothing that hasn't been done twice before. It means nothing. It is a waste of time.

Since the House is really only working 1 day this week—namely, today—then we could have brought up legislation that hasn't already moved twice through the House but for which action is desperately overdue.

We could have brought up the reauthorization of our community health centers, which help more than 24 million Americans access essential healthcare. Or how about the reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, which helps young families all across this country?

The Republican leadership deliberately chose to let the authorization for each of these critical programs expire in September. They haven't even lifted a finger since to reauthorize them. We could have easily taken care of their reauthorization today in a couple of hours and sent those bills over to the Senate rather than spending the same amount of time passing the same defense bill for a third time.

Mr. Speaker, defense spending and all other Federal programs are in a mess today because the Republicans are incapable of running the government. It is that simple. Each day it becomes even more clear that the Republican leadership not only can't govern, they are not even interested in governing. Everything we are doing on this day is going nowhere, and my Republican friends know that.

This, again, is about theater. It is not about troops. It is not about our security. It is about giving them some cover to justify the incompetence that is on display here.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my colleagues on the Republican side that we don't need lectures from them about America's national security. When it comes to forcing their terrible policies on the American people, they say "yes, yes, yes" to President Trump; but when it comes to holding President Trump accountable and protecting American democracy, all they say is "nyet."

Clearly, House Republicans' desire to protect President Trump has clouded their judgment and caused them to lose sight of what is at stake: the security and integrity of our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump's own CIA Director, our former colleague,

CIA Director Mike Pompeo, recently admitted that Russia is currently working to undermine the upcoming election and has been doing so for decades.

□ 1245

And, just yesterday, President Trump refused to impose defense and intelligence sanctions on entities purchasing Russian military equipment. In July, Congress passed an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill requiring President Trump to impose defense and intelligence sanctions on entities purchasing Russian military equipment. His decision, yesterday, to refuse to do so tells us all we need to know about where his loyalties lie.

And still, Mr. Speaker, all the other side continues to do, day after day, is assault the rule of law. They have led an all-out assault on our Department of Justice and on our FBI to smear Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, attempting to tarnish the credibility of our Federal law enforcement along the way, and sowing doubt and confusion about the very ability of anyone in law enforcement to conduct an impartial investigation.

And let's not forget that we are not talking about some hypothetical investigation. Here are the facts:

The President's former National Security Advisor has pled guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian Ambassador.

The President's former foreign policy adviser pled guilty after he lied about his contacts with the Russian Government.

And the President's former campaign manager has been indicted by a grand jury for, among other things, conspiracy against the United States of America.

Now the Republicans are trying to whip up a controversy out of thin air with a misleading cherry-picked memo written by their own staff, which contains significant inaccuracies and omissions that misrepresent the underlying intelligence.

Associate Attorney General Stephen Boyd stated:

"We believe it would be extraordinarily reckless for the committee to disclose such information publicly without giving the Department and the FBI the opportunity to review the memorandum and to advise the committee of the risk of harm to national security and to ongoing investigations that could come from public release."

"Indeed, we do not understand why the committee would possibly seek to disclose classified and law enforcement sensitive information without first consulting with the relevant members of the intelligence community."

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are doing this in a ridiculous attempt to discredit an entire investigation, which has already found a serious effort to attack our democracy.

This is a deeply, deeply irresponsible attempt to undermine Special Counsel

Mueller's investigation, regardless of the profound damage that it does to our democratic institutions and national security agencies. It is offensive to the Nation, and it is just plain wrong.

I would remind my Republican colleagues that we are here to uphold the rule of law, not the rule of Trump. I understand that, in this Chamber, there are powerful political incentives to circle the wagons amongst my Republican friends around this White House, but the truth is the truth, and there is nobody, nobody in this country, including the President of the United States, who should be above the law.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my colleagues that when we are talking about defending the national security of our country, what has gone on in this Chamber these last few days, in my opinion, is a threat to our national security.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate, as always, the candor of my colleague, Mr. MCGOVERN. But, I have to say, I am having a hard time understanding why it is, when he is so clearly knowledgeable about the damage that CRs do to the military, we are, today, presenting an opportunity for this entire House to stop that process for this entire House to provide the kind of reliable, secure, sufficient funding that our troops need; yet, I would imagine, many colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to vote "no" on that.

I think it is important, though, to recognize some facts, Mr. Speaker:

The first of those is, for all the talk about a budget agreement, it was the leadership on the other side of the aisle that refused to go to a meeting at the White House a couple of months ago and pulled out completely of the talks last year.

It was also, with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, the leadership on the other side of the aisle, the Democrat leadership, that shut the government down 2 weeks ago. So it is awfully hard, I am sure, to be able to convince constituents back home that they really want to get this job done and get things moving when they continue to stop the process, to gum up the works, and even to shut down the government.

Mr. Speaker, I know that every Member of this body cares deeply about the U.S. troops. And I know that every Member of this body wants what is right for this Nation. But there is a big difference between having the luxury of talking about support for the troops and actually voting for the funds they need to do their job. Talk does not buy equipment; talk does not get our planes back in the air; talk does not provide pay raises for our troops; talk does not provide the kind of protection our servicemen and -women need, the equipment that they need, to do their

job; talk does not roll back Russia, or China, or Iran, or North Korea.

For that, the Pentagon needs money. The only way that our military will get money is if we appropriate: if we break the cycle of continuing resolutions and pass this appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), my dear friend and colleague from the Rules Committee.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I appreciate all of the work that she does on behalf of our Nation's military men and women.

Mr. Speaker, here we are again. Once again, this House will vote to fully fund our Nation's military and critical national security programs.

I have said this many times before, but I will continue saying it because the point is so very important: the global threat environment facing the United States today is greater than at any time since the conclusion of World War II.

North Korea is continuing to build its nuclear weapon program, which poses a direct threat to the United States and our servicemembers stationed abroad.

Terrorist groups, like ISIS and al-Qaida, may be weakened in Iraq and Syria, but their influence continues to spread to other areas throughout the Middle East and Africa.

The situation in Afghanistan is deeply concerning. Look no further than the recent wave of attacks by the Taliban in Kabul.

China is continuing to build up its military and exert aggression in the South China Sea.

Russia and Putin remain emboldened as they take provocative actions in Ukraine, throughout Eastern Europe, and even in the Pacific.

Other countries continue to catch up to our Nation's capabilities in the space domain.

Iran is showing more and more involvement in the Middle East and continues to support terrorist groups that threaten our allies, like Israel.

Not to even mention the evolving and serious threats posed to the United States by state actors and rogue actors when it comes to cybersecurity.

Despite so many real and wide-ranging threats, our military has not received the funding that is necessary to keep up.

As the gentlewoman said, we have the smallest Army since before World War II, the smallest Navy since before World War I, and the smallest and oldest Air Force we have ever had.

The military does not work like a spigot. You can't just turn it on when a crisis happens and expect everything to work and all of our servicemembers to be ready. Training takes time, and building equipment takes even more time. We have to prepare now for the crisis of tomorrow.

The commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert Neller, put it best when he said:

“Marines don’t get ready when the crisis occurs.”

“The instability of the current fiscal environment, compounded by current shortfalls in our operation and maintenance accounts, impact our ability to maintain a ‘ready bench.’”

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson also recently stated that: “We are stretching the force to the limit, and we need to start turning the corner on readiness.”

I could go on for hours talking about the real challenges facing our military. But, instead of looking back, I want this Congress to look ahead and solve these problems, instead of just continually talking about them.

This Defense funding bill includes \$659.2 billion in full-year funding for the Department of Defense. That includes increases in military operations and maintenance accounts. That includes a 2.4 percent pay raise for our troops, which would be the largest in 8 years. That includes increased funding for missile defense systems and programs, which is so important, given the threat posed by North Korea.

That includes funding for 11 new Navy ships, including three littoral combat ships, which are built, in part, by Austal USA in my district. That includes critical funding for training and readiness operations.

That also includes much-needed money for research and development to ensure our military continues to have the most innovative and state-of-the-art equipment at their disposal.

All told, this bill would be a landmark step toward rebuilding our military, standing up to our adversaries, and supporting the men and women who work every single day to keep the American people safe.

Now, I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying that this bill has no chance in the Senate. While I don’t understand why our colleagues and the Senate would not want to fund our military, I have a strong rebuttal to that argument.

If the Senate wants to add non-defense programs to this bill or make changes, then they should take this bill up, make whatever changes or additions that they desire, and send the bill back over to the House. It simply makes no sense to just declare this bill dead and not take a vote on it.

I intend to talk to my two home State Senators about passing this bill, and I expect they will be supportive of this effort because they understand the need to fund our Nation’s military.

But I reject the notion that we shouldn’t be passing this bill and sending it over to the Senate. I am tired of the Senate not acting on our government funding bills, and I think we should keep sending funding bills over there until they take one up and actually pass it. This ridiculous crisis of funding our government from one crisis to the next must end.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and,

once again, send a military funding bill over to the Senate. Here, in the House, we must continue to fulfill one of our most basic responsibilities outlined in the Constitution: to provide for the common defense.

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

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. With this funding bill, we can move back toward a position of peace through strength, and we can keep American families safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just respond to my colleague from Wyoming who said that talk will not fund our military, or that talk will not upgrade our military equipment, and I agree. Nobody is asking the other side to talk. We are asking them to do their job. We are asking them to go and sit down with Republicans and Democrats and work out a deal on the budget caps.

In order to do any of this stuff, we have to know how much we can spend. Before you go shopping, you have to know how much you are going to spend.

I know my Republican friends don’t want to take responsibility for what is clearly incompetence, but, the bottom line is, in the Senate, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense hasn’t even marked up the Defense Appropriations bill yet. And the last time I checked, the Republicans controlled the Senate—I wish they didn’t, but the Republicans control the Senate. And as my colleague from Wyoming knows, bills don’t move in the House or the Senate without the Republican leadership moving it.

So I think it is clear that this Republican-controlled government can’t do its job, and November can’t come soon enough, for me, because I think there needs to be a major change here. We need people in charge who understand that the American people come first, not some rightwing ideology, who understand the meaning that the American people comes first means doing your job.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge that my colleagues vote to defeat the previous question, and I will give a little explanation why.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, President Trump tweeted that he wants to show that “Democrats do not want to solve DACA, only use it.” Well, I would beg to differ. This is the 19th time that we have attempted to bring the bipartisan bill, H.R. 3440, the Dream Act, for a vote on the House floor, and, if we defeat the previous question, we will bring that bill up.

We have made our position clear: we want immigration policies that make America safer, without betraying our core values as a nation.

President Trump made his position clear as well. He has tweeted and said, time and time again: “My standard is very simple: America First and Make America Great Again.”

Exactly what does he mean by America First?

According to the conservative Cato Institute, repealing DACA would cost the government over \$60 billion and would reduce economic growth by \$280 billion over the next decade. That doesn’t sound like an America First policy to me.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 3440, the Dream Act: this bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would help hundreds of thousands of young people, who are American in every way, except on paper.

I regret very much that the leadership in this House has refused, time and time again, to allow us to debate and deliberate on this issue. We have a bill called the Dream Act. If it was brought to the floor, it would pass overwhelmingly. Every Democrat would support it, and I bet a big chunk of Republicans would support it as well, and we could end this once and for all.

□ 1300

The Republican leadership is so pathetically terrified of a narrow, xenophobic, bigoted element of their base that they cannot bring themselves to allow us to even consider such a bill, and I regret that very much.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) to discuss our proposal.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question so that we can immediately bring the Dream Act to the floor.

I stand before you today with a reopened government, ready to transform discussion into action. This is the 19th time that we have requested a vote on the Dream Act.

Congress did not create this emergency. This is a mere negotiation tactic brought about by the actions of a single man.

The time for tactics is over. Now is the time to put your vote to work and break the deadlock issue.

We are a nation of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. A great man once said: “The bosom of America is open to receive not only the opulent and the respected stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions, whom we shall welcome to a participation with all our rights and privileges. . . .”

That man was George Washington, Mr. Speaker, our country's first President.

Now let us take a moment to reflect on this and how President Washington saw our country. George Washington would welcome an opulent and respected stranger, you know, like folks from Norway. However, we should also welcome the oppressed and the persecuted of all nations and all religions in the world.

Compare George Washington's words to President Trump's, who said: "I do business with the Mexican people, but you have people coming through the border that are from all over. And they are bad. They are really bad. You have people coming in, and I am not just saying Mexicans. I am talking about people who are from all over that are killers and rapists, and they are coming into this country."

Please, Mr. Speaker, do not let this era be known as the day that America surrendered. Do not let our country go down the path of religious persecution. Do not let our country fall to the dictates of convenience.

The United States of America sets the tone for the rest of the world. In other words, Mr. Speaker, if we do not help the less fortunate than us, who can we count on?

It is not easy to say no, Mr. Speaker. It is easy to surrender. It is a rare occasion where an easy choice is the right choice.

It is up to us, the leaders of our country, to take the hard path, the path taken by our ancestors.

About 800,000 young people living in our country, also known as DREAMers, are facing an uncertain future.

Many criticize how DACA was created, some even criticize the granting of a status quo on immigrants. I say this is un-American. I say to these critics that it is time to become problem solvers for our country.

We only have a few days left under the current continuing resolution to pass a bill that provides DACA recipients a pathway to citizenship. We made a promise to the American people and to 800,000 DREAMers who are American in every way except on paper.

To all the DREAMers, I want you to know that I stand with you.

Today I call on every Member of Congress to remember that we are a nation founded by immigrants. I call on you to give these DREAMers a chance. Let's get it done.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have seen now on display in this debate exactly the problem and, frankly, it is despicable, Mr. Speaker.

We are in a situation where our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are holding hostage funding for our troops over the issue of illegal immigration. There is no other way to describe it. There is no other way to—I can't put it into words. The people who are watching, I am sure, have seen it on the floor right now.

If my colleagues feel so strongly about support for the troops, there is a very easy answer. And that answer is to vote for this bill, to vote to support this appropriation, not to try to divert attention, not to try to talk about other issues, not to try to talk about the extent to which we haven't reached a deal.

We have got a bill and we are putting it on the floor. It funds the troops. It ends the damage that has been done by the continuing resolutions. They ought to vote for it, we ought to pass it, and then our colleagues in the Senate should do the same.

They cannot, at the same time, say that they support our troops, that they support resources for the troops, and then go through all of these contortions trying to explain why it is they are going to vote "no" on this issue.

I would also just say, Mr. Speaker, the fact that the United States Senate right now is either incapable or unable of doing its constitutional duty does not absolve us in this House of the obligation to do ours, and that is to provide funding and resources for the U.S. military.

It is absolutely a broken system. We are in a situation where I would ask my colleagues to think, as they are arguing on this floor, debating on this floor today, about the parents of men and women who are deployed, to think about what this debate must sound like to them, to think about trying to explain to them why it is when we have a bill that provides the funding the military needs, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to vote "no" because of some budget process, some budget procedure, because of negotiations over DACA, because of any other reason under the sun they can imagine.

Vote "yes" on this bill, vote "yes" for this rule, and then we can go on and deal with these other issues. But, Mr. Speaker, none of those other issues will matter. If we fail to do what is right for the military, none of those other issues will matter.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the people who write the Republican talking points because they keep on trying to change the subject to try to confuse the American people.

My colleague knows that this battle is not over the DREAMers, although we all think it is immoral that these young people have been treated so terribly and so cruelly, and we believe that there needs to be a resolution to that.

The bottom line is that we need to negotiate budget caps so we know how much we can spend on not only defense, but nondefense appropriations so we can keep our government running. This should have been done months ago.

So if we really care about our troops, then where is the bipartisan agreement

to raise the budget caps so that we know we have a budget deal? Where is this bipartisan agreement?

My Republican friends have known that this is the deal for a long time, yet, again, they are tied in knots because they are fighting amongst themselves. Their rightwing is having a battle with their extreme rightwing; and there is even an extreme, extreme rightwing that not only does not want to raise any nondefense spending budget caps, but wants to cut domestic spending.

I would say to my colleagues that this is about more than the DREAMers. In fact, this is about community health centers. I mean, people rely on community health centers all across this country to get their healthcare. We are not dealing with that.

This is about funding our veterans. The men and women who serve our country, who we put their lives in harm's way, shouldn't we make sure that their budget is funded? I mean, Homeland Security.

So, I mean, there is a whole bunch of stuff here, but this is really simple to fix. It requires the Republican leadership and this Republican government to do its job. That is all we are asking. Do your job, negotiate a deal for a budget agreement to fund the government for the rest of the year, then we are done, and we go on to fight other things. But there is an easy way to do this: come up with some numbers, work it out with your leadership, work it out with our leadership, and let's move that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I think that if my colleague on the other side of the aisle spent more time focused on doing his job and less time on telling us to do ours, we would be in a lot better shape. I think the American people deserve to know what is going on in these budget negotiations.

What is going on in these budget negotiations, Mr. Speaker, is that the leadership on the other side of the aisle continues to move the goalpost. They enjoy this political fight, this political dance. They enjoy the sense that they can hold us hostage, they can hold the troops hostage.

They seem to not have any concern at all about the fact that we are now 30 percent of the way through the fiscal year and our troops have not been funded.

So behind closed doors, what is going on is moving the goalpost; it is Lucy and the football. They want to continue playing these games.

So I would suggest that my colleague on the other side of the aisle ought to turn his focus and attention on his own leadership and ask them to do their job.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we are in a position where we are today considering a bill that will fund the military.

I applaud my colleague's efforts to try again and again and again to make the case that he believes in funding the military, he believes we ought to have a full year appropriation, he believes we have got to get out from under the CR, and, therefore, he is going to vote "no" on this bill. It takes, really, focus and attention and talent to be able to do that, so I applaud that effort, but the reality is the reality, Mr. Speaker. We are in a position today where we have the opportunity to vote to fund the troops, and we ought to do that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me say again, the Republicans are in charge. I wish we were in the majority. If we created this mess, the Republicans would have every right to criticize us, but we are not in charge. I regret that very much. I think it is not good for the country that we have a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and a Republican President, because I think a lot of the priorities of the American people are not being addressed.

All the Republican leadership needs to do is get together and do their job and negotiate a deal on the budget caps, and let us approve defense and nondefense spending for the rest of the year and get away from these CRs. It is in their hands.

As I said, the Senate Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations hasn't even had a markup in their committee. I mean, they are controlled by Republicans. You can't blame us for everything.

Bottom line is you are in charge. When you are in charge, you have to keep the lights on. That is your responsibility. Unfortunately, my Republican friends don't want to do this.

I have never, ever, seen this kind of incompetence in our government, ever, in all my years. This has to end. Again, the way it ends is when the Republican leadership decides to negotiate a budget agreement with the House and Senate leaders, Republicans and Democrats alike.

Mr. Speaker, we all believe that we ought to support our military, we ought to make sure we have the best military, second to none. We want to fund that, but we also understand that it is important to fund the Department of Homeland Security, which protects us from terrorist attacks here at home. I am sorry my Republican friends don't see that as a priority.

We also believe we ought to fund veterans' health. I am sorry my Republican friends don't see that as a priority.

We believe in funding community health centers. We believe in making sure that our States have the money to be able to rebuild their aging infrastructures. I am sorry that that is not a priority, but it is to us.

The entire budget is a priority to us, and I don't think it is too much to ask

the leadership of this House and the leadership of the Senate to make sure that everything is funded and that the needs of the entire country are met, and not kind of picking one over another over another.

The other thing I would say is that, if we want to have a talk about national security, we ought to focus on what is happening right here with the Republicans and the House Intelligence Committee playing politics with an investigation into Russia's attack on our democracy.

You ought to be concerned about a President of the United States who doesn't seem at all worried that the Russians interfered in our election, that according to his own CIA head says they are still trying to interfere in our election, and we can't even get this President to impose congressionally mandated sanctions.

Is there anything that Russia can do to us that will cause this President to stand up and defend our country or to even say something mildly critical about Vladimir Putin, whom he praises, a man who kills journalists and human rights defenders and political opponents?

Enough. I mean, stop this politicization of the Russia investigation. This should be bipartisan, getting to the bottom of this. Wherever it leads, it leads, but this is serious. You want to talk about a threat to our country, to our homeland, and to our democracy, look at what Russia is doing to us each and every day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question so that we can bring up the Dream Act so we can actually protect these wonderful people who have been such great members of our community, who have been first responders, who have saved lives in the aftermaths of hurricanes, who serve in our military.

We have to stop holding them for ransom. They are not hostages. We ought to stop holding them for ransom for a stupid wall that costs \$25 billion.

When I think about \$25 billion, I can think of a lot of things to do with \$25 billion that could help the people of this country rather than building a ridiculous wall that someone could buy a ladder to climb over or a shovel to dig under.

□ 1315

We have to do better, so vote "no" on the previous question, vote "no" on this rule, and send a message to the leadership of this House: Get back to work and do your job. You are in charge. It is your job to keep this government running. Work out a deal on the budget cap. Fund everything. That is your job.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, some things are complicated, but this one isn't. Our colleagues, if they are so concerned about the national security of this Nation, there is a very easy thing for them to do, and that is to vote for this Defense Appropriations bill.

It is really important for us, as we are having this debate, to remember the facts; and the facts of the budget negotiations are that it was the Democrat leadership that walked away from the table and stalled the negotiations. It was the Democrat leadership, Mr. Speaker, that shut down the government.

So the Republicans, right now, understanding and recognizing how crucial it is for us to get the Defense Department out from under these damaging continuing resolutions, to provide them with sufficient, secure funding, reliable funding, we are moving a clean Defense Appropriations bill.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle can yell all they want about having us do our job, and, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. Our job, our most important job, our job that is crucial and sacred above all others, is to provide funding and resources for the military of this Nation. That is what this bill does. That is why we are, today, presented with an opportunity to do the right thing.

With this bill, with a vote in support of this rule, and a vote in support of the underlying bill, we can begin to reverse the damage of the last 7 years.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to stop with these political games. It is time to stop moving the goalposts. It is time to stop holding defense spending hostage to illegal immigration issues, holding defense spending hostage to increased domestic spending. It is time to stop. Our troops are on the front lines fighting and dying for us, and our actions in this body are putting them at greater risk.

It is not, Mr. Speaker, as though we can sit here and fail to act, and we are just delaying. Our failure to act is putting our men and women in uniform at greater risk. Our failure to act is aiding our adversaries.

I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, frankly, to look in the mirror and to recognize that they are the ones right now who hold the key, as do the Members of the United States Senate, to making sure that we get these resources to our men and women in uniform.

I would say, once again, Mr. Speaker, if we fail to do this, if we fail to do our constitutional duty, nothing else we do matters. There are no other individuals in this Nation who are charged the way we are with providing for the common defense, and it is an individual duty and obligation of every single one of us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to mind the words spoken by Ronald Reagan 35 years ago. As we engage in the political theater that my colleague on the other side of the aisle mentioned in this House, it needs to stop,

and we need to remember what is important.

Ronald Reagan said: "It is up to us in our time to choose, and choose wisely, between the hard but necessary task of preserving peace and freedom, and the temptation to ignore our duty and blindly hope for the best while the enemies of freedom grow stronger day by day."

Mr. Speaker, it is truly up to us. It is an individual obligation on each Member of this body. Therefore, I urge adoption of both the rule and the Senate amendments to H.R. 695.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 714 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN

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

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3440) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3440.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

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

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March

15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 232, nays 187, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 47]

YEAS—232

Abraham	Allen	Amodei
Aderholt	Amash	Arrington

Babin	Granger	Olson
Bacon	Graves (GA)	Palazzo
Banks (IN)	Graves (LA)	Palmer
Barletta	Graves (MO)	Paulsen
Barr	Griffith	Perry
Barton	Grothman	Pittenger
Bergman	Guthrie	Poe (TX)
Biggs	Handel	Poliquin
Bilirakis	Harper	Posey
Bishop (MI)	Harris	Ratcliffe
Bishop (UT)	Hartzler	Reed
Black	Hensarling	Reichert
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Renacci
Blum	Hice, Jody B.	Rice (SC)
Bost	Higgins (LA)	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hill	Roe (TN)
Brat	Holding	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hollingsworth	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Hudson	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga	Rokita
Buchanan	Hultgren	Rooney, Francis
Buck	Hunter	Rooney, Thomas
Bucshon	Hurd	J.
Budd	Issa	Ros-Lehtinen
Burgess	Jenkins (KS)	Roskam
Byrne	Jenkins (WV)	Ross
Calvert	Johnson (LA)	Rothfus
Carter (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Johnson, Sam	Royce (CA)
Chabot	Jones	Russell
Cheney	Jordan	Rutherford
Coffman	Joyce (OH)	Sanford
Cole	Katko	Scalise
Collins (GA)	Kelly (MS)	Schweikert
Collins (NY)	Kelly (PA)	Scott, Austin
Comer	King (IA)	Sensenbrenner
Comstock	King (NY)	Sessions
Conaway	Kinzinger	Shimkus
Cook	Knight	Shuster
Costello (PA)	Kustoff (TN)	Simpson
Cramer	Labrador	Smith (MO)
Crawford	LaHood	Smith (NE)
Culberson	LaMalfa	Smith (NJ)
Curtis	Lamborn	Smith (TX)
Davidson	Lance	Smucker
Davis, Rodney	Latta	Stefanik
Denham	Lewis (MN)	Stewart
Dent	LoBiondo	Stivers
DeSantis	Long	Taylor
DesJarlais	Loudermilk	Thompson (PA)
Diaz-Balart	Love	Thornberry
Donovan	Lucas	Tipton
Duffy	MacArthur	Trott
Duncan (SC)	Marchant	Turner
Duncan (TN)	Marino	Upton
Dunn	Marshall	Valadao
Emmer	Massie	Wagner
Estes (KS)	Mast	Walberg
Farenthold	McCarthy	Walden
Faso	McCaul	Walker
Ferguson	McHenry	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	McKinley	Walters, Mimi
Fleischmann	McMorris	Weber (TX)
Flores	Rodgers	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	McSally	Wenstrup
Foxx	Meadows	Westerman
Frelinghuysen	Meehan	Williams
Gaetz	Messer	Wilson (SC)
Gallagher	Mitchell	Wittman
Garrett	Moolenaar	Womack
Gianforte	Mooney (WV)	Woodall
Gibbs	Mullin	Yoder
Gohmert	Newhouse	Yoho
Goodlatte	Noem	Young (AK)
Gosar	Norman	Young (IA)
Gowdy	Nunes	Zeldin

NAYS—187

Adams	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Aguilar	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Barragan	Chu, Judy	DelBene
Bass	Ciulline	Demings
Beatty	Clark (MA)	DeSaulnier
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Beyer	Clay	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	Doggett
Blunt Rochester	Clyburn	Doyle, Michael
Bonamici	Cohen	F.
Boyle, Brendan	Connolly	Ellison
F.	Cooper	Engel
Brady (PA)	Correa	Eshoo
Brown (MD)	Costa	Espallat
Brownley (CA)	Crist	Esty (CT)
Bustos	Crowley	Evans
Butterfield	Cuellar	Foster
Capuano	Davis (CA)	Frankel (FL)
Carbajal	Davis, Danny	Fudge
Carson (IN)	DeFazio	Gabbard
Cartwright	DeGette	Gallego

Garamendi	Lujan Grisham,	Ruppersberger	Coffman	Hultgren	Renacci	Kilmer	Moulton	Schrader
Gomez	M.	Rush	Cole	Hunter	Rice (SC)	Kind	Nadler	Scott (VA)
Gonzalez (TX)	Luján, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)	Collins (GA)	Hurd	Roby	Krishnamoorthi	Napolitano	Scott, David
Gottheimer	Lynch	Sánchez	Collins (NY)	Issa	Roe (TN)	Kuster (NH)	Neal	Serrano
Green, Al	Maloney,	Sarbanes	Comer	Jenkins (KS)	Rogers (AL)	Langevin	Nolan	Sewell (AL)
Green, Gene	Carolyn B.	Schakowsky	Comstock	Jenkins (WV)	Rogers (KY)	Larsen (WA)	Norcross	Shea-Porter
Grijalva	Maloney, Sean	Schiff	Conaway	Johnson (LA)	Rohrabacher	Larson (CT)	O'Halleran	Sherman
Gutiérrez	Matsui	Schneider	Cook	Johnson (OH)	Rokita	Lawrence	O'Rourke	Sires
Hanabusa	McColum	Schrader	Costello (PA)	Johnson, Sam	Rooney, Francis	Lawson (FL)	Pallone	Slaughter
Hastings	McEachin	Scott (VA)	Cramer	Jones	Rooney, Thomas	Lee	Panetta	Smith (WA)
Heck	McGovern	Scott, David	Crawford	Jordan	J.	Levin	Pascrell	Soto
Higgins (NY)	McNerney	Serrano	Crist	Joyce (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen	Lewis (GA)	Payne	Speier
Himes	Meeks	Sewell (AL)	Culberson	Katko	Roskam	Lieu, Ted	Pelosi	Suozi
Hoyer	Meng	Shea-Porter	Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Ross	Lipinski	Perlmutter	Swalwell (CA)
Huffman	Moore	Sherman	Curtis	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus	Loeb sack	Peters	Takano
Jackson Lee	Moulton	Sinema	Davidson	King (IA)	Rouzer	Lofgren	Peterson	Thompson (CA)
Jayapal	Murphy (FL)	Sires	Davidson	King (NY)	Royce (CA)	Lowenthal	Pingree	Thompson (MS)
Jeffries	Nadler	Slaughter	Denham	Kinzinger	Russell	Lowey	Pocan	Titus
Johnson (GA)	Napolitano	Smith (WA)	Dent	Kustoff (TN)	Rutherford	Lujan Grisham,	Polis	Tonko
Kaptur	Neal	Soto	DeSantis	Kustoff (TN)	Sanford	M.	Price (NC)	Torres
Keating	Nolan	Speier	DesJarlais	Labrador	Scalise	Luján, Ben Ray	Quigley	Tsongas
Kelly (IL)	Norcross	Suozi	Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Schneider	Lynch	Raskin	Tsogas
Khanna	O'Halleran	Swalwell (CA)	Donovan	LaMalfa	Schweikert	Maloney,	Rice (NY)	Vargas
Kihuen	O'Rourke	Takano	Duffy	Lamborn	Scott, Austin	Carolyn B.	Richmond	Veasey
Kildee	Pallone	Thompson (CA)	Duncan (SC)	Lance	Sensenbrenner	Maloney, Sean	Rosen	Vela
Kilmer	Panetta	Thompson (MS)	Duncan (TN)	Latta	Sessions	Massie	Roybal-Allard	Velázquez
Kind	Pascrell	Titus	Dunn	Lewis (MN)	Shimkus	Matsui	Ruiz	Visclosky
Krishnamoorthi	Payne	Tonko	Emmer	LoBiondo	Shuster	McColum	Ruppersberger	Walz
Kuster (NH)	Pelosi	Torres	Estes (KS)	Long	Simpson	McEachin	Rush	Wasserman
Langevin	Perlmutter	Tsongas	Farenthold	Loudermilk	Smith (MO)	McGovern	Ryan (OH)	Schultz
Larsen (WA)	Peters	Vargas	Faso	Love	Sinema	McNerney	Sánchez	Waters, Maxine
Larson (CT)	Peterson	Veasey	Ferguson	Lucas	Smith (NE)	Meeks	Sarbanes	Watson Coleman
Lawrence	Pingree	Vela	Fitzpatrick	MacArthur	Smith (NJ)	Meng	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Lawson (FL)	Pocan	Velázquez	Fleischmann	Marchant	Smith (TX)	Schiff	Schiff	Yarmuth
Lee	Polis	Visclosky	Flores	Marino	Smucker			
Levin	Price (NC)	Walz	Fortenberry	Marshall	Stefanik			
Lewis (GA)	Quigley	Wasserman	Fox	Mast	Stewart	Blumenauer	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce
Lieu, Ted	Raskin	Schultz	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy	Stivers	Cárdenas	Kennedy	Tenney
Lipinski	Rice (NY)	Waters, Maxine	Goetz	McCaul	Taylor	Courtney	Luetkemeyer	Welch
Loeb sack	Richmond	Watson Coleman	Gallagher	McHenry	Thompson (PA)	Cummings	McClintock	
Lofgren	Rosen	Welch	Garrett	McKinley	Thornberry			
Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)	Gianforte	McMorris	Tipton			
Lowey	Ruiz	Yarmuth	Gibbs	Rodgers	Trott			
			Gohmert	McSally	Turner			
			Goodlatte	Meadows	Upton			
			Gosar	Meehan	Valadao			
			Gottheimer	Messer	Wagner			
			Gowdy	Mitchell	Walberg			
			Granger	Moolenaar	Walden			
			Graves (GA)	Mooney (WV)	Walker			
			Graves (LA)	Mullin	Walorski			
			Graves (MO)	Murphy (FL)	Walters, Mimi			
			Griffith	Newhouse	Weber (TX)			
			Grothman	Noem	Webster (FL)			
			Guthrie	Norman	Wenstrup			
			Handel	Nunes	Westerman			
			Harper	Olson	Williams			
			Harris	Palazzo	Wilson (SC)			
			Hartzler	Palmer	Wittman			
			Hensarling	Paulsen	Womack			
			Herrera Beutler	Perry	Woodall			
			Hice, Jody B.	Pittenger	Yoder			
			Higgins (LA)	Poe (TX)	Yoho			
			Hill	Poliquin	Young (AK)			
			Holding	Posey	Young (IA)			
			Hollingsworth	Ratcliffe	Zeldin			
			Hudson	Reed				
			Huizenga	Reichert				

NOT VOTING—11

Blumenauer	Curbelo (FL)	McClintock
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce
Courtney	Kennedy	Tenney
Cummings	Luetkemeyer	

□ 1343

Ms. WILSON of Florida, Messrs. GARAMENDI and WELCH changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 045, "yea" on rollcall No. 046, and "yea" on rollcall No. 047.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 236, noes 183, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 48]

AYES—236

Abraham	Biggs	Brooks (IN)
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Buchanan
Allen	Bishop (MI)	Buck
Amodei	Bishop (UT)	Bucshon
Arrington	Black	Budd
Babin	Blackburn	Burgess
Bacon	Blum	Byrne
Banks (IN)	Bost	Calvert
Barletta	Brady (TX)	Carter (GA)
Barr	Brat	Carter (TX)
Barton	Bridenstine	Chabot
Bergman	Brooks (AL)	Cheney

Adams	Cleaver	Foster
Aguilar	Clyburn	Frankel (FL)
Amash	Cohen	Fudge
Barragán	Connolly	Gabbard
Bass	Cooper	Gallego
Beatty	Correa	Garamendi
Bera	Costa	Gomez
Beyer	Crowley	Gonzalez (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Green, Al
Blunt Rochester	Davis (CA)	Green, Gene
Bonamici	Davis, Danny	Grijalva
Boyle, Brendan	DeFazio	Gutiérrez
F.	DeGette	Hanabusa
Brady (PA)	Delaney	Hastings
Brown (MD)	DeLauro	Heck
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Higgins (NY)
Bustos	Demings	Himes
Butterfield	DeSaulnier	Hoyer
Capuano	Deutch	Huffman
Buck	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Carbajal	Doggett	Jayapal
Carter (IN)	Doyle, Michael	Jeffries
Cartwright	F.	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Ellison	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Engel	Keating
Chu, Judy	Eshoo	Kelly (IL)
Cicilline	Españolat	Khanna
Clark (MA)	Esty (CT)	Kihuen
Clarke (NY)	Evans	Kildee
Clay		

NOES—183

Foster	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce
Frankel (FL)	Kennedy	Tenney
Fudge	Luetkemeyer	Welch
Gabbard	McClintock	
Gallego		
Garamendi		
Gomez		
Gonzalez (TX)		
Green, Al		
Green, Gene		
Grijalva		
Gutiérrez		
Hanabusa		
Hastings		
Heck		
Higgins (NY)		
Himes		
Hoyer		
Huffman		
Jackson Lee		
Jayapal		
Jeffries		
Johnson (GA)		
Kaptur		
Keating		
Kelly (IL)		
Khanna		
Kihuen		
Kildee		

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1098

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1098, a bill originally introduced by Representative TIBERI of Ohio, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

CHILD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2017

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

NOT VOTING—11

Blumenauer	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce
Cárdenas	Kennedy	Tenney
Courtney	Luetkemeyer	Welch
Cummings	McClintock	

□ 1352

Mr. MARCHANT changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 48.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 47 and "yea" on rollcall No. 48.

There was no objection.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 714, I call up the bill (H.R. 695) to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendments.

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AND CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW PROGRAM.

The National Child Protection Act of 1993 (34 U.S.C. 40101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3 (34 U.S.C. 40102)—

(A) by striking “provider” each place it appears and inserting “covered individual”;

(B) by striking “provider’s” each place it appears and inserting “covered individual’s”;

(C) by amending subsection (a)(3) to read as follows:

“(3)(A) The Attorney General shall establish a program, in accordance with this section, to provide qualified entities located in States that do not have in effect procedures described in paragraph (1), or qualified entities located in States that do not prohibit the use of the program established under this paragraph, with access to national criminal history background checks on, and criminal history reviews of, covered individuals.

“(B) A qualified entity described in subparagraph (A) may submit to the appropriate designated entity a request for a national criminal history background check on, and a criminal history review of, a covered individual. Qualified entities making a request under this paragraph shall comply with the guidelines set forth in subsection (b), and with any additional applicable procedures set forth by the Attorney General or by the State in which the entity is located.”;

(D) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking “unsupervised”;

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

“(2)(A) that the State, or in a State that does not have in effect procedures described in subsection (a)(1), the designated entity, ensures that—

“(i) each covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is entitled to obtain a copy of any background check report;

“(ii) each covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is provided a process by which the covered individual may appeal the results of the background check to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the background report of the covered individual; and

“(iii)(I) each covered individual described in clause (ii) is given notice of the opportunity to appeal;

“(II) each covered individual described in clause (ii) will receive instructions on how to complete the appeals process if the covered individual wishes to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the

background report of the covered individual; and

“(III) the appeals process is completed in a timely manner for each covered individual described in clause (ii); and

“(B) the State, or in a State that does not have in effect procedures described in subsection (a)(1), the designated entity, may allow for a review process—

“(i) through which the State or designated entity, as the case may be, may determine that a covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is disqualified for a crime specified in subsection (f)(2)(C); and

“(ii) which shall be consistent with title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.);”;

(iii) in paragraph (3), by inserting after “authorized agency” the following: “or designated entity, as applicable,”; and

(iv) in paragraph (4), by inserting after “authorized agency” the following: “or designated entity, as applicable,”;

(E) in subsection (d), by inserting after “officer or employee thereof,” the following: “, nor shall any designated entity nor any officer or employee thereof,”;

(F) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) FEES.—

“(1) STATE PROGRAM.—In the case of a background check conducted pursuant to a State requirement adopted after December 20, 1993, conducted with fingerprints on a covered individual, the fees collected by authorized State agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may not exceed the actual cost of the background check conducted with fingerprints.

“(2) FEDERAL PROGRAM.—In the case of a national criminal history background check and criminal history review conducted pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the fees collected by a designated entity shall be set at a level that will ensure the recovery of the full costs of providing all such services. The designated entity shall remit the appropriate portion of such fee to the Attorney General, which amount is in accordance with the amount published in the Federal Register to be collected for the provision of a criminal history background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(3) ENSURING FEES DO NOT DISCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS.—A fee system under this subsection shall be established in a manner that ensures that fees to qualified entities for background checks do not discourage volunteers from participating in programs to care for children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. A fee charged to a qualified entity that is not organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 may not be less than the total sum of the costs of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the designated entity.”; and

(G) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AND CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW PROGRAM.—

“(1) NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK.—Upon a designated entity receiving notice of a request submitted by a qualified entity pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the designated entity shall forward the request to the Attorney General, who shall, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, complete a fingerprint-based check of the national criminal history background check system, and provide the information received in response to such national criminal history background check to the appropriate designated entity. The designated entity may, upon request from a qualified entity, complete a check of a State criminal history database.

“(2) CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW.—

“(A) DESIGNATED ENTITIES.—The Attorney General shall designate, and enter into an

agreement with, one or more entities to make determinations described in paragraph (2). The Attorney General may not designate and enter into an agreement with a Federal agency under this subparagraph.

“(B) DETERMINATIONS.—A designated entity shall, upon the receipt of the information described in paragraph (1), make a determination of fitness described in subsection (b)(4), using the criteria described in subparagraph (C).

“(C) CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW CRITERIA.—A covered individual may be determined to be unfit under subsection (b)(4) if the covered individual—

“(i) refuses to consent to a criminal background check under this section;

“(ii) knowingly makes a materially false statement in connection with a criminal background check under this section;

“(iii) is registered, or is required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry or repository or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.);

“(iv) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

“(I) murder, as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code;

“(II) child abuse or neglect;

“(III) a crime against children, including child pornography;

“(IV) spousal abuse;

“(V) a crime involving rape or sexual assault;

“(VI) kidnapping;

“(VII) arson;

“(VIII) physical assault or battery; or

“(IX) a drug-related offense committed during the preceding 5 years;

“(v) has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor committed as an adult against a child, including—

“(I) child abuse;

“(II) child endangerment;

“(III) sexual assault; or

“(IV) of a misdemeanor involving child pornography; or

“(vi) in the case of a covered individual who has, seeks to have, or may have access to the elderly or individuals with disabilities, has been convicted of any criminal offense relating to the abuse, exploitation, or neglect (as those terms are defined in section 2011 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397j)) of an elder or an individual with disabilities.”; and

(2) in section 5 (34 U.S.C. 40104)—

(A) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:

“(9) the term ‘covered individual’ means an individual—

“(A) who has, seeks to have, or may have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, served by a qualified entity; and

“(B) who—

“(i) is employed by or volunteers with, or seeks to be employed by or volunteer with, a qualified entity; or

“(ii) owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate, a qualified entity.”;

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) the term ‘designated entity’ means an entity designated by the Attorney General under section 3(f)(2)(A).”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be fully implemented by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain

individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.”.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Ms. Granger moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the title of H.R. 695 and that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the text of H.R. 695 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–56.

The text of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the text is as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate, insert the following:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, for military functions administered by the Department of Defense and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Army on active duty (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$41,427,054,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Navy on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere), midshipmen, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$28,707,918,000 (reduced by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000).

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Marine Corps on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere); and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$13,165,714,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for

members of the Air Force on active duty (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$28,738,320,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10302, and 3038 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$4,721,128,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Navy Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$1,987,662,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Marine Corps Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and for members of the Marine Corps platoon leaders class, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$762,793,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air Force Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10305, and 8038 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$1,808,434,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army National Guard while on duty under sections 10211, 10302, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while per-

forming drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$8,252,426,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air National Guard on duty under sections 10211, 10305, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$3,406,137,000.

TITLE II

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Army, as authorized by law, \$38,483,846,000 (reduced by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,600,000) (reduced by \$6,000,000): *Provided*, That not to exceed \$12,478,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Army, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, \$45,980,133,000 (reduced by \$598,000) (reduced by \$7,000,000): *Provided*, That not to exceed \$15,055,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, \$6,885,884,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Air Force, as authorized by law, \$38,592,745,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$7,699,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Air Force, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as authorized by law, \$33,771,769,000 (increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$100,000) (increased by \$100,000) (reduced by \$194,897,000) (increased by \$194,897,000) (reduced by \$26,200,000) (reduced by \$20,000,000) (reduced by \$6,000,000) (reduced by \$4,000,000) (reduced by \$20,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$2,500,000) (reduced by \$2,000,000) (reduced by \$8,000,000) (reduced by \$6,250,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$30,000,000) (reduced by \$34,734,000) (reduced by \$60,000,000): *Provided*, That not more than \$15,000,000 may be

used for the Combatant Commander Initiative Fund authorized under section 166a of title 10, United States Code: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$36,000,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of Defense, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than \$38,458,000 shall be made available for the Procurement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, of which not less than \$3,600,000 shall be available for centers defined in 10 U.S.C. 2411(1)(D): *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to plan or implement the consolidation of a budget or appropriations liaison office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the office of the Secretary of a military department, or the service headquarters of one of the Armed Forces into a legislative affairs or legislative liaison office: *Provided further*, That \$9,385,000, to remain available until expended, is available only for expenses relating to certain classified activities, and may be transferred as necessary by the Secretary of Defense to operation and maintenance appropriations or research, development, test and evaluation appropriations, to be merged with and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That any ceiling on the investment item unit cost of items that may be purchased with operation and maintenance funds shall not apply to the funds described in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$415,000,000, of which \$100,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be available to provide support and assistance to foreign security forces or other groups or individuals to conduct, support or facilitate counterterrorism, crisis response, or other Department of Defense security cooperation programs: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Army Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$2,870,163,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Navy Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$1,038,507,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Marine Corps Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$282,337,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance,

including training, organization, and administration, of the Air Force Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$3,233,745,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Army National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; hire of passenger motor vehicles; personnel services in the National Guard Bureau; travel expenses (other than mileage), as authorized by law for Army personnel on active duty, for Army National Guard division, regimental, and battalion commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau; supplying and equipping the Army National Guard as authorized by law; and expenses of repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment (including aircraft), \$7,275,820,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Air National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; transportation of things, hire of passenger motor vehicles; supplying and equipping the Air National Guard, as authorized by law; expenses for repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment, including those furnished from stocks under the control of agencies of the Department of Defense; travel expenses (other than mileage) on the same basis as authorized by law for Air National Guard personnel on active Federal duty, for Air National Guard commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, \$6,735,930,000.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES

For salaries and expenses necessary for the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, \$14,538,000, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official representation purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, ARMY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Army, \$215,809,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Army, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Navy, \$288,915,000 (increased by \$34,734,000) (increased by \$30,000,000), to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Navy, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Navy, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AIR FORCE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Air Force, \$308,749,000 (increased by \$30,000,000), to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Air Force shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Air Force, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Air Force, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of Defense, \$9,002,000 (increased by \$10,000,000), to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of Defense, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of Defense, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Army, \$233,673,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the

Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris at sites formerly used by the Department of Defense, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, AND CIVIC AID

For expenses relating to the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid programs of the Department of Defense (consisting of the programs provided under sections 401, 402, 404, 407, 2557, and 2561 of title 10, United States Code), \$107,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ACCOUNT

For assistance, including assistance provided by contract or by grants, under programs and activities of the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program authorized under the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Act, \$324,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$5,000,000,000, for the "Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund": *Provided*, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: *Provided further*, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: *Provided further*, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to operation and maintenance accounts: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

TITLE III
PROCUREMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary

therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$4,456,533,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of missiles, equipment, including ordnance, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$2,581,600,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of weapons and tracked combat vehicles, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$3,556,175,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$1,811,808,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of vehicles, including tactical, support, and non-tracked combat vehicles; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; communications and electronic equipment; other support equipment; spare parts, ordnance, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private

plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$6,356,044,000 (increased by \$30,000,000), to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$17,908,270,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of missiles, torpedoes, other weapons, and related support equipment including spare parts, and accessories therefor; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$3,387,826,000 (increased by \$26,200,000), to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$735,651,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for the construction, acquisition, or conversion of vessels as authorized by law, including armor and armament thereof, plant equipment, appliances, and machine tools and installation thereof in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; procurement of critical, long lead time components and designs for vessels to be constructed or converted in the future; and expansion of public and private plants, including land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title, as follows:

Ohio Replacement Submarine (AP),	
\$842,853,000;	
Carrier Replacement Program,	
\$1,869,646,000;	
Carrier Replacement Program (AP),	
\$2,561,058,000;	
Virginia Class Submarine, \$3,305,315,000;	
Virginia Class Submarine (AP),	
\$1,920,596,000;	
CVN Refueling Overhauls, \$1,569,669,000;	
CVN Refueling Overhauls (AP), \$75,897,000;	

DDG-1000 Program, \$164,976,000;
 DDG-51 Destroyer, \$3,499,079,000;
 DDG-51 Destroyer (AP), \$90,336,000;
 Littoral Combat Ship, \$1,566,971,000;
 Expeditionary Sea Base, \$635,000,000;
 LHA Replacement, \$1,695,077,000;
 TAO Fleet Oiler, \$449,415,000;
 TAO Fleet Oiler (AP), \$75,068,000;
 Ship to Shore Connector, \$390,554,000;
 Service Craft, \$23,994,000;
 Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship,
 \$76,204,000;
 LCU 1700, \$31,850,000;

For outfitting, post delivery, conversions,
 and first destination transportation,
 \$542,626,000; and

Completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding
 Programs, \$117,542,000.

In all: \$21,503,726,000, to remain available
 for obligation until September 30, 2022: *Pro-
 vided*. That additional obligations may be in-
 curred after September 30, 2022, for engineer-
 ing services, tests, evaluations, and other
 such budgeted work that must be performed
 in the final stage of ship construction: *Pro-
 vided further*. That none of the funds provided
 under this heading for the construction or
 conversion of any naval vessel to be con-
 structed in shipyards in the United States
 shall be expended in foreign facilities for the
 construction of major components of such
 vessel: *Provided further*. That none of the
 funds provided under this heading shall be
 used for the construction of any naval vessel
 in foreign shipyards: *Provided further*. That
 funds appropriated or otherwise made avail-
 able by this Act for production of the com-
 mon missile compartment of nuclear-pow-
 ered vessels may be available for multiyear
 procurement of critical components to sup-
 port continuous production of such compart-
 ments only in accordance with the provi-
 sions of subsection (i) of section 2218a of title
 10, United States Code (as added by section
 1023 of the National Defense Authorization
 Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-
 328)).

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For procurement, production, and mod-
 ernization of support equipment and materi-
 als not otherwise provided for, Navy ord-
 nance (except ordnance for new aircraft, new
 ships, and ships authorized for conversion);
 the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for
 replacement only; expansion of public and
 private plants, including the land necessary
 therefor, and such lands and interests there-
 in, may be acquired, and construction prose-
 cuted thereon prior to approval of title; and
 procurement and installation of equipment,
 appliances, and machine tools in public and
 private plants; reserve plant and Govern-
 ment and contractor-owned equipment lay-
 away, \$7,852,952,000, to remain available for
 obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For expenses necessary for the procure-
 ment, manufacture, and modification of mis-
 siles, armament, military equipment, spare
 parts, and accessories therefor; plant equip-
 ment, appliances, and machine tools, and in-
 stallation thereof in public and private
 plants; reserve plant and Government and
 contractor-owned equipment layaway; vehi-
 cles for the Marine Corps, including the pur-
 chase of passenger motor vehicles for re-
 placement only; and expansion of public and
 private plants, including land necessary
 therefor, and such lands and interests there-
 in, may be acquired, and construction prose-
 cuted thereon prior to approval of title,
 \$1,818,846,000 (increased by \$20,000,000), to re-
 main available for obligation until Sep-
 tember 30, 2020.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modi-
 fication of aircraft and equipment, including

armor and armament, specialized ground
 handling equipment, and training devices,
 spare parts, and accessories therefor; special-
 ized equipment; expansion of public and pri-
 vate plants, Government-owned equipment
 and installation thereof in such plants, erec-
 tion of structures, and acquisition of land,
 for the foregoing purposes, and such lands
 and interests therein, may be acquired, and
 construction prosecuted thereon prior to ap-
 proval of title; reserve plant and Govern-
 ment and contractor-owned equipment lay-
 away; and other expenses necessary for the
 foregoing purposes including rents and trans-
 portation of things, \$16,553,196,000 (increased
 by \$16,000,000), to remain available for obli-
 gation until September 30, 2020.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modi-
 fication of missiles, rockets, and related
 equipment, including spare parts and acces-
 sories therefor; ground handling equipment,
 and training devices; expansion of public and
 private plants, Government-owned equip-
 ment and installation thereof in such plants,
 erection of structures, and acquisition of
 land, for the foregoing purposes, and such
 lands and interests therein, may be acquired,
 and construction prosecuted thereon prior to
 approval of title; reserve plant and Govern-
 ment and contractor-owned equipment lay-
 away; and other expenses necessary for the
 foregoing purposes including rents and trans-
 portation of things, \$2,203,101,000, to remain
 available for obligation until September 30,
 2020.

SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modi-
 fication of spacecraft, rockets, and related
 equipment, including spare parts and acces-
 sories therefor; ground handling equipment,
 and training devices; expansion of public and
 private plants, Government-owned equip-
 ment and installation thereof in such plants,
 erection of structures, and acquisition of
 land, for the foregoing purposes, and such
 lands and interests therein, may be acquired,
 and construction prosecuted thereon prior to
 approval of title; reserve plant and Govern-
 ment and contractor-owned equipment lay-
 away; and other expenses necessary for the
 foregoing purposes including rents and trans-
 portation of things, \$3,210,355,000, to remain
 available for obligation until September 30,
 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, produc-
 tion, and modification of ammunition, and
 accessories therefor; specialized equipment
 and training devices; expansion of public and
 private plants, including ammunition facili-
 ties, authorized by section 2854 of title 10,
 United States Code, and the land necessary
 therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and
 such lands and interests therein, may be ac-
 quired, and construction prosecuted thereon
 prior to approval of title; and procurement
 and installation of equipment, appliances,
 and machine tools in public and private
 plants; reserve plant and Government and
 contractor-owned equipment layaway; and
 other expenses necessary for the foregoing
 purposes, \$1,316,977,000, to remain avail-
 able for obligation until September 30, 2020.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For procurement and modification of
 equipment (including ground guidance and
 electronic control equipment, and ground
 electronic and communication equipment),
 and supplies, materials, and spare parts
 therefor, not otherwise provided for; the pur-
 chase of passenger motor vehicles for re-
 placement only; lease of passenger motor ve-
 hicles; and expansion of public and private
 plants, Government-owned equipment and
 installation thereof in such plants, erection

of structures, and acquisition of land, for the
 foregoing purposes, and such lands and inter-
 ests therein, may be acquired, and construc-
 tion prosecuted thereon, prior to approval of
 title; reserve plant and Government and con-
 tractor-owned equipment layaway,
 \$19,318,814,000, to remain available for obli-
 gation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of activities and agencies of
 the Department of Defense (other than the
 military departments) necessary for procure-
 ment, production, and modification of equip-
 ment, supplies, materials, and spare parts
 therefor, not otherwise provided for; the pur-
 chase of passenger motor vehicles for re-
 placement only; expansion of public and pri-
 vate plants, equipment, and installation
 thereof in such plants, erection of struc-
 tures, and acquisition of land for the fore-
 going purposes, and such lands and interests
 therein, may be acquired, and construction
 prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title;
 reserve plant and Government and con-
 tractor-owned equipment layaway,
 \$5,239,239,000 (reduced by \$10,000,000), to re-
 main available for obligation until Sep-
 tember 30, 2020.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For activities by the Department of De-
 fense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and
 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50
 U.S.C. 4518, 4531, 4532, and 4533), \$67,401,000,
 to remain available until expended.

PROCUREMENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere
 in this Act, there is appropriated
 \$12,622,931,000, for the "Procurement, Na-
 tional Defense Restoration Fund": *Provided*,
 That such funds provided under this heading
 shall only be available for programs, projects
 and activities necessary to implement the
 2018 National Defense Strategy: *Provided fur-
 ther*, That such funds shall not be available
 for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary
 has submitted, and the congressional defense
 committees have approved, the proposed al-
 location plan for the use of such funds to im-
 plement such strategy: *Provided further*, That
 such allocation plan shall include a detailed
 justification for the use of such funds and a
 description of how such investments are nec-
 essary to implement the strategy: *Provided fur-
 ther*, That the Secretary of Defense may
 transfer these funds only to procurement ac-
 counts: *Provided further*, That the funds
 transferred shall be merged with and shall be
 available for the same purposes and for the
 same time period, as the appropriation to
 which transferred: *Provided further*, That
 none of the funds made available under this
 heading may be transferred to any program,
 project, or activity specifically limited or
 denied by this Act, except for missile defense
 requirements resulting from urgent or emer-
 gent operational needs: *Provided further*,
 That the transfer authority provided under
 this heading is in addition to any other
 transfer authority available to the Depart-
 ment of Defense.

TITLE IV

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For expenses necessary for basic and ap-
 plied scientific research, development, test
 and evaluation, including maintenance, re-
 habilitation, lease, and operation of facili-
 ties and equipment, \$9,674,222,000 (increased
 by \$6,000,000) (increased by \$4,000,000) (in-
 creased by \$12,000,000) (increased by
 \$5,000,000), to remain available for obli-
 gation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND
EVALUATION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$17,196,521,000 (increased by \$598,000) (increased by \$20,000,000) (reduced by \$2,500,000) (increased by \$24,000,000), to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph which are available for the V-22 may be used to meet unique operational requirements of the Special Operations Forces.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND
EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$33,874,980,000 (increased by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$6,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$30,000,000) (increased by \$30,000,000), to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND
EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation; advanced research projects as may be designated and determined by the Secretary of Defense, pursuant to law; maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$20,698,353,000 (reduced by \$16,000,000) (reduced by \$12,000,000) (reduced by \$2,500,000) (reduced by \$12,500,000) (increased by \$20,000,000) (reduced by \$20,000,000) (reduced by \$4,135,000) (increased by \$4,135,000) (reduced by \$27,500,000) (increased by \$10,000,000), to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That, of the funds made available in this paragraph, \$250,000,000 for the Defense Rapid Innovation Program shall only be available for expenses, not otherwise provided for, to include program management and oversight, to conduct research, development, test and evaluation to include proof of concept demonstration; engineering, testing, and validation; and transition to full-scale production: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer funds provided herein for the Defense Rapid Innovation Program to appropriations for research, development, test and evaluation to accomplish the purpose provided herein: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 30 days prior to making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer.

OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION,
DEFENSE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the independent activities of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, in the direction and supervision of operational test and evaluation, including initial operational test and evaluation which is conducted prior to, and in support of, production decisions; joint operational testing and evaluation; and administrative expenses in connection therewith, \$210,900,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUA-
TION, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION
FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$1,000,000,000, for the "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, National Defense Restoration Fund": *Provided*, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: *Provided further*, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: *Provided further*, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to research, development, test and evaluation accounts: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act, except for missile defense requirements resulting from urgent or emergent operational needs: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

TITLE V

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS
DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For the Defense Working Capital Funds, \$1,586,596,000.

TITLE VI

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
PROGRAMS
DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, for medical and health care programs of the Department of Defense as authorized by law, \$33,931,566,000 (increased by \$7,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000); of which \$31,735,923,000 (increased by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000) shall be for operation and maintenance, of which not to exceed one percent shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019, and of which up to \$15,349,700,000 may be available for contracts entered into under the TRICARE program; of which \$895,328,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020, shall be for procurement; and of which \$1,300,315,000 (increased by \$7,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000), to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the amount made available under this heading for research, development, test and evaluation, not less than \$8,000,000 shall be available for HIV prevention educational activities undertaken in connection with United States military training, exercises, and humanitarian assistance activities conducted primarily in African nations: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this

heading for research, development, test and evaluation, not less than \$627,100,000 shall be made available to the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command to carry out the congressionally directed medical research programs.

CHEMICAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS
DESTRUCTION, DEFENSE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with the provisions of section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521), and for the destruction of other chemical warfare materials that are not in the chemical weapon stockpile, \$961,732,000, of which \$104,237,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which no less than \$49,401,000 shall be for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, consisting of \$21,045,000 for activities on military installations and \$28,356,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, to assist State and local governments; \$18,081,000 shall be for procurement, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which \$18,081,000 shall be for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program to assist State and local governments; and \$839,414,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation, of which \$750,700,000 shall only be for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG
ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For drug interdiction and counter-drug activities of the Department of Defense, for transfer to appropriations available to the Department of Defense for military personnel of the reserve components serving under the provisions of title 10 and title 32, United States Code; for operation and maintenance; for procurement; and for research, development, test and evaluation, \$854,814,000, of which \$532,648,000 shall be for counter-narcotics support; \$120,813,000 shall be for the drug demand reduction program; and \$201,353,000 shall be for the National Guard counter-drug program: *Provided*, That the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for obligation for the same time period and for the same purpose as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority contained elsewhere in this Act.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses and activities of the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$336,887,000, of which \$334,087,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$700,000 is available for emergencies and extraordinary expenses to be expended on the approval or authority of the Inspector General, and payments may be made on the Inspector General's certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes; and of which \$2,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation.

TITLE VII

RELATED AGENCIES

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT
AND DISABILITY SYSTEM FUND

For payment to the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System

Fund, to maintain the proper funding level for continuing the operation of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, \$514,000,000.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses of the Intelligence Community Management Account, \$522,100,000.

TITLE VIII
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 8001. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 8002. During the current fiscal year, provisions of law prohibiting the payment of compensation to, or employment of, any person not a citizen of the United States shall not apply to personnel of the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That salary increases granted to direct and indirect hire foreign national employees of the Department of Defense funded by this Act shall not be at a rate in excess of the percentage increase authorized by law for civilian employees of the Department of Defense whose pay is computed under the provisions of section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, or at a rate in excess of the percentage increase provided by the appropriate host nation to its own employees, whichever is higher: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to Department of Defense foreign service national employees serving at United States diplomatic missions whose pay is set by the Department of State under the Foreign Service Act of 1980: *Provided further*, That the limitations of this provision shall not apply to foreign national employees of the Department of Defense in the Republic of Turkey.

SEC. 8003. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 8004. No more than 20 percent of the appropriations in this Act which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last 2 months of the fiscal year: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to obligations for support of active duty training of reserve components or summer camp training of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8005. Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, he may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed \$4,500,000,000 of working capital funds of the Department of Defense or funds made available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military functions (except military construction) between such appropriations or funds or any subdivision thereof, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to this authority or any other authority in this Act: *Provided further*, That no part of the funds in this Act shall be available to prepare or present a request to the Committees on Appropriations for reprogramming of funds, unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements, than those for which originally

appropriated and in no case where the item for which reprogramming is requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That a request for multiple reprogrammings of funds using authority provided in this section shall be made prior to June 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That transfers among military personnel appropriations shall not be taken into account for purposes of the limitation on the amount of funds that may be transferred under this section.

SEC. 8006. (a) With regard to the list of specific programs, projects, and activities (and the dollar amounts and adjustments to budget activities corresponding to such programs, projects, and activities) contained in the tables titled Explanation of Project Level Adjustments in the explanatory statement regarding this Act, the obligation and expenditure of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for those programs, projects, and activities for which the amounts appropriated exceed the amounts requested are hereby required by law to be carried out in the manner provided by such tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of this Act.

(b) Amounts specified in the referenced tables described in subsection (a) shall not be treated as subdivisions of appropriations for purposes of section 8005 of this Act: *Provided*, That section 8005 shall apply when transfers of the amounts described in subsection (a) occur between appropriation accounts.

SEC. 8007. (a) Not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Department of Defense shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2018: *Provided*, That the report shall include—

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation both by budget activity and program, project, and activity as detailed in the Budget Appendix; and

(3) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

(b) Notwithstanding section 8005 of this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for reprogramming or transfer until the report identified in subsection (a) is submitted to the congressional defense committees, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that such reprogramming or transfer is necessary as an emergency requirement: *Provided*, That this subsection shall not apply to transfers from the following appropriations accounts:

- (1) "Environmental Restoration, Army";
- (2) "Environmental Restoration, Navy";
- (3) "Environmental Restoration, Air Force";
- (4) "Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide";
- (5) "Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites"; and
- (6) "Drug Interdiction and Counter-drug Activities, Defense".

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8008. During the current fiscal year, cash balances in working capital funds of the Department of Defense established pursuant to section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, may be maintained in only such amounts as are necessary at any time for cash disbursements to be made from such funds: *Provided*, That transfers may be made between such funds: *Provided further*, That transfers may be made between working cap-

ital funds and the "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Defense" appropriation and the "Operation and Maintenance" appropriation accounts in such amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, except that such transfers may not be made unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress of the proposed transfer: *Provided further*, That except in amounts equal to the amounts appropriated to working capital funds in this Act, no obligations may be made against a working capital fund to procure or increase the value of war reserve material inventory, unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress prior to any such obligation.

SEC. 8009. Funds appropriated by this Act may not be used to initiate a special access program without prior notification 30 calendar days in advance to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8010. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available to initiate: (1) a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of \$20,000,000 in any one year of the contract or that includes an unfunded contingent liability in excess of \$20,000,000; or (2) a contract for advance procurement leading to a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of \$20,000,000 in any one year, unless the congressional defense committees have been notified at least 30 days in advance of the proposed contract award: *Provided*, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate a multiyear contract for which the economic order quantity advance procurement is not funded at least to the limits of the Government's liability: *Provided further*, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate multiyear procurement contracts for any systems or component thereof if the value of the multiyear contract would exceed \$500,000,000 unless specifically provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That no multiyear procurement contract can be terminated without 30-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That the execution of multiyear authority shall require the use of a present value analysis to determine lowest cost compared to an annual procurement: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used for a multiyear contract executed after the date of the enactment of this Act unless in the case of any such contract—

(1) the Secretary of Defense has submitted to Congress a budget request for full funding of units to be procured through the contract and, in the case of a contract for procurement of aircraft, that includes, for any aircraft unit to be procured through the contract for which procurement funds are requested in that budget request for production beyond advance procurement activities in the fiscal year covered by the budget, full funding of procurement of such unit in that fiscal year;

(2) cancellation provisions in the contract do not include consideration of recurring manufacturing costs of the contractor associated with the production of unfunded units to be delivered under the contract;

(3) the contract provides that payments to the contractor under the contract shall not be made in advance of incurred costs on funded units; and

(4) the contract does not provide for a price adjustment based on a failure to award a follow-on contract.

Funds appropriated in title III of this Act may be used, subject to section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, for multiyear procurement contracts as follows: V-22 Osprey

aircraft variants; up to 13 SSN Virginia Class Submarines and Government-furnished equipment; and DDG-51 Arleigh Burke class Flight III guided missile destroyers, the MK 41 Vertical Launching Systems, and associated Government-furnished systems and sub-systems.

SEC. 8011. Within the funds appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the Armed Forces, funds are hereby appropriated pursuant to section 401 of title 10, United States Code, for humanitarian and civic assistance costs under chapter 20 of title 10, United States Code. Such funds may also be obligated for humanitarian and civic assistance costs incidental to authorized operations and pursuant to authority granted in section 401 of chapter 20 of title 10, United States Code, and these obligations shall be reported as required by section 401(d) of title 10, United States Code: *Provided*, That funds available for operation and maintenance shall be available for providing humanitarian and similar assistance by using Civic Action Teams in the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands and freely associated states of Micronesia, pursuant to the Compact of Free Association as authorized by Public Law 99-239: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Secretary of the Army that such action is beneficial for graduate medical education programs conducted at Army medical facilities located in Hawaii, the Secretary of the Army may authorize the provision of medical services at such facilities and transportation to such facilities, on a nonreimbursable basis, for civilian patients from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and Guam.

SEC. 8012. (a) During the current fiscal year, the civilian personnel of the Department of Defense may not be managed on the basis of any end-strength, and the management of such personnel during that fiscal year shall not be subject to any constraint or limitation (known as an end-strength) on the number of such personnel who may be employed on the last day of such fiscal year.

(b) The fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Department of Defense as well as all justification material and other documentation supporting the fiscal year 2019 Department of Defense budget request shall be prepared and submitted to the Congress as if subsections (a) and (b) of this provision were effective with regard to fiscal year 2019.

(c) As required by section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) civilian personnel at the Department of Army Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories may not be managed on the basis of the Table of Distribution and Allowances, and the management of the workforce strength shall be done in a manner consistent with the budget available with respect to such Laboratories.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to military (civilian) technicians.

SEC. 8013. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before the Congress.

SEC. 8014. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available for the basic pay and allowances of any member of the Army participating as a full-time student and receiving benefits paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from the Department of Defense Education Benefits Fund when time spent as a full-time student is credited toward completion of a service commitment: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to those members who have reenlisted with this

option prior to October 1, 1987: *Provided further*, That this section applies only to active components of the Army.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8015. Funds appropriated in title III of this Act for the Department of Defense Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program may be transferred to any other appropriation contained in this Act solely for the purpose of implementing a Mentor-Protégé Program developmental assistance agreement pursuant to section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note), as amended, under the authority of this provision or any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

SEC. 8016. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the purchase by the Department of Defense (and its departments and agencies) of welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain 4 inches in diameter and under unless the anchor and mooring chain are manufactured in the United States from components which are substantially manufactured in the United States: *Provided*, That for the purpose of this section, the term “manufactured” shall include cutting, heat treating, quality control, testing of chain and welding (including the forging and shot blasting process): *Provided further*, That for the purpose of this section substantially all of the components of anchor and mooring chain shall be considered to be produced or manufactured in the United States if the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured outside the United States: *Provided further*, That when adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis, the Secretary of the service responsible for the procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes.

SEC. 8017. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be used to demilitarize or dispose of M-1 Carbines, M-1 Garand rifles, M-14 rifles, .22 caliber rifles, .30 caliber rifles, or M-1911 pistols, or to demilitarize or destroy small arms ammunition or ammunition components that are not otherwise prohibited from commercial sale under Federal law, unless the small arms ammunition or ammunition components are certified by the Secretary of the Army or designee as unserviceable or unsafe for further use.

SEC. 8018. No more than \$500,000 of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used during a single fiscal year for any single relocation of an organization, unit, activity or function of the Department of Defense into or within the National Capital Region: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the congressional defense committees that such a relocation is required in the best interest of the Government.

SEC. 8019. Of the funds made available in this Act, \$20,000,000 shall be available for incentive payments authorized by section 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1544): *Provided*, That a prime contractor or a subcontractor at any tier that makes a subcontract award to any subcontractor or supplier as defined in section 1544 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business owned and controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221(9) of title 25, United States Code, shall be considered a contractor for the purposes of being allowed additional compensation under sec-

tion 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1544) whenever the prime contract or subcontract amount is over \$500,000 and involves the expenditure of funds appropriated by an Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense with respect to any fiscal year: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1906 of title 41, United States Code, this section shall be applicable to any Department of Defense acquisition of supplies or services, including any contract and any subcontract at any tier for acquisition of commercial items produced or manufactured, in whole or in part, by any subcontractor or supplier defined in section 1544 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business owned and controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221(9) of title 25, United States Code.

SEC. 8020. Funds appropriated by this Act for the Defense Media Activity shall not be used for any national or international political or psychological activities.

SEC. 8021. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Defense is authorized to incur obligations of not to exceed \$350,000,000 for purposes specified in section 2350j(c) of title 10, United States Code, in anticipation of receipt of contributions, only from the Government of Kuwait, under that section: *Provided*, That, upon receipt, such contributions from the Government of Kuwait shall be credited to the appropriations or fund which incurred such obligations.

SEC. 8022. (a) Of the funds made available in this Act, not less than \$43,100,000 shall be available for the Civil Air Patrol Corporation, of which—

(1) \$30,800,000 shall be available from “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force” to support Civil Air Patrol Corporation operation and maintenance, readiness, counter-drug activities, and drug demand reduction activities involving youth programs;

(2) \$10,600,000 shall be available from “Air-craft Procurement, Air Force”; and

(3) \$1,700,000 shall be available from “Other Procurement, Air Force” for vehicle procurement.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force should waive reimbursement for any funds used by the Civil Air Patrol for counter-drug activities in support of Federal, State, and local government agencies.

SEC. 8023. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act are available to establish a new Department of Defense (department) federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), either as a new entity, or as a separate entity administered by an organization managing another FFRDC, or as a nonprofit membership corporation consisting of a consortium of other FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities.

(b) No member of a Board of Directors, Trustees, Overseers, Advisory Group, Special Issues Panel, Visiting Committee, or any similar entity of a defense FFRDC, and no paid consultant to any defense FFRDC, except when acting in a technical advisory capacity, may be compensated for his or her services as a member of such entity, or as a paid consultant by more than one FFRDC in a fiscal year: *Provided*, That a member of any such entity referred to previously in this subsection shall be allowed travel expenses and per diem as authorized under the Federal Joint Travel Regulations, when engaged in the performance of membership duties.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds available to the department from any source during the current fiscal year may be used by a defense FFRDC, through a fee or other payment mechanism, for construction of new buildings not located on a military installation, for payment of cost sharing for projects funded by Government grants, for absorption of contract overruns, or for certain charitable contributions,

not to include employee participation in community service and/or development.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the funds available to the department during fiscal year 2018, not more than 6,000 staff years of technical effort (staff years) may be funded for defense FFRDCs: *Provided*, That, of the specific amount referred to previously in this subsection, not more than 1,180 staff years may be funded for the defense studies and analysis FFRDCs: *Provided further*, That this subsection shall not apply to staff years funded in the National Intelligence Program (NIP) and the Military Intelligence Program (MIP).

(e) The Secretary of Defense shall, with the submission of the department's fiscal year 2019 budget request, submit a report presenting the specific amounts of staff years of technical effort to be allocated for each defense FFRDC during that fiscal year and the associated budget estimates.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount appropriated in this Act for FFRDCs is hereby reduced by \$210,000,000.

SEC. 8024. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to procure carbon, alloy, or armor steel plate for use in any Government-owned facility or property under the control of the Department of Defense which were not melted and rolled in the United States or Canada: *Provided*, That these procurement restrictions shall apply to any and all Federal Supply Class 9515, American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) or American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) specifications of carbon, alloy or armor steel plate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for the procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That these restrictions shall not apply to contracts which are in being as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8025. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives, the Armed Services Committee of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8026. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Defense may acquire the modification, depot maintenance and repair of aircraft, vehicles and vessels as well as the production of components and other Defense-related articles, through competition between Department of Defense depot maintenance activities and private firms: *Provided*, That the Senior Acquisition Executive of the military department or Defense Agency concerned, with power of delegation, shall certify that successful bids include comparable estimates of all direct and indirect costs for both public and private bids: *Provided further*, That Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 shall not apply to competitions conducted under this section.

SEC. 8027. (a)(1) If the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the United States Trade Representative, determines that a foreign country which is party to an agreement described in paragraph (2) has violated the terms of the agreement by discriminating against certain types of products produced in the United States that are covered by the

agreement, the Secretary of Defense shall rescind the Secretary's blanket waiver of the Buy American Act with respect to such types of products produced in that foreign country.

(2) An agreement referred to in paragraph (1) is any reciprocal defense procurement memorandum of understanding, between the United States and a foreign country pursuant to which the Secretary of Defense has prospectively waived the Buy American Act for certain products in that country.

(b) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congress a report on the amount of Department of Defense purchases from foreign entities in fiscal year 2018. Such report shall separately indicate the dollar value of items for which the Buy American Act was waived pursuant to any agreement described in subsection (a)(2), the Trade Agreement Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), or any international agreement to which the United States is a party.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term Buy American Act means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 8028. During the current fiscal year, amounts contained in the Department of Defense Overseas Military Facility Investment Recovery Account established by section 2921(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) shall be available until expended for the payments specified by section 2921(c)(2) of that Act.

SEC. 8029. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Air Force may convey at no cost to the Air Force, without consideration, to Indian tribes located in the States of Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington relocatable military housing units located at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and Minot Air Force Base that are excess to the needs of the Air Force.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force shall convey, at no cost to the Air Force, military housing units under subsection (a) in accordance with the request for such units that are submitted to the Secretary by the Operation Walking Shield Program on behalf of Indian tribes located in the States of Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington. Any such conveyance shall be subject to the condition that the housing units shall be removed within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) The Operation Walking Shield Program shall resolve any conflicts among requests of Indian tribes for housing units under subsection (a) before submitting requests to the Secretary of the Air Force under subsection (b).

(d) In this section, the term Indian tribe means any recognized Indian tribe included on the current list published by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-454; 108 Stat. 4792; 25 U.S.C. 479a-1).

SEC. 8030. During the current fiscal year, appropriations which are available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to purchase items having an investment item unit cost of not more than \$250,000.

SEC. 8031. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) disestablish, or prepare to disestablish, a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction Number 1215.08, dated June 26, 2006; or

(2) close, downgrade from host to extension center, or place on probation a Senior Re-

serve Officers' Training Corps program in accordance with the information paper of the Department of the Army titled "Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC) Program Review and Criteria", dated January 27, 2014.

SEC. 8032. The Secretary of Defense shall issue regulations to prohibit the sale of any tobacco or tobacco-related products in military resale outlets in the United States, its territories and possessions at a price below the most competitive price in the local community: *Provided*, That such regulations shall direct that the prices of tobacco or tobacco-related products in overseas military retail outlets shall be within the range of prices established for military retail system stores located in the United States.

SEC. 8033. (a) During the current fiscal year, none of the appropriations or funds available to the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds shall be used for the purchase of an investment item for the purpose of acquiring a new inventory item for sale or anticipated sale during the current fiscal year or a subsequent fiscal year to customers of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds if such an item would not have been chargeable to the Department of Defense Business Operations Fund during fiscal year 1994 and if the purchase of such an investment item would be chargeable during the current fiscal year to appropriations made to the Department of Defense for procurement.

(b) The fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Department of Defense as well as all justification material and other documentation supporting the fiscal year 2019 Department of Defense budget shall be prepared and submitted to the Congress on the basis that any equipment which was classified as an end item and funded in a procurement appropriation contained in this Act shall be budgeted for in a proposed fiscal year 2019 procurement appropriation and not in the supply management business area or any other area or category of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds.

SEC. 8034. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Central Intelligence Agency shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for the Reserve for Contingencies, which shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That funds appropriated, transferred, or otherwise credited to the Central Intelligence Agency Central Services Working Capital Fund during this or any prior or subsequent fiscal year shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any funds appropriated or transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency for advanced research and development acquisition, for agent operations, and for covert action programs authorized by the President under section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093) shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

SEC. 8035. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this Act and hereafter for the Defense Intelligence Agency may be used for the design, development, and deployment of General Defense Intelligence Program intelligence communications and intelligence information systems for the Services, the Unified and Specified Commands, and the component commands.

SEC. 8036. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Defense under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", not less than \$12,000,000 shall be made available only for the mitigation of environmental impacts, including training and technical assistance to tribes, related administrative support, the gathering of information, documenting of environmental damage,

and developing a system for prioritization of mitigation and cost to complete estimates for mitigation, on Indian lands resulting from Department of Defense activities.

SEC. 8037. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be expended by an entity of the Department of Defense unless the entity, in expending the funds, complies with the Buy American Act. For purposes of this subsection, the term Buy American Act means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

(b) If the Secretary of Defense determines that a person has been convicted of intentionally affixing a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in America, the Secretary shall determine, in accordance with section 2410f of title 10, United States Code, whether the person should be debarred from contracting with the Department of Defense.

(c) In the case of any equipment or products purchased with appropriations provided under this Act, it is the sense of the Congress that any entity of the Department of Defense, in expending the appropriation, purchase only American-made equipment and products, provided that American-made equipment and products are cost-competitive, quality competitive, and available in a timely fashion.

SEC. 8038. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or
 (2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department who is transferred or reassigned from a headquarters activity if the member or employee's place of duty remains at the location of that headquarters.

(b) The Secretary of Defense or Secretary of a military department may waive the limitations in subsection (a), on a case-by-case basis, if the Secretary determines, and certifies to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the granting of the waiver will reduce the personnel requirements or the financial requirements of the department.

(c) This section does not apply to—

(1) field operating agencies funded within the National Intelligence Program;
 (2) an Army field operating agency established to eliminate, mitigate, or counter the effects of improvised explosive devices, and, as determined by the Secretary of the Army, other similar threats;

(3) an Army field operating agency established to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of biometric activities and to integrate common biometric technologies throughout the Department of Defense; or

(4) an Air Force field operating agency established to administer the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Program and Mortuary Operations for the Department of Defense and authorized Federal entities.

SEC. 8039. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to convert to contractor performance an activity or function of the Department of Defense that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, is performed by Department of Defense civilian employees unless—

(1) the conversion is based on the result of a public-private competition that includes a most efficient and cost effective organization plan developed by such activity or function;

(2) the Competitive Sourcing Official determines that, over all performance periods stated in the solicitation of offers for performance of the activity or function, the cost of performance of the activity or function by a contractor would be less costly to the Department of Defense by an amount that equals or exceeds the lesser of—

(A) 10 percent of the most efficient organization's personnel-related costs for performance of that activity or function by Federal employees; or

(B) \$10,000,000; and

(3) the contractor does not receive an advantage for a proposal that would reduce costs for the Department of Defense by—

(A) not making an employer-sponsored health insurance plan available to the workers who are to be employed in the performance of that activity or function under the contract; or

(B) offering to such workers an employer-sponsored health benefits plan that requires the employer to contribute less towards the premium or subscription share than the amount that is paid by the Department of Defense for health benefits for civilian employees under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

(b)(1) The Department of Defense, without regard to subsection (a) of this section or subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 2461 of title 10, United States Code, and notwithstanding any administrative regulation, requirement, or policy to the contrary shall have full authority to enter into a contract for the performance of any commercial or industrial type function of the Department of Defense that—

(A) is included on the procurement list established pursuant to section 2 of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (section 8503 of title 41, United States Code);

(B) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or by a qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped individuals in accordance with that Act; or

(C) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified firm under at least 51 percent ownership by an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)), or a Native Hawaiian Organization, as defined in section 8(a)(15) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(15)).

(2) This section shall not apply to depot contracts or contracts for depot maintenance as provided in sections 2469 and 2474 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) The conversion of any activity or function of the Department of Defense under the authority provided by this section shall be credited toward any competitive or outsourcing goal, target, or measurement that may be established by statute, regulation, or policy and is deemed to be awarded under the authority of, and in compliance with, subsection (h) of section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, for the competition or outsourcing of commercial activities.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 8040. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended:

"Aircraft Procurement, Navy", 2016/2018, \$274,000,000;

"Aircraft Procurement, Air Force", 2016/2018, \$82,700,000;

"Missile Procurement, Army", 2017/2019, \$19,319,000;

"Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army", 2017/2019, \$9,764,000;

"Other Procurement, Army", 2017/2019, \$10,000,000;

"Aircraft Procurement, Navy", 2017/2019, \$105,600,000;

"Weapons Procurement, Navy", 2017/2019, \$54,122,000;

"Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2017/2021, \$45,116,000;

"Aircraft Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2019, \$63,293,000;

"Missile Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2019, \$31,639,000;

"Space Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2019, \$15,000,000;

"Other Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2019, \$105,000,000;

"Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy", 2017/2018, \$34,128,000;

"Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force", 2017/2018, \$41,700,000.

SEC. 8041. None of the funds available in this Act may be used to reduce the authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

SEC. 8042. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea unless specifically appropriated for that purpose.

SEC. 8043. Funds appropriated in this Act for operation and maintenance of the Military Departments, Combatant Commands and Defense Agencies shall be available for reimbursement of pay, allowances and other expenses which would otherwise be incurred against appropriations for the National Guard and Reserve when members of the National Guard and Reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies and Joint Intelligence Activities, including the activities and programs included within the National Intelligence Program and the Military Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That nothing in this section authorizes deviation from established Reserve and National Guard personnel and training procedures.

SEC. 8044. (a) None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in an appropriations law.

(b) None of the funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in an appropriations law.

SEC. 8045. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used for the procurement of ball and roller bearings other than those produced by a domestic source and of domestic origin: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for such procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That this restriction shall not apply to the purchase of "commercial items", as defined by section 103 of title 41, United States Code, except that the restriction shall apply to ball or roller bearings purchased as end items.

SEC. 8046. None of the funds made available by this Act for Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle service competitive procurements may be used unless the competitive procurements are open for award to all certified providers of Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle-class systems: *Provided*, That the award shall be made to the provider that offers the best value to the government.

SEC. 8047. In addition to the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, \$44,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, the Secretary shall make grants in the amounts specified as follows: \$20,000,000 to the United Service Organizations and \$24,000,000 to the Red Cross.

SEC. 8048. None of the funds in this Act may be used to purchase any supercomputer which is not manufactured in the United States, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes that is not available from United States manufacturers.

SEC. 8049. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer program set-asides shall be taken proportionally from all programs, projects, or activities to the extent they contribute to the extramural budget.

SEC. 8050. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense under this Act shall be obligated or expended to pay a contractor under a contract with the Department of Defense for costs of any amount paid by the contractor to an employee when—

(1) such costs are for a bonus or otherwise in excess of the normal salary paid by the contractor to the employee; and

(2) such bonus is part of restructuring costs associated with a business combination.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8051. During the current fiscal year, no more than \$30,000,000 of appropriations made in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" may be transferred to appropriations available for the pay of military personnel, to be merged with, and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred, to be used in support of such personnel in connection with support and services for eligible organizations and activities outside the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2012 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8052. During the current fiscal year, in the case of an appropriation account of the Department of Defense for which the period of availability for obligation has expired or which has closed under the provisions of section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, and which has a negative unliquidated or unexpended balance, an obligation or an adjustment of an obligation may be charged to any current appropriation account for the same purpose as the expired or closed account if—

(1) the obligation would have been properly chargeable (except as to amount) to the expired or closed account before the end of the period of availability or closing of that account;

(2) the obligation is not otherwise properly chargeable to any current appropriation account of the Department of Defense; and

(3) in the case of an expired account, the obligation is not chargeable to a current appropriation of the Department of Defense under the provisions of section 1405(b)(8) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, Public Law 101-510, as

amended (31 U.S.C. 1551 note): *Provided*, That in the case of an expired account, if subsequent review or investigation discloses that there was not in fact a negative unliquidated or unexpended balance in the account, any charge to a current account under the authority of this section shall be reversed and recorded against the expired account: *Provided further*, That the total amount charged to a current appropriation under this section may not exceed an amount equal to 1 percent of the total appropriation for that account.

SEC. 8053. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau may permit the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project by any person or entity on a space-available, reimbursable basis. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall establish the amount of reimbursement for such use on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Amounts collected under subsection (a) shall be credited to funds available for the National Guard Distance Learning Project and be available to defray the costs associated with the use of equipment of the project under that subsection. Such funds shall be available for such purposes without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 8054. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be obligated to modify command and control relationships to give Fleet Forces Command operational and administrative control of United States Navy forces assigned to the Pacific fleet: *Provided*, That the command and control relationships which existed on October 1, 2004, shall remain in force until a written modification has been proposed to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees: *Provided further*, That the proposed modification may be implemented 30 days after the notification unless an objection is received from either the House or Senate Appropriations Committees: *Provided further*, That any proposed modification shall not preclude the ability of the commander of United States Pacific Command to meet operational requirements.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8055. Of the funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", \$25,000,000 (increased by \$10,000,000) shall be for continued implementation and expansion of the Sexual Assault Special Victims' Counsel Program: *Provided*, That the funds are made available for transfer to the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force: *Provided further*, That funds transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided in this Act.

SEC. 8056. None of the funds appropriated in title IV of this Act may be used to procure end-items for delivery to military forces for operational training, operational use or inventory requirements: *Provided*, That this restriction does not apply to end-items used in development, prototyping, and test activities preceding and leading to acceptance for operational use: *Provided further*, That this restriction does not apply to programs funded within the National Intelligence Program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that it is in the national security interest to do so.

SEC. 8057. (a) The Secretary of Defense may, on a case-by-case basis, waive with respect to a foreign country each limitation on

the procurement of defense items from foreign sources provided in law if the Secretary determines that the application of the limitation with respect to that country would invalidate cooperative programs entered into between the Department of Defense and the foreign country, or would invalidate reciprocal trade agreements for the procurement of defense items entered into under section 2531 of title 10, United States Code, and the country does not discriminate against the same or similar defense items produced in the United States for that country.

(b) Subsection (a) applies with respect to—

(1) contracts and subcontracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) options for the procurement of items that are exercised after such date under contracts that are entered into before such date if the option prices are adjusted for any reason other than the application of a waiver granted under subsection (a).

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a limitation regarding construction of public vessels, ball and roller bearings, food, and clothing or textile materials as defined by section XI (chapters 50-65) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and products classified under headings 4010, 4202, 4203, 6401 through 6406, 6505, 7019, 7218 through 7229, 7304.41 through 7304.49, 7306.40, 7502 through 7508, 8105, 8108, 8109, 8211, 8215, and 9404.

SEC. 8058. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or other Department of Defense Appropriations Acts may be obligated or expended for the purpose of performing repairs or maintenance to military family housing units of the Department of Defense, including areas in such military family housing units that may be used for the purpose of conducting official Department of Defense business.

SEC. 8059. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide" for any new start advanced concept technology demonstration project or joint capability demonstration project may only be obligated 45 days after a report, including a description of the project, the planned acquisition and transition strategy and its estimated annual and total cost, has been provided in writing to the congressional defense committees: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying to the congressional defense committees that it is in the national interest to do so.

SEC. 8060. The Secretary of Defense shall continue to provide a classified quarterly report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Subcommittees on Defense on certain matters as directed in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

SEC. 8061. Notwithstanding section 12310(b) of title 10, United States Code, a Reserve who is a member of the National Guard serving on full-time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, may perform duties in support of the ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

SEC. 8062. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to transfer to any non-governmental entity ammunition held by the Department of Defense that has a center-fire cartridge and a United States military nomenclature designation of "armor penetrator", "armor piercing (AP)", "armor piercing incendiary (API)", or "armor-piercing incendiary tracer (API-T)", except to an entity performing demilitarization services for the Department of Defense under a contract that requires the entity to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Defense that armor piercing projectiles are either:

(1) rendered incapable of reuse by the demilitarization process; or

(2) used to manufacture ammunition pursuant to a contract with the Department of Defense or the manufacture of ammunition for export pursuant to a License for Permanent Export of Unclassified Military Articles issued by the Department of State.

SEC. 8063. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, may waive payment of all or part of the consideration that otherwise would be required under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, in the case of a lease of personal property for a period not in excess of 1 year to any organization specified in section 508(d) of title 32, United States Code, or any other youth, social, or fraternal nonprofit organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, on a case-by-case basis.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8064. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Army", \$66,881,780 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to transfer such funds to other activities of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense is authorized to enter into and carry out contracts for the acquisition of real property, construction, personal services, and operations related to projects carrying out the purposes of this section: *Provided further*, That contracts entered into under the authority of this section may provide for such indemnification as the Secretary determines to be necessary: *Provided further*, That projects authorized by this section shall comply with applicable Federal, State, and local law to the maximum extent consistent with the national security, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 8065. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to take any action to modify—

(1) the appropriations account structure for the National Intelligence Program budget, including through the creation of a new appropriation or new appropriation account;

(2) how the National Intelligence Program budget request is presented in the unclassified P-1, R-1, and O-1 documents supporting the Department of Defense budget request;

(3) the process by which the National Intelligence Program appropriations are apportioned to the executing agencies; or

(4) the process by which the National Intelligence Program appropriations are allotted, obligated and disbursed.

(b) Nothing in section (a) shall be construed to prohibit the merger of programs or changes to the National Intelligence Program budget at or below the Expenditure Center level, provided such change is otherwise in accordance with paragraphs (a)(1)–(3).

(c) The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense may jointly, only for the purposes of achieving auditable financial statements and improving fiscal reporting, study and develop detailed proposals for alternative financial management processes. Such study shall include a comprehensive counterintelligence risk assessment to ensure that none of the alternative processes will adversely affect counterintelligence.

(d) Upon development of the detailed proposals defined under subsection (c), the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) provide the proposed alternatives to all affected agencies;

(2) receive certification from all affected agencies attesting that the proposed alter-

natives will help achieve auditability, improve fiscal reporting, and will not adversely affect counterintelligence; and

(3) not later than 30 days after receiving all necessary certifications under paragraph (2), present the proposed alternatives and certifications to the congressional defense and intelligence committees.

SEC. 8066. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, \$5,000,000 (increased by \$5,000,000) is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense, to remain available for obligation until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, that upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, these funds shall be available only for a grant to the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., only for the construction and furnishing of additional Fisher Houses to meet the needs of military family members when confronted with the illness or hospitalization of an eligible military beneficiary.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8067. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the headings "Procurement, Defense-Wide" and "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide", \$705,800,000 shall be for the Israeli Cooperative Programs: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$92,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats, subject to the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended; \$221,500,000 shall be for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense (SRBMD) program, including cruise missile defense research and development under the SRBMD program, of which \$120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of SRBMD missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israeli co-production agreement for SRBMD, as amended; \$205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which \$120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israeli co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; \$105,000,000 shall be for testing of the upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture in the United States; and \$82,300,000 shall be for the Arrow System Improvement Program including development of a long range, ground and airborne, detection suite: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this provision is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8068. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", \$117,542,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, to fund prior year shipbuilding cost increases: *Provided*, That upon enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall transfer funds to the following appropriations in the amounts specified: *Provided further*, That the amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes as the appropriations to which transferred to:

(1) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2012/2018: Carrier Replacement Program \$20,000,000;

(2) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2008/2018: DDG-51 Destroyer \$19,436,000;

(3) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2012/2018: Littoral Combat Ship \$6,394,000;

(4) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2012/2018: LHA Replacement \$14,200,000;

(5) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2013/2018: DDG-51 Destroyer \$31,941,000;

(6) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2014/2018: Littoral Combat Ship \$20,471,000; and

(7) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2015/2018: LCAC \$5,100,000.

SEC. 8069. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2018 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

SEC. 8070. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity unless such program, project, or activity must be undertaken immediately in the interest of national security and only after written prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8071. The budget of the President for fiscal year 2018 submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall include separate budget justification documents for costs of United States Armed Forces' participation in contingency operations for the Military Personnel accounts, the Operation and Maintenance accounts, the Procurement accounts, and the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation accounts: *Provided*, That these documents shall include a description of the funding requested for each contingency operation, for each military service, to include all Active and Reserve components, and for each appropriations account: *Provided further*, That these documents shall include estimated costs for each element of expense or object class, a reconciliation of increases and decreases for each contingency operation, and programmatic data including, but not limited to, troop strength for each Active and Reserve component, and estimates of the major weapons systems deployed in support of each contingency: *Provided further*, That these documents shall include budget exhibits OP-5 and OP-32 (as defined in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation) for all contingency operations for the budget year and the two preceding fiscal years.

SEC. 8072. None of the funds in this Act may be used for research, development, test, evaluation, procurement or deployment of nuclear armed interceptors of a missile defense system.

SEC. 8073. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to reflect savings due to favorable foreign exchange rates, the total amount appropriated in this Act is hereby reduced by \$289,000,000.

SEC. 8074. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to reduce or disestablish the operation of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the Air Force Reserve, if such action would reduce the WC-130 Weather Reconnaissance mission below the levels funded in this Act: *Provided*, That the Air Force shall allow the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to perform other missions in support of national defense requirements during the non-hurricane season.

SEC. 8075. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for integration of foreign intelligence information unless the information has been lawfully collected and processed during the conduct of authorized

foreign intelligence activities: *Provided*, That information pertaining to United States persons shall only be handled in accordance with protections provided in the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution as implemented through Executive Order No. 12333.

SEC. 8076. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to transfer research and development, acquisition, or other program authority relating to current tactical unmanned aerial vehicles (TUAVs) from the Army.

(b) The Army shall retain responsibility for and operational control of the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in order to support the Secretary of Defense in matters relating to the employment of unmanned aerial vehicles.

SEC. 8077. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for research and technology, which shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

SEC. 8078. For purposes of section 1553(b) of title 31, United States Code, any subdivision of appropriations made in this Act under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” shall be considered to be for the same purpose as any subdivision under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” appropriations in any prior fiscal year, and the 1 percent limitation shall apply to the total amount of the appropriation.

SEC. 8079. (a) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2018: *Provided*, That the report shall include—

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President’s budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation by Expenditure Center and project; and

(3) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this Act shall be available for reprogramming or transfer until the report identified in subsection (a) is submitted to the congressional intelligence committees, unless the Director of National Intelligence certifies in writing to the congressional intelligence committees that such reprogramming or transfer is necessary as an emergency requirement.

SEC. 8080. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to eliminate, restructure, or realign Army Contracting Command—New Jersey or make disproportionate personnel reductions at any Army Contracting Command—New Jersey sites without 30-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 8081. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense, the following funds are permanently rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts to reflect excess cash balances in the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund:

From “Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, Defense”, \$10,000,000.

SEC. 8082. None of the funds made available by this Act for excess defense articles, assist-

ance under section 333 of title 10, United States Code, or peacekeeping operations for the countries designated annually to be in violation of the standards of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-457; 22 U.S.C. 2370c-1) may be used to support any military training or operation that includes child soldiers, as defined by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008, unless such assistance is otherwise permitted under section 404 of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008.

SEC. 8083. (a) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that—

(1) creates a new start effort;

(2) terminates a program with appropriated funding of \$10,000,000 or more;

(3) transfers funding into or out of the National Intelligence Program; or

(4) transfers funding between appropriations, unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

SEC. 8084. The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress each year, at or about the time that the President’s budget is submitted to Congress that year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a future-years intelligence program (including associated annexes) reflecting the estimated expenditures and proposed appropriations included in that budget. Any such future-years intelligence program shall cover the fiscal year with respect to which the budget is submitted and at least the four succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 8085. For the purposes of this Act, the term “congressional intelligence committees” means the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8086. During the current fiscal year, not to exceed \$11,000,000 from each of the appropriations made in title II of this Act for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, and “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force” may be transferred by the military department concerned to its central fund established for Fisher Houses and Suites pursuant to section 2493(d) of title 10, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8087. Not to exceed \$500,000,000 appropriated by this Act for operation and maintenance may be available for the purpose of making remittances and transfer to the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund in accordance with section 1705 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8088. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 8089. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be expended for any Federal contract for an amount in excess of \$1,000,000, unless the contractor agrees not to—

(1) enter into any agreement with any of its employees or independent contractors that requires, as a condition of employment, that the employee or independent contractor agree to resolve through arbitration any claim under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or any tort related to or arising out of sexual assault or harassment, including assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, or negligent hiring, supervision, or retention; or

(2) take any action to enforce any provision of an existing agreement with an employee or independent contractor that mandates that the employee or independent contractor resolve through arbitration any claim under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or any tort related to or arising out of sexual assault or harassment, including assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, or negligent hiring, supervision, or retention.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be expended for any Federal contract unless the contractor certifies that it requires each covered subcontractor to agree not to enter into, and not to take any action to enforce any provision of, any agreement as described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), with respect to any employee or independent contractor performing work related to such subcontract. For purposes of this subsection, a “covered subcontractor” is an entity that has a subcontract in excess of \$1,000,000 on a contract subject to subsection (a).

(c) The prohibitions in this section do not apply with respect to a contractor’s or subcontractor’s agreements with employees or independent contractors that may not be enforced in a court of the United States.

(d) The Secretary of Defense may waive the application of subsection (a) or (b) to a particular contractor or subcontractor for the purposes of a particular contract or subcontract if the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary personally determines that the waiver is necessary to avoid harm to national security interests of the United States, and that the term of the contract or subcontract is not longer than necessary to avoid such harm. The determination shall set forth with specificity the grounds for the waiver and for the contract or subcontract term selected, and shall state any alternatives considered in lieu of a waiver and the reasons each such alternative would not avoid harm to national security interests of the United States. The Secretary of Defense shall transmit to Congress, and simultaneously make public, any determination under this subsection not less than 15 business days before the contract or subcontract addressed in the determination may be awarded.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8090. From within the funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program in this Act, up to \$115,519,000, shall be available for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-84: *Provided*, That for purposes of section 1704(b), the facility operations funded are operations of the integrated Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities designated as a combined Federal medical facility as described by section 706 of Public Law 110-417: *Provided further*, That additional funds may be transferred from funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Defense to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 8091. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or a component thereof in contravention of the provisions of section 130h of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8092. Appropriations available to the Department of Defense may be used for the purchase of heavy and light armored vehicles for the physical security of personnel or for force protection purposes up to a limit of \$450,000 per vehicle, notwithstanding price or other limitations applicable to the purchase of passenger carrying vehicles.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8093. Upon a determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary and in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed \$1,500,000,000 of the funds made available in this Act for the National Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That a request for multiple reprogrammings of funds using authority provided in this section shall be made prior to June 30, 2017.

SEC. 8094. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8095. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 8096. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to transfer any individual detained at United States Naval Station Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to the custody or control of the individual's country of origin, any other foreign country, or any other foreign entity except in accordance with section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) and section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

SEC. 8097. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

SEC. 8098. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense, or any other official or officer of the Department of Defense, to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary of Rosoboronexport.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in subsection (a) if the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, determines that it is in the vital national security interest of the United States to do so, and certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that, to the best of the Secretary's knowledge:

(1) Rosoboronexport has ceased the transfer of lethal military equipment to, and the maintenance of existing lethal military equipment for, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

(2) The armed forces of the Russian Federation have withdrawn from Crimea, other than armed forces present on military bases subject to agreements in force between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine; and

(3) Agents of the Russian Federation have ceased taking active measures to destabilize the control of the Government of Ukraine over eastern Ukraine.

(c) The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of any action involving Rosoboronexport with respect to a waiver issued by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (b), and not later than 90 days after the date on which such a waiver is issued by the Secretary of Defense, the Inspector General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the review conducted with respect to such waiver.

SEC. 8099. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the purchase or manufacture of a flag of the United States unless such flags are treated as covered items under section 2533a(b) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8100. (a) Of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts may be made available, under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, to local military commanders appointed by the Secretary, or by an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, to

provide at their discretion ex gratia payments in amounts consistent with subsection (d) of this section for damage, personal injury, or death that is incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces in a foreign country.

(b) An ex gratia payment under this section may be provided only if—

(1) the prospective foreign civilian recipient is determined by the local military commander to be friendly to the United States;

(2) a claim for damages would not be compensable under chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the "Foreign Claims Act"); and

(3) the property damage, personal injury, or death was not caused by action by an enemy.

(c) NATURE OF PAYMENTS.—Any payments provided under a program under subsection (a) shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgement of any legal obligation to compensate for any damage, personal injury, or death.

(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—If the Secretary of Defense determines a program under subsection (a) to be appropriate in a particular setting, the amounts of payments, if any, to be provided to civilians determined to have suffered harm incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces under the program should be determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary and based on an assessment, which should include such factors as cultural appropriateness and prevailing economic conditions.

(e) LEGAL ADVICE.—Local military commanders shall receive legal advice before making ex gratia payments under this subsection. The legal advisor, under regulations of the Department of Defense, shall advise on whether an ex gratia payment is proper under this section and applicable Department of Defense regulations.

(f) WRITTEN RECORD.—A written record of any ex gratia payment offered or denied shall be kept by the local commander and on a timely basis submitted to the appropriate office in the Department of Defense as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(g) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall report to the congressional defense committees on an annual basis the efficacy of the ex gratia payment program including the number of types of cases considered, amounts offered, the response from ex gratia payment recipients, and any recommended modifications to the program.

SEC. 8101. None of the funds available in this Act to the Department of Defense, other than appropriations made for necessary or routine refurbishments, upgrades or maintenance activities, shall be used to reduce or to prepare to reduce the number of deployed and non-deployed strategic delivery vehicles and launchers below the levels set forth in the report submitted to Congress in accordance with section 1042 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

SEC. 8102. The Secretary of Defense shall post grant awards on a public Website in a searchable format.

SEC. 8103. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside of the United States: *Provided*, That this prohibition applies only if a performance of a flight demonstration team at a location within the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

SEC. 8104. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Security Agency to—

(1) conduct an acquisition pursuant to section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for the purpose of targeting a United States person; or

(2) acquire, monitor, or store the contents (as such term is defined in section 2510(8) of title 18, United States Code) of any electronic communication of a United States person from a provider of electronic communication services to the public pursuant to section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

SEC. 8105. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 8106. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of any agency funded by this Act who approves or implements the transfer of administrative responsibilities or budgetary resources of any program, project, or activity financed by this Act to the jurisdiction of another Federal agency not financed by this Act unless explicitly provided for in a Defense Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to transfers of funds expressly provided for in Defense Appropriations Acts, or provisions of Acts providing supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8107. None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated for activities authorized under section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1621) to initiate support for, or expand support to, foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals unless the congressional defense committees are notified in accordance with the direction contained in the classified annex accompanying this Act, not less than 15 days before initiating such support: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available in this Act may be used under section 1208 for any activity that is not in support of an ongoing military operation being conducted by United States Special Operations Forces to combat terrorism: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibitions in this section if the Secretary determines that such waiver is required by extraordinary circumstances and, by not later than 72 hours after making such waiver, notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver.

SEC. 8108. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Iraq in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States armed forces into hostilities in Iraq, into situations in Iraq where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Iraqi territory, airspace, or waters while equipped for combat, in contravention of the congressional consultation and reporting requirements of sections 3 and 4 of such Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1542 and 1543).

SEC. 8109. None of the funds provided in this Act for the T-AO Fleet Oiler or the Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship programs shall be used to award a new contract that provides for the acquisition of the following components unless those components are manufactured in the United States: Auxiliary equipment (including pumps) for shipboard services; propulsion equipment (including engines, reduction gears, and propellers); shipboard cranes; and spreaders for shipboard cranes.

SEC. 8110. The amount appropriated in title II of this Act for "Operation and Maintenance, Army" is hereby reduced by \$75,000,000 to reflect excess cash balances in Department of Defense Working Capital Funds.

SEC. 8111. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to reflect savings due to

lower than anticipated fuel costs, the total amount appropriated in title II of this Act is hereby reduced by \$1,007,267,000.

SEC. 8112. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for Government Travel Charge Card expenses by military or civilian personnel of the Department of Defense for gaming, or for entertainment that includes topless or nude entertainers or participants, as prohibited by Department of Defense FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 3 and Department of Defense Instruction 1015.10 (enclosure 3, 14a and 14b).

SEC. 8113. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

SEC. 8114. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act for "Operation and Maintenance, Navy", \$289,255,000, to remain available until expended, may be used for any purposes related to the National Defense Reserve Fleet established under section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. 4405): *Provided*, That such amounts are available for reimbursements to the Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration account of the United States Department of Transportation for programs, projects, activities, and expenses related to the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

SEC. 8115. None of the funds made available by this Act for the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System recapitalization program may be obligated or expended for pre-milestone B activities after March 31, 2018, except for source selection and other activities necessary to enter the engineering and manufacturing development phase.

SEC. 8116. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8117. Additional readiness funds made available in title II of this Act for "Operation and Maintenance, Army", "Operation and Maintenance, Navy", "Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps", and "Operation and Maintenance, Air Force" may be transferred to and merged with any appropriation of the Department of Defense for activities related to the Zika virus in order to provide health support for the full range of military operations and sustain the health of the members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and their families, to include: research and development, disease surveillance, vaccine development, rapid detection, vector controls and surveillance, training, and outbreak response: *Provided*, That the authority provided in this section is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of this Act.

SEC. 8118. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities, or for any activity necessary for the national defense, including intelligence activities.

SEC. 8119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any transfer of funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Global Engagement Center pursuant to section 1287 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) shall be made in accordance with section 8005 or 9002 of this Act, as applicable.

SEC. 8120. No amounts credited or otherwise made available in this or any other Act to the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund may be transferred to:

(1) the Rapid Prototyping Fund established under section 804(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note); or

(2) credited to a military-department specific fund established under section 804(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (as amended by section 897 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER FUND)

SEC. 8121. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act for military personnel pay, including active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel, \$206,400,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense and made available for transfer only to military personnel accounts: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

SEC. 8122. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$235,000,000, for an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds shall only be available to the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense, or for transfer to the Secretary of Education, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, or supplement other Federal funds to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools on military installations in order to address capacity or facility condition deficiencies at such schools: *Provided further*, That in making such funds available, the Office of Economic Adjustment or the Secretary of Education shall give priority consideration to those military installations with schools having the most serious capacity or facility condition deficiencies as determined by the Secretary of Defense: *Provided further*, That as a condition of receiving funds under this section a local educational agency or State shall provide a matching share as described in the notice titled "Department of Defense Program for Construction, Renovation, Repair or Expansion of Public Schools Located on Military Installations" published by the Department of Defense in the Federal Register on September 9, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 55883 et seq.): *Provided further*, That these provisions apply to funds provided under this section, and to funds previously provided by Congress to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools on military installations in order to address capacity or facility condition deficiencies at such schools to the extent such funds remain unobligated on the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 8123. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the changes to the Joint Travel Regulations of the Department of Defense described in the memorandum of the Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee titled "UTD/CTD for MAP 118-13/CAP 118-13 - Flat Rate Per Diem for Long Term TDY" and dated October 1, 2014.

SEC. 8124. In carrying out the program described in the memorandum on the subject of "Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members" issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such memorandum, the Secretary of

Defense shall apply such policy and guidance, except that—

(1) the limitation on periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(2) the term “assisted reproductive technology” shall include embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

TITLE IX

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/ GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Army”, \$2,635,317,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Navy”, \$377,857,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$103,800,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$912,779,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Army”, \$24,942,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Navy”, \$9,091,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$2,328,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Air Force”, \$20,569,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Army”, \$184,589,000: *Pro-*

vided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Air Force”, \$5,004,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$1,000,000,000, for the “Military Personnel, National Defense Restoration Fund”: *Provided*, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: *Provided further*, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: *Provided further*, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to military personnel accounts: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$16,126,403,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$5,875,015,000, of which up to \$161,885,000 may be transferred to the Coast Guard “Operating Expenses” account: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$1,116,640,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of

the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, \$10,266,295,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE and Maintenance, Defense-Wide

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, \$6,944,201,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not to exceed \$900,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be for payments to reimburse key cooperating nations for logistical, military, and other support, including access, provided to United States military and stability operations in Afghanistan and to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant: *Provided further*, That such reimbursement payments may be made in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may determine, based on documentation determined by the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided, and such determination is final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the United States, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for the purpose of providing specialized training and procuring supplies and specialized equipment and providing such supplies and loaning such equipment on a non-reimbursable basis to coalition forces supporting United States military and stability operations in Afghanistan and to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be used to support the Government of Jordan, in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense may determine, to enhance the ability of the armed forces of Jordan to increase or sustain security along its borders, upon 15 days prior written notification to the congressional defense committees outlining the amounts intended to be provided and the nature of the expenses incurred: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not to exceed \$750,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be available to provide support and assistance to foreign security forces or other groups or individuals to conduct, support, or facilitate counterterrorism, crisis response, or other Department of Defense security cooperation programs: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve”, \$24,699,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve”, \$23,980,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by

the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve”, \$3,367,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve”, \$58,523,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard”, \$108,111,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard”, \$15,400,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$2,000,000,000, for the “Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund”: *Provided*, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: *Provided further*, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: *Provided further*, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to operation and maintenance accounts: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of

the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND

For the “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund”, \$4,937,515,000 (reduced by \$12,000,000), to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of allowing the Commander, Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan, or the Secretary’s designee, to provide assistance, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to the security forces of Afghanistan, including the provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, facility and infrastructure repair, renovation, construction, and funding: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may obligate and expend funds made available to the Department of Defense in this title for additional costs associated with existing projects previously funded with amounts provided under the heading “Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund” in prior Acts: *Provided further*, That such costs shall be limited to contract changes resulting from inflation, market fluctuation, rate adjustments, and other necessary contract actions to complete existing projects, and associated supervision and administration costs and costs for design during construction: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not use more than \$50,000,000 under the authority provided in this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify in advance such contract changes and adjustments in annual reports to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That the authority to provide assistance under this heading is in addition to any other authority to provide assistance to foreign nations: *Provided further*, That contributions of funds for the purposes provided herein from any person, foreign government, or international organization may be credited to this Fund, to remain available until expended, and used for such purposes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing upon the receipt and upon the obligation of any contribution, delineating the sources and amounts of the funds received and the specific use of such contributions: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 15 days prior to obligating from this appropriation account, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such obligation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of any proposed new projects or transfer of funds between budget sub-activity groups in excess of \$20,000,000: *Provided further*, That the United States may accept equipment procured using funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts that was transferred to the security forces of Afghanistan and returned by such forces to the United States: *Provided further*, That equipment procured using funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts, and not yet transferred to the security forces of Afghanistan or transferred to the security forces of Afghanistan and returned by such forces to the United States, may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than \$10,000,000 shall be for recruitment and retention of women in the Afghanistan National Security Forces, and the recruitment and training of female security personnel: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of

the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

COUNTER-ISIL TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND

For the “Counter-Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant Train and Equip Fund”, \$1,769,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; logistics support, supplies, and services; stipends; infrastructure repair and renovation; and sustainment, to foreign security forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and their affiliated or associated groups: *Provided further*, That these funds may be used in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense may determine to enhance the border security of nations adjacent to conflict areas including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Tunisia resulting from actions of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available to provide assistance only for activities in a country designated by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, as having a security mission to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and following written notification to the congressional defense committees of such designation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that prior to providing assistance to elements of any forces or individuals, such elements or individuals are appropriately vetted, including at a minimum, assessing such elements for associations with terrorist groups or groups associated with the Government of Iran; and receiving commitments from such elements to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 15 days prior to obligating from this appropriation account, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such obligation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may accept and retain contributions, including assistance in-kind, from foreign governments, including the Government of Iraq and other entities, to carry out assistance authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That contributions of funds for the purposes provided herein from any foreign government or other entity may be credited to this Fund, to remain available until expended, and used for such purposes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive a provision of law relating to the acquisition of items and support services or sections 40 and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780 and 2785) if the Secretary determines that such provision of law would prohibit, restrict, delay or otherwise limit the provision of such assistance and a notice of and justification for such waiver is submitted to the congressional defense committees, the Committees on Appropriations and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That the United States may accept equipment procured using funds provided under this heading, or under the heading, “Iraq Train and Equip Fund” in prior Acts, that was transferred to security forces, irregular forces, or groups participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and returned by such forces or groups to the United States, may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That

equipment procured using funds provided under this heading, or under the heading, "Iraq Train and Equip Fund" in prior Acts, and not yet transferred to security forces, irregular forces, or groups participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense when determined by the Secretary to no longer be required for transfer to such forces or groups and upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on the use of funds provided under this heading, including, but not limited to, the number of individuals trained, the nature and scope of support and sustainment provided to each group or individual, the area of operations for each group, and the contributions of other countries, groups, or individuals: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Aircraft Procurement, Army", \$424,686,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Missile Procurement, Army", \$557,583,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army", \$1,191,139,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Procurement of Ammunition, Army", \$193,436,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Other Procurement, Army", \$405,575,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Aircraft Procurement, Navy", \$157,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section

251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Weapons Procurement, Navy", \$130,994,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps", \$223,843,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Other Procurement, Navy", \$207,984,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Marine Corps", \$64,071,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Aircraft Procurement, Air Force", \$510,836,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Missile Procurement, Air Force", \$381,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Space Procurement, Air Force", \$2,256,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force", \$501,509,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Other Procurement, Air Force", \$3,998,887,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the

Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Defense-Wide", \$510,741,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT

For procurement of rotary-wing aircraft; combat, tactical and support vehicles; other weapons; and other procurement items for the reserve components of the Armed Forces, \$1,000,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That the Chiefs of National Guard and Reserve components shall, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, individually submit to the congressional defense committees the modernization priority assessment for their respective National Guard or Reserve component: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this paragraph may be used to procure manned fixed wing aircraft, or procure or modify missiles, munitions, or ammunition: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$6,000,000,000, for the "Procurement, National Defense Restoration Fund": *Provided*, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: *Provided further*, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: *Provided further*, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to procurement accounts: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army",

\$119,368,000 (increased by \$6,000,000), to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy”, \$124,865,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force”, \$144,508,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, \$226,096,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$1,000,000,000, for the “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, National Defense Restoration Fund”: *Provided*, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: *Provided further*, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: *Provided further*, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to research, development, test and evaluation accounts: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS
DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For an additional amount for “Defense Working Capital Funds”, \$148,956,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Defense Health Program”, \$395,805,000, which shall be for operation and maintenance: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

For an additional amount for “Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense”, \$196,300,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

JOINT IMPROVISED-THREAT DEFEAT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the “Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund”, \$483,058,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of allowing the Director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization to investigate, develop and provide equipment, supplies, services, training, facilities, personnel and funds to assist United States forces in the defeat of improvised explosive devices: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer funds provided herein to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; research, development, test and evaluation; and defense working capital funds to accomplish the purpose provided herein: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 5 days prior to making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for the “Office of the Inspector General”, \$24,692,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 9001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title are in addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2018.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 9002. Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Office

of Management and Budget, transfer up to \$2,500,000,000 between the appropriations or funds made available to the Department of Defense in this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this section: *Provided further*, That the authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of this Act.

SEC. 9003. Supervision and administration costs and costs for design during construction associated with a construction project funded with appropriations available for operation and maintenance or the “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund” provided in this Act and executed in direct support of overseas contingency operations in Afghanistan, may be obligated at the time a construction contract is awarded: *Provided*, That, for the purpose of this section, supervision and administration costs and costs for design during construction include all in-house Government costs.

SEC. 9004. From funds made available in this title, the Secretary of Defense may purchase for use by military and civilian employees of the Department of Defense in the United States Central Command area of responsibility:

(1) passenger motor vehicles up to a limit of \$75,000 per vehicle; and

(2) heavy and light armored vehicles for the physical security of personnel or for force protection purposes up to a limit of \$450,000 per vehicle, notwithstanding price or other limitations applicable to the purchase of passenger carrying vehicles.

SEC. 9005. Not to exceed \$5,000,000 of the amounts appropriated by this title under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Army” may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to fund the Commanders’ Emergency Response Program (CERP), for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Afghanistan to respond to urgent, small-scale, humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility: *Provided*, That each project (including any ancillary or related elements in connection with such project) executed under this authority shall not exceed \$2,000,000: *Provided further*, That not later than 45 days after the end of each 6 months of the fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the source of funds and the allocation and use of funds during that 6-month period that were made available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any other provision of law for the purposes described herein: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees quarterly commitment, obligation, and expenditure data for the CERP in Afghanistan: *Provided further*, That, not less than 15 days before making funds available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any other provision of law for the purposes described herein for a project with a total anticipated cost for completion of \$500,000 or more, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a written notice containing each of the following:

(1) The location, nature and purpose of the proposed project, including how the project is intended to advance the military campaign plan for the country in which it is to be carried out.

(2) The budget, implementation timeline with milestones, and completion date for the proposed project, including any other CERP

funding that has been or is anticipated to be contributed to the completion of the project.

(3) A plan for the sustainment of the proposed project, including the agreement with either the host nation, a non-Department of Defense agency of the United States Government or a third-party contributor to finance the sustainment of the activities and maintenance of any equipment or facilities to be provided through the proposed project.

SEC. 9006. Funds available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide supplies, services, transportation, including airlift and sealift, and other logistical support to allied forces participating in a combined operation with the armed forces of the United States and coalition forces supporting military and stability operations in Afghanistan and to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees regarding support provided under this section.

SEC. 9007. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government for a purpose as follows:

(1) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) To exercise United States control over any oil resource of Iraq.

(3) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan.

SEC. 9008. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the following laws enacted or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (done at New York on December 10, 1984):

(1) Section 2340A of title 18, United States Code.

(2) Section 2242 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (division G of Public Law 105-277; 112 Stat. 2681-822; 8 U.S.C. 1231 note) and regulations prescribed thereto, including regulations under part 208 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 95 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) Sections 1002 and 1003 of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-148).

SEC. 9009. None of the funds provided for the “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund” (ASFF) may be obligated prior to the approval of a financial and activity plan by the Afghanistan Resources Oversight Council (AROC) of the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That the AROC must approve the requirement and acquisition plan for any service requirements in excess of \$50,000,000 annually and any non-standard equipment requirements in excess of \$100,000,000 using ASFF: *Provided further*, That the Department of Defense must certify to the congressional defense committees that the AROC has convened and approved a process for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the preceding proviso and accompanying report language for the ASFF.

SEC. 9010. Funds made available in this title to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to purchase items having an investment unit cost of not more than \$250,000: *Provided*, That, upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary to meet

the operational requirements of a Commander of a Combatant Command engaged in contingency operations overseas, such funds may be used to purchase items having an investment item unit cost of not more than \$500,000.

SEC. 9011. Up to \$500,000,000 of funds appropriated by this Act for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” may be used to provide assistance to the Government of Jordan to support the armed forces of Jordan and to enhance security along its borders.

SEC. 9012. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Counter-ISIL Train and Equip Fund” may be used to procure or transfer man-portable air defense systems.

SEC. 9013. For the “Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative”, \$150,000,000 is hereby appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; lethal weapons of a defensive nature; logistics support, supplies and services; sustainment; and intelligence support to the military and national security forces of Ukraine, and for replacement of any weapons or defensive articles provided to the Government of Ukraine from the inventory of the United States: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not less than 15 days prior to obligating funds provided under this heading, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such obligation: *Provided further*, That the United States may accept equipment procured using funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts that was transferred to the security forces of Ukraine and returned by such forces to the United States: *Provided further*, That equipment procured using funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts, and not yet transferred to the military or National Security Forces of Ukraine or returned by such forces to the United States, may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That amounts made available by this section are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 9014. Funds appropriated in this title shall be available for replacement of funds for items provided to the Government of Ukraine from the inventory of the United States to the extent specifically provided for in section 9013 of this Act.

SEC. 9015. None of the funds made available by this Act under section 9013 for “Assistance and Sustainment to the Military and National Security Forces of Ukraine” may be used to procure or transfer man-portable air defense systems.

SEC. 9016. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” for payments under section 1233 of Public Law 110-181 for reimbursement to the Government of Pakistan may be made available unless the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Government of Pakistan is—

(1) cooperating with the United States in counterterrorism efforts against the Haqqani Network, the Quetta Shura Taliban, Lashkar e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Al Qaeda, and other domestic and foreign terrorist organizations, including taking steps to end support for such groups and prevent them

from basing and operating in Pakistan and carrying out cross border attacks into neighboring countries;

(2) not supporting terrorist activities against United States or coalition forces in Afghanistan, and Pakistan’s military and intelligence agencies are not intervening extra-judicially into political and judicial processes in Pakistan;

(3) dismantling improvised explosive device (IED) networks and interdicting precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of IEDs;

(4) preventing the proliferation of nuclear-related material and expertise;

(5) implementing policies to protect judicial independence and due process of law;

(6) issuing visas in a timely manner for United States visitors engaged in counterterrorism efforts and assistance programs in Pakistan; and

(7) providing humanitarian organizations access to detainees, internally displaced persons, and other Pakistani civilians affected by the conflict.

(b) The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, may waive the restriction in subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the congressional defense committees that it is in the national security interest to do so: *Provided*, That if the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, exercises such waiver authority, the Secretaries shall report to the congressional defense committees on both the justification for the waiver and on the requirements of this section that the Government of Pakistan was not able to meet: *Provided further*, That such report may be submitted in classified form if necessary.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 9017. In addition to amounts otherwise made available in this Act, \$500,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense and made available for transfer only to the operation and maintenance, military personnel, and procurement accounts, to improve the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities of the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days prior to exercising the transfer authority provided in this section, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the proposed uses of these funds: *Provided further*, That the funds provided in this section may not be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: *Provided further*, That amounts made available by this section are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the authority to provide funding under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2018.

SEC. 9018. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Syria in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States armed or military forces into hostilities in Syria, into situations in Syria where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Syrian territory, airspace, or waters while equipped for combat, in contravention of the congressional consultation and reporting requirements of sections 3 and 4 of that law (50 U.S.C. 1542 and 1543).

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 9019. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts,

the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

“Other Procurement, Air Force”, 2017/2019, \$25,100,000;

“Afghanistan Security Forces Fund”, 2017/2018, \$100,000,000; and

“Counter-ISIL Train and Equip Fund”, 2017/2018, \$112,513,000.

“Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, DSCA Coalition Support Fund”, 2017/2018, \$350,000,000.

SEC. 9020. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 9021. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report on the United States strategy to defeat Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and their associated forces and co-belligerents.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of the adequacy of the existing legal framework to accomplish the strategy described in subsection (a), particularly with respect to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) and the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

(2) An analysis of the budgetary resources necessary to accomplish the strategy described in subsection (a).

(c) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall testify at any hearing held by any of the appropriate congressional committees on the report and to which the Secretary is invited.

(d) In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9022. (a) In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is hereby appropriated \$1,184,112,000, for the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts for costs associated with Operation Freedom’s Sentinel:

(1) “Military Personnel, Army”, \$48,377,000;

(2) “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$179,000;

(3) “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$1,340,000;

(4) “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$872,491,000;

(5) “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$76,274,000;

(6) “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$24,734,000;

(7) “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, \$81,164,000;

(8) “Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$10,853,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020;

(9) “Other Procurement, Navy”, \$31,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; and

(10) “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy”, \$37,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

(b) Amounts provided pursuant to this section are hereby designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE X—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

REFERENCES TO REPORT

SEC. 10001. Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in this Act shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115-219. Such report shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, this Act.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 10002. \$0.

SEC. 10003. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under the heading “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund” may be used to procure uniforms for the Afghan National Army.

SEC. 10004. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the closure of a biosafety level 4 laboratory.

SEC. 10005. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide arms, training, or other assistance to the Azov Battalion.

SEC. 10006. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to purchase heavy water from Iran.

SEC. 10007. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to plan for, begin, continue, complete, process, or approve a public-private competition under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76.

SEC. 10008. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with respect to the revised security category (as that term is defined in section 250(c)(4)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985), any sequestration order issued under such Act for fiscal year 2018 shall have no force or effect.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 714, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, I stand before you today to ask for your support to pass the fiscal year 2018 Defense Appropriations bill. It is past time that this essential, must-pass funding bill for our military be enacted into law. Congress must act responsibly and do its job to quickly get these dollars out the door and where they are needed as soon as possible.

The legislation before you provides \$659 billion for defense, more than \$60 billion above last year’s levels. When combined with the almost \$5 billion already enacted into law in December, this bill matches the top-line funding level in the final National Defense Authorization Act enacted into law.

All Federal dollars are not the same. We need to provide and prioritize national security after years of neglect and an increasingly dangerous international situation.

Nor can we continue to hold our troops hostage as leverage for unrelated issues. We are almost 4 months into fiscal year 2018, and our troops still don’t have their funding. It is time that the Congress fulfill its responsibility to fund our troops at the levels needed.

It is time to lift the budget caps and enact a full-year Defense Appropriations Act so that our military can begin to rebuild. This bill does that by lifting the budget caps on defense and fully funding the Department at the top line already approved by the Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act.

It takes care of our troops by providing additional manpower and fully funding a 2.4 percent pay raise, and it provides additional funding for key readiness programs and robustly funds maintenance of equipment and facilities.

The bill includes specific investments in several areas, such as air superiority, \$4.3 billion above request; shipbuilding, \$1.6 billion above request; research and development, \$10 billion above 2017; defense health, an additional \$644 million for medical research; and grants forces fully equipped.

The bill also provides additional resources in a National Defense Restoration Fund in the amount of \$28.6 billion to allow Secretary Mattis to begin investing in the new defense strategy now instead of waiting a full year.

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This bill gives our military leaders the sufficient, sustainable, and stable funding they have told us, over and over again, that they need.

The House has done its job more than once to fund our troops at the levels they need only to have the Senate fail to act. Congress must step up and fulfill its most fundamental constitutional responsibility, which is to ensure that our troops have what they need to defend our Nation.

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

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

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

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I first want to start by associating myself with the remarks of my chairwoman and suggest to this body that it is time for Congress to begin to govern and run the day-to-day operation of the Government of the United States in a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third iteration of the fiscal year 2018 Defense Appropriations Act that has been brought to the floor. I, for one, have

nothing more to say about the merits of this legislation that would not be redundant. However, I do want to reiterate my profound respect for the exceptional work that has been put into this legislation, time and time again, by Chairwoman GRANGER, all of the members of our subcommittee, and our superlative staff.

Today, January 30, 2018, Congress is 122 days late. We are 122 days past the start of the current fiscal year and 122 days past the time that the legislation we are considering today for the third time should have been completed, conferred, and signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number problem. As an appropriator, I ask for a number to craft a bill that, by law, does not violate the Budget Control Act. We need a number so that Chairwoman GRANGER, our subcommittee members, and I can make decisions on how best to move forward so our military leaders are not hindered and forced to comply with the constraints of continuing resolutions. As an appropriator, all I want is a number. Give us a number, and we will finish our work for this fiscal year and give the certainty that has been repeatedly asked for by the Department of Defense and our 17 intelligence agencies.

Unfortunately, operating under the fourth continuing resolution and passing essentially the same Defense Appropriations measure for a third time does nothing—nothing—to solve the number problem, nor does it remedy the slight inconvenience that this bill exceeds the Budget Control Act by \$35 billion.

Today's legislation does recognize this inconvenience by obviating sequestration. I guess that is what passes as budget control in these days in this Congress.

Some may say that we must pass this bill today to support our men and women in uniform. I would respond by saying that today's 60 minutes of theater continues to avoid meaningfully addressing the needs of our troops. If we were serious about that, we would have solved our number problem and allowed the chair and ranking member of the full committee, and the subcommittee chairs and ranking members of all 12 committees, to negotiate a realistic budget figure last summer so that we could have completed our bill last September. That would be helping our troops.

I would also add that if we don't agree to an overall domestic discretionary number, then we will continue to disinvest in the true security of this Nation—our people.

We need a domestic number so we can make decisions and give direction to all Federal agencies so they can plan on how to best invest in our national economy, jobs, and the health and prosperity of our people. The International Trade Commission needs direction so they can fully enforce our trade laws. Customs and Border Protection needs direction. This govern-

ment needs timely decisions and certainty.

According to the Department of Defense, 71 percent of people aged 17 to 24 years of age in the United States would fail to qualify for military enlistment because of physical or mental health issues, low educational scores, or major criminal convictions. General Joseph Dunford, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has testified that the strength of the United States military is a direct reflection of the strength of U.S. society.

I would propose that improving the strength of our country is not just a robust defense number that I desperately want. We need a robust domestic number that allows for the critical investments necessary for the success of our economy, the creation of jobs, and for the people of this country.

Our number problem is solvable. Give us a negotiated budget number so we can stop wasting everybody's time and the money of the American taxpayers. Then we can truly start supporting the strength of our national security, our troops, and our national economy.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), who is the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman from Texas for her time and for her leadership on national security and intelligence issues. Indeed, I would like to thank all members of the subcommittee—Republican and Democrat—and the staff for their hard work to assure defense and intelligence funding and also for their work on a variety of continuing resolutions that relate to the same.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, once again, to support this Defense Appropriations bill just as I did in July and again in September.

I visited our troops in Iraq twice last year in addition to official trips to north Africa and Southeast Asia. My goal is always to assess U.S. posture in those regions militarily and diplomatically. I can tell you, from those experiences, our Nation's competitive military advantage is badly eroding, and our allies, partners, and adversaries know it.

So how have we responded? The reality is: not well enough. In fact, we have pushed our military towards its breaking point. Instead of upgrading our hardware, we have allowed our equipment to age. Instead of arming our troops for tomorrow's fight, we have let them become seriously under-equipped. Instead of rightsizing our Armed Forces, we have reduced their size.

Mr. Speaker, we ask a great deal of our men and women in uniform. We ask them to leave their families to complete difficult training. We ask them to move from duty station to duty station without complaint. We ask them to tolerate long deployments far from

home. We ask them to carry out dangerous missions in dangerous corners of the world. We ask them to reenlist with their families to preserve the strength of our Armed Forces.

Every passing day of reduced military funding levels creates an ever-increasing risk for our men and women on the front lines. We should not ask them to continue to do more with less. This full-year Defense Appropriations bill needs to be enacted now, and may I say the other 11 appropriations bills as well.

Mr. VISCIOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), who is the ranking member on the full committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to say a few words about the retirement of my chairman, RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN. Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN has carried out his responsibilities with fairness and earnestness, and it has been such a pleasure to serve as ranking member during his chairmanship.

I look forward, however, to working together for the remainder of this year on our shared goal: bipartisan and responsible full-year funding for all discretionary investments.

Today, we are considering the FY 2018 Defense Appropriations bill for the third time, a time-wasting consequence of an agreement between the Speaker and rightwing Republicans—the third time. Last week, Republican leadership kicked the can down the road and passed yet another continuing resolution delaying investments in our military, education, infrastructure, biomedical research, and so much more.

Yet again, the bill before us removes Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's amendment to debate a new Authorization for Use of Military Force which received bipartisan support in the Appropriations Committee markup. This undemocratic maneuver, which the majority has repeated once again, is outrageous.

In addition to the many procedural inequities, the majority's effort to increase defense spending is a mirage because the bill would turn off sequestration for defense in FY18, allowing Republicans to violate the spirit of our budget laws and increase defense spending while ignoring other investments that grow our economy, create jobs, and further provide for our security.

This is hardly about fiscal responsibility. If it were, the majority would eliminate the seven slush funds in this bill that equals \$28.6 billion for a department that would receive far more than it requested.

Four months into the fiscal year, the Federal Government is irresponsibly operating on the fourth continuing resolution. We do not have an agreement on top-line spending numbers, let alone an omnibus spending package ready when the current CR runs out next week on February 8. So, my friends,

this is not the time to pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. On the contrary, we should be settling down and working together to pass spending bills for FY18.

If the majority were serious about funding our military, then they would move forward toward a full-year, bipartisan omnibus that could pass both Chambers. Instead, they continue to show their inability to govern by leading us down a path that will require another CR that is detrimental to our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), who is the chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this fiscal year 2018 DOD Appropriations bill. Although I am proud to support this critical legislation, I will say that I am disappointed to be here, yet again, speaking in support of the DOD Appropriations bill as we, again, seek its passage in the House.

Despite Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN'S Herculean efforts to complete all 12 bills on time and passing several packages that included the Defense bill, the Senate refuses to act. We recently saw the effects of this when the government shutdown put great stress on the backs of our servicemembers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we push aside partisanship and do what is right for the country and for our national security by passing this bill. While it certainly represents the outcome of many hard choices, it prioritizes funding where our troops need it most. It wisely invests in readiness, training, maintenance, and procurement of new equipment and technology to ensure that our troops are prepared for the tasks before them.

I am pleased that this bill takes care of our troops and their families at home by granting them a long-awaited 2.4 percent pay raise. Our Nation has been at war for nearly two decades, and our servicemembers have put their lives on the line to ensure that we can live our way of life. This raise represents just one small way for us to honor their service.

Mr. Speaker, they say that the third time is the charm, and I hope this holds true here. After the House passes the bill, I urge the Senate to do so as well so that the President can sign this bill into law. According to the Constitution, it is the Congress' responsibility to provide for our common defense. This bill does just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM), who is the ranking member on the Interior,

Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee and a member of the Defense Subcommittee.

□ 1415

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, here we are again. For 4 months, the Federal Government has been operating under a series of short-term continuing resolutions. And as we approach yet another deadline to fund the government next week, the Republican majority is spending time on the floor today voting a third time on a Defense Appropriations bill that they know will not pass in the Senate.

The most basic, fundamental responsibility of Congress is to provide adequate and timely funding for the entire Federal Government, both our national defense and our domestic priorities, for a full fiscal year. The fact that this bill is on the floor for a third time highlights the absolute failure of the Republican majority to advance a responsible budget process.

Mr. Speaker, voting on the same bill three times is the very definition of playing political games. The American people deserve better than this continuing Republican chaos.

Democrats and Republicans agree. We agree that defense spending is vitally important, but so is funding education, transportation, healthcare, and all the other Federal programs that all Americans and our military—their families, included—depend upon.

If anyone doubts the harmful impacts of the endless stopgap spending bills, perhaps they should listen to our Secretary of Defense: "For too long, we have asked our military to stoically carry a 'success at any cost' attitude as they work tirelessly to accomplish the mission with now inadequate and misaligned resources, simply because the Congress could not maintain regular order."

If Republicans are serious about supporting our military, they should heed the Secretary's warning and work with Democrats on a bipartisan budget agreement to fund the entire government for the rest of the year. I have been ready. Democrats have been ready for months to work across the aisle to advance this process. It is long past time that Republicans join us.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chair of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure to fund the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2018.

Today marks the 122nd day that our military has gone without funding for FY 2018. Like the rest of the Federal Government, it has been forced to operate under a CR for the past 4 months. Secretary of Defense James Mattis explained the impacts of operating under a CR, particularly those related to readiness and maintenance. They include a scaled-back training exercise

across the services, the delayed introduction of 11 ships by the United States Navy, the postponement of all noncritical maintenance work orders by the Army, the curtailment of hiring and recruitment, rising acquisition costs from severed contracts, and renegotiated terms due to the CR.

A CR means no new starts, and impacts to current readiness and future plans are disastrous. This must stop. Today's passage of this bill marks, as was pointed out, the third time we have passed the FY 2018 Defense Appropriations bill in some form. Let's hope the third time is the charm.

I commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Chairwoman GRANGER on their tireless persistence and relentless determination on behalf of the U.S. servicemembers. The bill provides robust funding for shipbuilding, aviation, combat vehicles, and more. It invests in our greatest assets, the men and women who wear the uniform, through increased funds for training, equipment, and the best healthcare.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I implore the Senate to act.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, and also a member of the Subcommittee on Defense.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Groundhog Day isn't until Friday, but here we are again, voting for the third time in 7 months on a Defense bill that will go in the hole—nowhere. We are 9 days out from the threat of another shutdown and 4 months into the fiscal year of 2018, which started last October 1, yet we still have no budget framework from our Republican friends and their so-called leadership, nothing to direct appropriators on what numbers from which to negotiate funding for the entirety of the government—not just Defense, not just this account.

Instead, Republican leadership wastes important, precious time to debate a bill that has already passed this Chamber twice before. Meanwhile, our Republican colleagues force the entire government to run on autopilot for over a third of the fiscal year and trumpet their claim that only they prioritize the military.

How can anyone take this seriously?

Republicans have provided no overall roadmap of a funding strategy for the Federal Government. They failed to agree within their own caucus on funding priorities, leaving them incapable to even begin to negotiate with Democrats. As a result, law dictates a defense funding level of \$549 billion. That is a lot of money. Half a trillion. But here we are debating, for the third time, an astounding \$659 billion for defense. That is \$110 billion more. Hmm.

We can all agree that funding defense is a priority, but so are pensions, community health centers, Federal workforce training, the opioid crisis, keeping our waters clean, domestic security. Well, the list goes on, and each deserves attention.

Why are we voting again on a lopsided bill that blows up budget caps when there are so many other bipartisan priorities?

This is a partisan sideshow that attempts to mask Republican Party dysfunction. This is not leadership.

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

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Ohio an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to once again oppose this partisan talking point and demand action on an agreement to fund the entire government for the remaining part of this fiscal year. We have little more than a week to secure a plan for the remainder of 2018, but it may be a road too far if Republicans don't come to the table to talk among themselves seriously and then be willing to negotiate with this side of the aisle.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Defense Appropriations bill which will provide full-year funding for the Defense Department so they can continue to effectively defend our country from an ever-expanding threat which exists in the world today.

This bill ends uncertainty and ineffectiveness of a continuing resolution, allows the DOD to plan and execute on the things they need to do today, not last year. Our military needs to modernize to face new threats it will face in this world, and they can't do that with a CR.

This bill also lifts sequestration caps which have, to paraphrase Secretary Mattis, caused more harm to our military than any enemy. Lifting these caps for FY18 is essential towards improving the readiness of our force.

The world is changing rapidly and so is the nature and threat to our military forces and what they face day and night. We owe it to our servicemen and -women to give them the resources to modernize their capabilities so that they can best face this threat.

Mr. Speaker, our military is the greatest natural resource in the country. I am reminded of this every time I visit The Great Place, Fort Hood, in my district. The troops at Fort Hood are currently leading the fight against ISIS and will benefit from this bill, and we owe it to them.

We sleep every night under the blanket of freedom they provide through their sacrifice. I am proud to support them and hopeful that we will pass this bill so we can give them what they need right now so they won't face the

uncertainty of endless sequestration and CRs. I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to support it.

And it is a current event. Last night, as I flew into Washington, D.C., we carried the remains of an American warrior. It is a current event. We are all responsible for it. We need to get this job done.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), my friend and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for yielding me time and for his tremendous leadership as our ranking member on the Defense Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition once again to this bill. I think the House has taken it up now for a third time this year.

Let me just start by saying I grew up in a military family. I am a military brat. My dad fought in World War II and in the Korean War. He was stationed, among his posts, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

And I want to say that supporting our troops, making sure that they have everything they need, is extremely important. And opposing this budget, for me, of course, does not reflect my support for our troops.

But I just have to tell you, this bill appropriates the \$664 billion in defense spending for this already out-of-control Pentagon budget. It also includes more than \$75 billion for wars that Congress has never debated or voted on. And what is worse, this bill includes \$1.2 billion in overseas contingency operations to increase troop levels in Afghanistan by 3,500 troops. This is really outrageous, and this fund should really be eliminated.

Now, the Pentagon has failed to achieve the requirement to audit itself by 2017, and we know that billions of dollars have been found in waste, fraud, and abuse. That is unacceptable.

Instead of writing blank checks—which is what I think this bill does, another blank check to the Pentagon—Congress needs to live up to its constitutional obligation to complete an audit, first of all, to determine how to make sure we have a rational defense budget that protects our national security and supports our troops, not to provide excess contracts that lead to waste, fraud, and abuse. We also need to debate matters of war and peace.

So we need to pass my amendment, which I tried to do, quite frankly, last year in this very bill, that would sunset the 2001 AUMF, and it would give us 8 months—not immediately, but 8 months—to debate and vote on a new one before it would be enacted. It took 3 days to enact the last one. That is what the debate was. I am asking for 8 months.

This important amendment would provide Congress plenty of time to do our job and finally have a debate on

matters of war and peace. However, even though my amendment passed the Appropriations Committee in a bipartisan fashion, Republicans unilaterally decided to strip this amendment from the bill, really, I have to say, in the dead of night.

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

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from California an additional 1 minute.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, this was very undemocratic and underhanded, and it makes me wonder: What is the Speaker afraid of?

So I asked for my amendment to be debated and voted on on the House floor, and again Republican leadership refused—really a shame. Our brave troops deserve us to come together and do this so that they know that their country has their back.

I voted against the 2001 authorization because I believe it opened the door for any President to wage endless war without a congressional debate or vote. Quite frankly, unfortunately, history has borne that out.

According to the Congressional Research Service report, the 2001 AUMF has been used more than 37 times in 14 countries to justify military action. This report examines only unclassified incidents, and it was conducted 3 years ago. So how many other operations have been conducted without the knowledge of Congress or the American people? These authorizations have also been used to justify perpetual wars that are thousands of miles away.

I will conclude by saying that now any President—any President—can unilaterally wage war under this outdated authorization forever, really, until it is repealed. Now we have an administration bent on increasing our presence in Afghanistan and never leaving Syria, both wars that the American public know nothing about.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on this bill, and reject this wasteful spending.

Ms. GRANGER. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), chairman of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

□ 1430

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support this Defense Appropriations bill.

It has been noted here already: a total of \$659 billion for full-year funding for the Department of Defense, including \$584 billion for base funding and \$75.1 billion for overseas contingency operations. It also fully funds a 2.4 percent pay raise and supports an increase in troop numbers.

When you add the \$4.7 billion in emergency missile defense and other funds requested by the President in November, funding for this DOD appropriations totals \$664 billion—fully consistent with the NDAA for FY 2018.

The House passed nearly identical legislation last year back in July, and then again in September.

Despite the best efforts in the House, here we are again. We are doing this legislation again—the other body has failed—and we are operating on the fourth continuing resolution for FY 2018. That is the 30th CR—or continuing resolution—that Congress has passed since January of 2011.

The House passed each of the 12 appropriations bills and their individual subcommittees and each of the 12 appropriations bills in full committee markup, and each bill has seen the light of day on the House floor.

The other body, Mr. Speaker, is a different story. Not one single appropriations bill has seen the light of day on the Senate floor. No progress has been made on any individual appropriations bills because that body can't seem to get them on the calendar. Part of that has been the demand of every administration nominee be discussed for a full 30 hours—something that this Congress never did under President Obama.

If going to a 51-vote process for appropriations bills is the only way to break this logjam, then such a decision should be made. I am on record for that idea, as are many Senators as well.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in this situation once again. The real question is: Will the other body do theirs?

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership—particularly, his responsible leadership—as the ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the political gambit that the Republican leadership is pulling today.

Virtually identical versions of the Defense Appropriations bill we are considering have already passed the House twice. The Republican majority is so bankrupt of ideas that they are now going around in circles playing political games.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I strongly support moving appropriations bills through the committee and to the floor through regular order. I applaud all of my committee colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working in good faith on all 12 appropriations bills.

But the appropriations process has been hijacked by Republican leadership and the rightwing ideologues who now run the House. Regardless of the outcome of today's vote, all appropriations bills will remain stuck in the swamp that is this Republican Congress.

The reason for this holdup is that Republican so-called leaders have refused to work across the aisle toward an

agreement on a budget that would prevent the gutting of investments in vital national priorities: from education to infrastructure, from healthcare to housing, from diplomacy to defense.

We need to provide our military with the resources they need. There is no question about that. Instead, the Republican majority is using the brave servicemen and -women who defend our Nation as pawns in a partisan crusade that would undermine the nation our troops are defending.

The stated Republican rationale for their intransigence is that they are concerned about the deficit, yet these are the same Republicans who voted to explode the deficit by more than \$1.5 trillion in order to give a huge tax cut to big corporations and the top 1 percent.

As each day passes, it becomes more and more clear that the priorities of the Republican majority are backward and immoral.

Instead of expanding access to affordable healthcare, Republicans tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act and leave millions uninsured.

Instead of investing in the middle class, Republicans gave a huge tax giveaway to those who have turned their backs on the middle class.

Instead of building on bipartisan efforts to advance reasonable reforms to our immigration system, Republicans are trying to tear apart families and close the door on aspiring Americans.

Instead of responsibly funding national priorities, Republicans are playing political games to distract from their failure to govern.

Instead of investing in all of our people, Republicans are pitting us against each other to deflect the blame from where it belongs—with the party who controls both Houses of Congress and the White House.

This is no way to keep the state of our union safe. This is no way to keep the state of our union strong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this political charade. Let's work together to invest in all of our national priorities and make the state of our union more perfect.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I appreciate her strong, persistent leadership on behalf of our troops and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in the days leading up to the most recent government shutdown, we heard a number of Members of both bodies, on the floor and in the press, say that they were opposed to that continuing resolution because of the damage that continuing resolutions do to the military. It is absolutely true that continuing resolutions do erode our fighting capability.

This is the chance—the bill that the gentlewoman from Texas has brought—

this is the chance to do it right. This is the chance to fully fund the military for the rest of the fiscal year and get them out of the CR mess. So all of those Members who came here to the well and have talked to the press and in the other body, who expressed concern about the damage that a CR does, this is the chance to fix that problem by voting for the bill that is before us today.

Mr. Speaker, it is another opportunity to remove our troops from the partisan political morass that has seemed to bind them. We just heard in the previous speech everything from healthcare, taxes, funding for housing, the full panoply of issues. Some Members have used all of their desire to get an outcome they want on those other issues as an excuse for not funding our military.

More recently, we have heard Members who say: Yes, I know the military needs to be funded, they need more money, but I can't support it until we have the outcome I want on an immigration issue.

So from taxes and healthcare and immigration, it is all an excuse to not fund the military, to keep them hostage, until those other issues are resolved the way that Members want them to be.

Mr. Speaker, I just think that is wrong. We need to set our military free of all of the other issues. I may well agree on finding a reasonable solution to the DACA issue. I may well agree on more funding for a number of domestic spending programs. But none of them, however important they may be, should be an excuse for failing to support the military so that when they go out and perform the missions our country asks them to perform, they are fully trained, fully supported, and equipped with the best that this country can offer.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for all of us, whatever committee we serve on, to remember that the men and women who are out there risking their lives for us, do so unconditionally, whether it is in the mountains of Afghanistan, near the DMZ of Korea, whether they are doing exercises in Eastern Europe or the Middle East, they perform their service unconditionally. Our support for them should be unconditional, too.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

I have said it before and I will say it again:

Last summer, the House passed all 12 appropriations bills before the 2018 fiscal year started on October 1. In those bills, we appropriated the funds necessary to equip our servicemembers with the resources they need to defend this country in the face of threats from North Korea, China, Russia, al-Qaida,

ISIS, Iran, and cyber threats, just to name a few.

Yet our servicemembers have been routinely denied access to these resources as Senate Democrats have been holding back the full funding of our armed services. In doing so, they ask our servicemembers to go into battle with aging equipment and insufficient resources, risking their lives to defend America. Just 10 days ago, we had another helicopter accident and we lost two pilots who were in an Apache.

Our men and women in uniform haven't even had a modest pay raise in a very long time. It is time to deliver on this commitment.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity at times to visit our troops overseas. I had the opportunity at the end of last year to look into the young faces of our men and women over there. They are expecting us to do this.

I would like to remind my colleagues across the aisle that our adversaries are on the move. Russia and China are expansionists now. North Korea and Iran fire off ballistic missiles at our allies, destabilizing those regions. There is no doubt that our inaction only emboldens them.

Mr. Speaker, we must rebuild our military before it is too late. The choice is easy: we either deter our enemies through superior strength, or we risk greater conflict by demonstrating weakness.

Let me be clear: what we spend on our defenses should not be a function of any other program. It should be a function of the threats our Nation faces and what we owe our servicemembers in the field.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues across the aisle to fund our military today.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would simply close at the point where I began and ask the Members of this institution at large—the United States Congress, both Houses—to please give the Appropriations Committees numbers for defense and discretionary spending so that under the leadership of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Mrs. LOWEY, in this case under Chairwoman GRANGER, myself, and the other 11 subcommittees, we can finish our work. It is less than 2 weeks before we will begin fiscal year 2019. I would ask my colleagues to please give us those numbers so that we can do our work effectively.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as we conclude our remarks and, again, call for a vote on this very important bill, I want to express my respect and appreciation for the help of Ranking Member VISCLOSKY, and certainly for the leadership of Appropriations Chairman RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN. I have been fortunate to follow the chairman, as chair of

Defense Appropriations, and I speak for all who serve on his committee, who look to him for leadership and respect him for his service. He is an extraordinary public servant and a model for us all, and we thank him.

Mr. Speaker, the time is long past for Congress to fulfill their duty. I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 714, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the motion will be followed by a 5-minute vote on:

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4292.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 250, nays 166, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 49]

YEAS—250

Abraham	Davidson	Hunter
Aderholt	Davis, Rodney	Hurd
Allen	Denham	Jenkins (KS)
Amodei	Dent	Jenkins (WV)
Arrington	DeSantis	Johnson (LA)
Babin	DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)
Bacon	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam
Banks (IN)	Donovan	Jordan
Barletta	Duffy	Joyce (OH)
Barr	Duncan (SC)	Katko
Barton	Dunn	Kelly (MS)
Bera	Emmer	Kelly (PA)
Bergman	Estes (KS)	King (IA)
Biggs	Farenthold	King (NY)
Bilirakis	Faso	Kinzinger
Bishop (GA)	Ferguson	Knight
Bishop (MI)	Fitzpatrick	Kuster (NH)
Bishop (UT)	Fleischmann	Kustoff (TN)
Black	Flores	Labrador
Blum	Portenberry	LaHood
Bost	Fox	LaMalfa
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Lamborn
Brat	Gabbard	Lance
Bridenstine	Gaetz	Latta
Brooks (AL)	Gallagher	Lewis (MN)
Brooks (IN)	Garamendi	LoBiondo
Brownley (CA)	Garrett	Loeb
Buchanan	Gianforte	Long
Buck	Gibbs	Loudermilk
Bucshon	Gohmert	Love
Budd	Goodlatte	Lucas
Burgess	Gosar	Lujan Grisham,
Bustos	Gottheimer	M.
Byrne	Gowdy	MacArthur
Calvert	Granger	Maloney, Sean
Carbajal	Graves (GA)	Marchant
Carter (GA)	Graves (LA)	Marino
Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	Marshall
Chabot	Griffith	Mast
Cheney	Grothman	McCarthy
Coffman	Guthrie	McCaul
Cole	Handel	McHenry
Collins (GA)	Harper	McKinley
Collins (NY)	Harris	McMorris
Comer	Hartzler	Rodgers
Comstock	Hensarling	McSally
Conaway	Herrera Beutler	Meadows
Cook	Hice, Jody B.	Meahan
Cooper	Higgins (LA)	Messer
Costello (PA)	Hill	Mitchell
Cramer	Holding	Moolenaar
Crawford	Hollingsworth	Mooney (WV)
Culberson	Hudson	Mullin
Curbelo (FL)	Huizenga	Murphy (FL)
Curtis	Hultgren	Newhouse

Noem	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (PA)
Norman	Rosen	Thornberry
Nunes	Roskam	Tipton
O'Halleran	Ross	Trott
O'Rourke	Rothfus	Turner
Olson	Rouzer	Upton
Palazzo	Royce (CA)	Valadao
Palmer	Ruiz	Veasey
Paulsen	Russell	Wagner
Pearce	Rutherford	Walberg
Perry	Scalise	Walden
Peters	Schneider	Walker
Peterson	Schweikert	Walorski
Pittenger	Scott, Austin	Walters, Mimi
Poliquin	Sensenbrenner	Weber (TX)
Posey	Sessions	Webster (FL)
Ratcliffe	Shimkus	Wenstrup
Reed	Shuster	Westerman
Reichert	Simpson	Williams
Renacci	Sinema	Wilson (SC)
Rice (SC)	Smith (MO)	Wittman
Roby	Smith (NE)	Womack
Roe (TN)	Smith (NJ)	Woodall
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Yoder
Rogers (KY)	Smucker	Yoho
Rohrabacher	Stefanik	Young (AK)
Rokita	Stewart	Young (IA)
Rooney, Francis	Stivers	Zeldin
Rooney, Thomas J.	Taylor	
	Tenney	

NAYS—166

Adams	Gomez	Norcross
Aguilar	Gonzalez (TX)	Pallone
Amash	Green, Al	Panetta
Barragán	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Bass	Grijalva	Payne
Beatty	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
Beyer	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Hastings	Pingree
Boyle, Brendan F.	Heck	Pocan
Brady (PA)	Higgins (NY)	Polis
Brown (MD)	Himes	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Hoyer	Quigley
Capuano	Huffman	Raskin
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Rice (NY)
Cartwright	Jayapal	Richmond
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Chu, Judy	Kaptur	Rush
Ciulline	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez
Clarke (NY)	Khanna	Sanford
Clay	Kihuen	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Kilmer	Schiff
Cohen	Kind	Schrader
Connolly	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Correa	Langevin	Scott, David
Costa	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Crist	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Crowley	Lawrence	Shea-Porter
Cuellar	Lawson (FL)	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Lee	Sires
Davis, Danny	Levin	Slaughter
DeFazio	Lewis (GA)	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Lieu, Ted	Soto
Delaney	Lipinski	Speier
DeLauro	Lofgren	Suozi
DelBene	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
Demings	Lowe	Takano
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray	Thompson (CA)
Deutch	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Maloney,	Titus
Doggett	Carolyn B.	Tonko
Doyle, Michael F.	Massie	Torres
Duncan (TN)	Matsui	Tsongas
Ellison	McCollum	Vargas
Engel	McEachin	Vela
Eshoo	McGovern	Velázquez
Espallat	McNerney	Visclosky
Esty (CT)	Meeks	Walz
Evans	Meng	Wasserman
Foster	Moore	Schultz
Frankel (FL)	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Fudge	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Galleo	Napolitano	Welch
	Neal	Yarmuth
	Nolan	

NOT VOTING—14

Blackburn	Cummings	Luetkemeyer
Blumenauer	Issa	McClintock
Blunt Rochester	Johnson, E. B.	Poe (TX)
Cárdenas	Jones	Wilson (FL)
Courtney	Kennedy	

□ 1511

Messrs. CARSON of Indiana and CRIST changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. LUCAS, JORDAN, COFFMAN, and CARBAJAL changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 49.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION LIVING WILL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4292) to reform the living will process under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, 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 Colorado (Mr. TIP-TON) 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 414, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 50]

YEAS—414

Abraham	Bustos	Davis (CA)
Adams	Butterfield	Davis, Danny
Aderholt	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Aguilar	Calvert	DeFazio
Allen	Capuano	DeGette
Amash	Carbajal	Delaney
Amodei	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Arrington	Carter (GA)	DelBene
Babin	Carter (TX)	Demings
Bacon	Cartwright	Dent
Banks (IN)	Castor (FL)	DeSantis
Barletta	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Barr	Chabot	DesJarlais
Barragán	Cheney	Deutch
Barton	Chu, Judy	Diaz-Balart
Bass	Cicilline	Dingell
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Donovan
Bergman	Clay	Doyle, Michael
Beyer	Cleaver	F.
Biggs	Clyburn	Duffy
Bilirakis	Coffman	Duncan (SC)
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Duncan (TN)
Bishop (MI)	Cole	Dunn
Bishop (UT)	Collins (GA)	Ellison
Black	Collins (NY)	Emmer
Blum	Comer	Engel
Blunt Rochester	Comstock	Eshoo
Bonamici	Conaway	Española
Bost	Connolly	Estes (KS)
Boyle, Brendan	Cook	Esty (CT)
F.	Cooper	Evans
Brady (PA)	Correa	Farenthold
Brady (TX)	Costa	Faso
Brat	Costello (PA)	Ferguson
Bridenstine	Cramer	Fitzpatrick
Brooks (AL)	Crawford	Fleischmann
Brooks (IN)	Crist	Flores
Brown (MD)	Crowley	Fortenberry
Buchanan	Cuellar	Foster
Buck	Culberson	Foxx
Bucshon	Loribelo (FL)	Frankel (FL)
Budd	Curtis	Frelinghuysen
Burgess	Davidson	Fudge

Gabbard	Long	Ross
Gaetz	Loudermilk	Rothfus
Gallagher	Love	Rouzer
Gallego	Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard
Garamendi	Lowe	Royce (CA)
Garrett	Lucas	Ruiz
Gianforte	Lujan Grisham,	Ruppersberger
Gibbs	M.	Rush
Gohmert	Luján, Ben Ray	Russell
Gomez	Lynch	Rutherford
Gonzalez (TX)	MacArthur	Ryan (OH)
Goodlatte	Maloney,	Sánchez
Gosar	Carolyn B.	Sanford
Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
Gowdy	Marchant	Scalise
Granger	Marino	Schakowsky
Graves (GA)	Marshall	Schiff
Graves (LA)	Massie	Schneider
Graves (MO)	Mast	Schrader
Green, Al	Matsui	Schweikert
Green, Gene	McCarthy	Scott (VA)
Griffith	McCaul	Scott, Austin
Grijalva	McCollum	Sensenbrenner
Grothman	McEachin	Serrano
Guthrie	McGovern	Sessions
Gutiérrez	McHenry	Sewell (AL)
Hanabusa	McKinley	Shea-Porter
Handel	McMorris	Sherman
Harper	Rodgers	Shimkus
Harris	McNerney	Shuster
Hartzler	McSally	Simpson
Hastings	Meadows	Sinema
Heck	Meehan	Sires
Hensarling	Meeks	Slaughter
Herrera Beutler	Meng	Smith (MO)
Hice, Jody B.	Messer	Smith (NE)
Higgins (LA)	Mitchell	Smith (NJ)
Higgins (NY)	Moolenaar	Smith (TX)
Hill	Mooney (WV)	Smith (WA)
Himes	Moore	Smucker
Holding	Moulton	Soto
Hollingsworth	Mullin	Speier
Hoyer	Murphy (FL)	Stefanik
Hudson	Nadler	Stewart
Huffman	Napolitano	Stivers
Huizenga	Neal	Suozi
Hultgren	Newhouse	Swalwell (CA)
Hunter	Noem	Takano
Hurd	Nolan	Taylor
Jackson Lee	Norcross	Tenney
Jayapal	Norman	Thompson (CA)
Jeffries	Nunes	Thompson (MS)
Jenkins (KS)	O'Halleran	Thompson (PA)
Jenkins (WV)	O'Rourke	Thornberry
Johnson (GA)	Olson	Tipton
Johnson (LA)	Palazzo	Titus
Johnson (OH)	Pallone	Tonko
Johnson, Sam	Palmer	Torres
Jordan	Panetta	Trott
Joyce (OH)	Pascrell	Tsongas
Kaptur	Paulsen	Turner
Katko	Payne	Upton
Keating	Pearce	Valadao
Kelly (MS)	Pelosi	Vargas
Kelly (PA)	Perlmutter	Veasey
Khanna	Perry	Vela
Kihuen	Peters	Velázquez
Kildee	Peterson	Visclosky
Kilmer	Pingree	Wagner
Kind	Pittenger	Walberg
King (IA)	Pocan	Walden
King (NY)	Poe (TX)	Walker
Kinzinger	Poliquin	Walorski
Knight	Polis	Walters, Mimi
Krishnamoorthi	Posey	Walz
Kuster (NH)	Price (NC)	Wasserman
Kustoff (TN)	Quigley	Raskin
Labrador	Raskin	Schultz
LaHood	Ratcliffe	Waters, Maxine
LaMalfa	Reed	Watson Coleman
Lamborn	Reichert	Weber (TX)
Lance	Renacci	Webster (FL)
Langevin	Rice (NY)	Welch
Larsen (WA)	Rice (SC)	Wenstrup
Larson (CT)	Richmond	Westerman
Latta	Roby	Williams
Lawrence	Roe (TN)	Wilson (SC)
Lawson (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Wittman
Lee	Rogers (KY)	Womack
Levin	Rohrabacher	Woodall
Lewis (GA)	Rokita	Yarmuth
Lewis (MN)	Rooney, Francis	Yoder
Lieu, Ted	Rooney, Thomas	Yoho
Lipinski	J.	Young (AK)
LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (IA)
Loeb sack	Rosen	Zeldin
Lofgren	Roskam	

NOT VOTING—16

Blackburn	Denham	Luetkemeyer
Blumenauer	Issa	McClintock
Brownley (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Scott, David
Cárdenas	Jones	Wilson (FL)
Courtney	Kelly (IL)	
Cummings	Kennedy	

□ 1520

Messrs. SIRES, RICHMOND, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico changed their 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WILSON of Florida. I was not present for the following votes because I needed to return urgently to my congressional district in Miami. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall No. 49 and “yes” on rollcall No. 50.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment, pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of rule X, and the order of the House of December 13, 2017, of the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 115th Congress in light of the elections of Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California and Mr. RATCLIFFE to the Committee on Ethics:

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Washington
Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY, Florida

ADJOURNMENT FROM TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018, TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 2018.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018, TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, February 2, 2018, it adjourn to meet on Monday, February 5, 2018, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber Security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2033

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS
PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 101 TO RE-
CEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ);

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS); and

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN); and

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, the First Lady of the United States, and my fellow Americans:

Less than 1 year has passed since I first stood at this podium, in this majestic Chamber, to speak on behalf of the American people and to address their concerns, their hopes, and their dreams. That night, our new administration had already taken very swift action. A new tide of optimism was already sweeping across our land.

Each day since, we have gone forward with a clear vision and a righteous mission: to make America great again for all Americans.

Over the last year, we have made incredible progress and achieved extraordinary success. We have faced challenges we expected, and others we could never have imagined. We have shared in the heights of victory and the pains of hardship. We have endured floods and fires and storms. But through it all, we have seen the beauty of America's soul and the steel in America's spine.

Each test has forged new American heroes to remind us who we are and show us what we can be.

We saw the volunteers of the Cajun Navy racing to the rescue with their fishing boats to save people in the aftermath of a totally devastating hurricane.

We saw strangers shielding strangers from a hail of gunfire on the Las Vegas strip.

We heard tales of Americans like Coast Guard Petty Officer Ashlee Leppert, who is here tonight in the gallery with Melania. Ashlee was aboard one of the first helicopters on the scene in Houston during Hurricane Harvey. Through 18 hours of wind and rain, Ashlee braved live power lines and deep water to help save more than 40 lives.

Ashlee, we all thank you. Thank you very much.

We heard about Americans like firefighter David Dahlberg. He is here with us also. David faced down walls of flame to rescue almost 60 children trapped at a California summer camp

threatened by those devastating wildfires.

To everyone still recovering in Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands—and everywhere—we are with you, we love you, and we always will pull through together. Always.

Thank you to David and the brave people of California. Thank you very much, David. Great job.

Some trials over the past year touched this Chamber very personally. With us tonight is one of the toughest people ever to serve in this House, a guy who took a bullet, almost died, and was back to work 3½ months later: the legend from Louisiana, Congressman STEVE SCALISE.

I think they like you, STEVE.

We are incredibly grateful for the heroic efforts of the Capitol Police officers, the Alexandria Police, and the doctors, nurses, and paramedics who saved his life and the lives of many others—some in this room.

In the aftermath of that terrible shooting, we came together not as Republicans or Democrats, but as representatives of the people. But it is not enough to come together only in times of tragedy. Tonight, I call upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out common ground, and to summon the unity we need to deliver for the people. This is really the key. These are the people we were elected to serve.

Over the last year, the world has seen what we always knew: that no people on Earth are so fearless, or daring, or determined, as Americans. If there is a mountain, we climb it. If there is a frontier, we cross it. If there is a challenge, we tame it. If there is an opportunity, we seize it.

So let's begin tonight by recognizing that the state of our Union is strong because our people are strong. And, together, we are building a safe, strong, and proud America.

Since the election, we have created 2.4 million new jobs, including 200,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone. Tremendous numbers. After years and years of wage stagnation, we are finally seeing rising wages.

Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low. And something I am very proud of: African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded, and Hispanic-American unemployment has also reached the lowest levels in history.

Small business confidence is at an all-time high. The stock market has smashed one record after another, gaining \$8 trillion, and more, in value in just this short period of time. That is great news for Americans. 401(k), retirement, pension, and college savings accounts have gone through the roof.

And just as I promised the American people from this podium 11 months ago, we enacted the biggest tax cuts and reforms in American history.

Our massive tax cuts provide tremendous relief for the middle class and small businesses.

To lower tax rates for hardworking Americans, we nearly doubled the standard deduction for everyone. Now, the first \$24,000 earned by a married couple is completely tax free. We also doubled the child tax credit.

A typical family of four making \$75,000 will see their tax bill reduced by \$2,000—slashing their tax bill in half.

In April, this will be the last time you will ever file under the old, and very broken, system; and millions of Americans will have more take-home pay starting next month—a lot more.

We eliminated an especially cruel tax that fell mostly on Americans making less than \$50,000 a year, forcing them to pay tremendous penalties, simply because they couldn't afford government-ordered health plans. We repealed the core of the disastrous ObamaCare. The individual mandate is now gone.

We slashed the business tax rate from 35 percent all the way down to 21 percent, so American companies can compete and win against anyone else anywhere in the world. These changes alone are estimated to increase average family income by more than \$4,000—a lot of money.

Small businesses have also received a massive tax cut and can now deduct 20 percent of their business income.

Here, tonight, are Steve Staub and Sandy Keplinger of Staub Manufacturing—a small, beautiful business in Ohio. They have just finished the best year in their 20-year history. Because of tax reform, they are handing out raises, hiring an additional 14 people, and expanding into the building next door—a good feeling.

One of Staub's employees, Corey Adams, is also with us tonight. Corey is an all-American worker. He supported himself through high school, lost his job during the 2008 recession, and was later hired by Staub, where he trained to become a welder. Like many hardworking Americans, Corey plans to invest his tax-cut raise into his new home and his two daughters' educations. Corey, please stand. And he is a great welder. I was told that by the man who owns that company that is doing so well. So, congratulations, Corey.

Since we passed tax cuts, roughly 3 million workers have already gotten tax-cut bonuses—many of them thousands and thousands of dollars per worker; and it is getting more every month, every week. Apple has just announced it plans to invest a total of \$350 billion in America and hire another 20,000 workers. And just a little while ago, ExxonMobil announced a \$50 billion investment in the United States—just a little while ago.

This, in fact, is our new American moment. There has never been a better time to start living the American Dream.

So to every citizen watching at home tonight—no matter where you have been or where you have come from—this is your time. If you work hard, if you believe in yourself, if you believe

in America, then you can dream anything, you can be anything, and, together, we can achieve absolutely anything.

Tonight, I want to talk about what kind of future we are going to have and what kind of a nation we are going to be. All of us, together, as one team, one people, and one American family can do anything.

We all share the same home, the same heart, the same destiny, and the same great American flag.

Together, we are rediscovering the American way.

In America, we know that faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, are the center of American life. Our motto is "In God We Trust."

And we celebrate our police, our military, and our amazing veterans as heroes who deserve our total and unwavering support.

Here tonight is Preston Sharp, a 12-year-old boy from Redding, California, who noticed that veterans' graves were not marked with flags on Veterans Day. He decided all by himself to change that and started a movement that has now placed 40,000 flags at the graves of our great heroes. Preston: a job well done.

Young patriots like Preston teach all of us about our civic duty as Americans. And I met Preston a little while ago, and he is something very special; that, I can tell you. Great future. Thank you very much for all you have done, Preston. Thank you very much.

Preston's reverence for those who have served our Nation reminds us of why we salute our flag, why we put our hands on our hearts for the Pledge of Allegiance, and why we proudly stand for the national anthem.

Americans love their country, and they deserve a government that shows them the same love and loyalty in return.

For the last year, we have sought to restore the bonds of trust between our citizens and their government. Working with the Senate, we are appointing judges who will interpret the Constitution as written, including a great new Supreme Court Justice and more circuit court judges than any new administration in the history of our country.

We are totally defending our Second Amendment and have taken historic actions to protect religious liberty.

And we are serving our brave veterans, including giving our veterans choice in their healthcare decisions. Last year, Congress also passed, and I signed, the landmark VA Accountability Act. Since its passage, my administration has already removed more than 1,500 VA employees who failed to give our veterans the care they deserve, and we are hiring talented people who love our vets as much as we do. And I will not stop until our veterans are properly taken care of, which has been my promise to them from the very beginning of this great journey.

All Americans deserve accountability and respect, and that is what we are

giving to our wonderful heroes, our veterans. Thank you.

So tonight I call on Congress to empower every Cabinet Secretary with the authority to reward good workers and to remove Federal employees who undermine the public trust or fail the American people.

In our drive to make Washington accountable, we have eliminated more regulations in our first year than any administration in the history of our country.

We have ended the war on American energy, and we have ended the war on beautiful, clean coal. We are now, very proudly, an exporter of energy to the world.

In Detroit, I halted government mandates that crippled America's great, beautiful autoworkers so that we can get Motor City revving its engines again, and that is what is happening.

Many car companies are now building and expanding plants in the United States, something we haven't seen for decades. Chrysler is moving a major plant from Mexico to Michigan. Toyota and Mazda are opening up a plant in Alabama—a big one—and we haven't seen this in a long time. It is all coming back. Very soon, auto plants and other plants will be opening up all over our country.

This is all news Americans are totally unaccustomed to hearing. For many years, companies and jobs were only leaving us, but now they are roaring back. They are coming back. They want to be where the action is. They want to be in the United States of America. That is where they want to be.

Exciting progress is happening every single day.

To speed access to breakthrough cures and affordable generic drugs, last year the FDA approved more new and generic drugs and medical devices than ever before in our country's history.

We also believe that patients with terminal conditions and terminal illness should have access to experimental treatment immediately that could potentially save their lives.

People who are terminally ill should not have to go from country to country to seek a cure. I want to give them a chance right here at home. It is time for Congress to give these wonderful, incredible Americans the "right to try."

One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs. In many other countries, these drugs cost far less than what we pay in the United States, and it is very, very unfair. That is why I have directed my administration to make fixing the injustice of high drug prices one of my top priorities for the year, and prices will come down substantially. Watch.

America has also finally turned the page on decades of unfair trade deals that sacrificed our prosperity and shipped away our companies, our jobs, and our wealth. Our Nation has lost its wealth, but we are getting it back so fast.

The era of economic surrender is totally over.

From now on, we expect trading relationships to be fair and, very importantly, reciprocal.

We will work to fix bad trade deals and negotiate new ones, and they will be good ones, but they will be fair.

And we will protect American workers and American intellectual property through strong enforcement of our trade rules.

As we rebuild our industries, it is also time to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.

America is a nation of builders. We built the Empire State Building in just 1 year. Isn't it a disgrace that it can now take 10 years just to get a minor permit approved for the building of a simple road?

I am asking both parties to come together to give us safe, fast, reliable, and modern infrastructure that our economy needs and our people deserve.

Tonight, I am calling on Congress to produce a bill that generates at least \$1.5 trillion for the new infrastructure investment that our country so desperately needs.

Every Federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with State and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private sector investment to permanently fix the infrastructure deficit, and we can do it.

Any bill must also streamline the permitting and approval process, getting it down to no more than 2 years, and perhaps even 1.

Together, we can reclaim our great building heritage. We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways, and waterways all across our land, and we will do it with American heart and American hands and American grit.

We want every American to know the dignity of a hard day's work. We want every child to be safe in their home at night. And we want every citizen to be proud of this land that we all love so much.

We can lift our citizens from welfare to work, from dependence to independence, and from poverty to prosperity.

As tax cuts create new jobs, let's invest in workforce development and let's invest in job training, which we need so badly. Let's open great vocational schools so our future workers can learn a craft and realize their full potential. And let's support working families by supporting paid family leave.

As America regains its strength, opportunity must be extended to all citizens. That is why this year we will embark on reforming our prisons to help former inmates who have served their time get a second chance at life.

Struggling communities, especially immigrant communities, will also be helped by immigration policies that focus on the best interests of American workers and American families.

For decades, open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our

most vulnerable communities. They have allowed millions of low-wage workers to compete for jobs and wages against the poorest Americans. Most tragically, they have caused the loss of many innocent lives.

Here tonight are two fathers and two mothers: Evelyn Rodriguez, Freddy Cuevas, Elizabeth Alvarado, and Robert Mickens. Their two teenage daughters, Kayla Cuevas and Nisa Mickens, were close friends on Long Island. But in September 2016, on the eve of Nisa's 16th birthday, such a happy time it should have been, neither of them came home. These two precious girls were brutally murdered while walking together in their hometown. Six members of the savage MS-13 gang have been charged with Kayla's and Nisa's murders. Many of these gang members took advantage of glaring loopholes in our laws to enter the country as illegal, unaccompanied alien minors, and wound up in Kayla's and Nisa's high school.

Evelyn, Elizabeth, Freddy, and Robert: Tonight, everyone in this Chamber is praying for you. Everyone in America is grieving for you. Please stand. Thank you very much. I want you to know that 320 million hearts are right now breaking for you. We love you. Thank you. While we cannot imagine the depths of that kind of sorrow, we can make sure that other families never have to endure this kind of pain.

Tonight I am calling on Congress to finally close the deadly loopholes that have allowed MS-13 and other criminal gangs to break into our country. We have proposed new legislation that will fix our immigration laws and support our ICE and Border Patrol agents. These are great people. These are great, great people who work so hard in the midst of such danger so that this can never happen again.

The United States is a compassionate nation. We are proud that we do more than any other country anywhere in the world to help the needy, the struggling, and the underprivileged all over the world. But as President of the United States, my highest loyalty, my greatest compassion, my constant concern, is for America's children, America's struggling workers, and America's forgotten communities. I want our youth to grow up to achieve great things. I want our poor to have their chance to rise.

So tonight I am extending an open hand to work with Members of both parties, Democrats and Republicans, to protect our citizens of every background, color, religion, and creed. My duty and the sacred duty of every elected official in this Chamber is to defend Americans, to protect their safety, their families, their communities, and their right to the American Dream, because Americans are dreamers, too.

Here tonight is one leader in the effort to defend our country: Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Celestino Martinez. He goes by DJ and CJ.

He said: Call me either one.

So we will call you CJ.

He served 15 years in the Air Force before becoming an ICE agent and spending the last 15 years fighting gang violence and getting dangerous criminals off of our streets. Tough job.

At one point, MS-13 leaders ordered CJ's murder, and they wanted it to happen quickly. But he did not cave to threats or to fear. Last May, he commanded an operation to track down gang members on Long Island. His team has arrested nearly 400, including more than 220 MS-13 gang members.

And I have to tell you what the Border Patrol and ICE have done. We have sent thousands and thousands and thousands of MS-13, horrible people out of this country or into our prisons.

So I just want to congratulate you, CJ. You are a brave guy. Thank you very much.

And I asked CJ: What is the secret?

He said: "We are just tougher than they are."

And I like that answer. Now let's get Congress to send you—and all of the people in this great Chamber have to do it. We have no choice. CJ, we are going to send you reinforcements and we are going to send them to you quickly. It is what you need.

Over the next few weeks, the House and Senate will be voting on an immigration reform package. In recent months, my administration has met extensively with both Democrats and Republicans to craft a bipartisan approach to immigration reform. Based on these discussions, we presented Congress with a detailed proposal that should be supported by both parties as a fair compromise, one where nobody gets everything they want, but where our country gets the critical reforms it needs and must have.

Here are the four pillars of our plan:

The first pillar of our framework generously offers a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age. That covers almost three times more people than the previous administration covered. Under our plan, those who meet education and work requirements, and show good moral character, will be able to become full citizens of the United States over a 12-year period.

The second pillar fully secures the border. That means building a great wall on the Southern border, and it means hiring more heroes like CJ to keep our communities safe. Crucially, our plan closes the terrible loopholes exploited by criminals and terrorists to enter our country, and it finally ends the horrible and dangerous practice of catch and release.

The third pillar ends the visa lottery—a program that randomly hands out green cards without any regard for skill, merit, or the safety of American people. It is time to begin moving toward a merit-based immigration system—one that admits people who are skilled, who want to work, who will

contribute to our society, and who will love and respect our country.

The fourth and final pillar protects the nuclear family by ending chain migration. Under the current broken system, a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives. Under our plan, we focus on the immediate family by limiting sponsorships to spouses and minor children. This vital reform is necessary, not just for our economy, but for our security and for the future of America.

In recent weeks, two terrorist attacks in New York were made possible by the visa lottery and chain migration. In the age of terrorism, these programs present risks we can just no longer afford.

It is time to reform these outdated immigration rules and finally bring our immigration system into the 21st century.

These four pillars represent a down-the-middle compromise, and one that will create a safe, modern, and lawful immigration system.

For over 30 years, Washington has tried and failed to solve this problem. This Congress can be the one that finally makes it happen.

Most importantly, these four pillars will produce legislation that fulfills my ironclad pledge to sign a bill that puts America first. So let's come together, set politics aside, and finally get the job done.

These reforms will also support our response to the terrible crisis of opioid and drug addiction. Never before has it been like it is now. It is terrible, and we have to do something about it.

In 2016, we lost 64,000 Americans to drug overdoses: 174 deaths per day, 7 per hour. We must get much tougher on drug dealers and pushers if we are going to succeed in stopping this scourge.

My administration is committed to fighting the drug epidemic and helping get treatment for those in need, for those who have been so terribly hurt. The struggle will be long, and it will be difficult; but as Americans always do, in the end, we will succeed, and we will prevail.

As we have seen tonight, the most difficult challenges bring out the best in America.

We see a vivid expression of this truth in the story of the Holets family of New Mexico. Ryan Holets is 27 years old and an officer with the Albuquerque Police Department. He is here tonight with his wife, Rebecca. Thank you, Ryan.

Last year, Ryan was on duty when he saw a pregnant, homeless woman preparing to inject heroin. When Ryan told her she was going to harm her unborn child, she began to weep. She told him she didn't know where to turn but badly wanted a safe home for her baby. In that moment, Ryan said he felt God speak to him: You will do it because you can. He heard those words. He took out a picture of his wife and their four kids. Then he went home to tell his

wife, Rebecca. In an instant, she agreed to adopt. The Holets named their new daughter Hope.

Ryan and Rebecca, you embody the goodness of our Nation. Thank you. Thank you, Ryan and Rebecca.

As we rebuild America's strength and confidence at home, we are also restoring our strength and standing abroad.

Around the world, we face rogue regimes, terrorist groups, and rivals like China and Russia that challenge our interests, our economy, and our values. In confronting these horrible dangers, we know that weakness is the surest path to conflict, and unmatched power is the surest means to our true and great defense.

For this reason, I am asking Congress to end the dangerous defense sequester and fully fund our great military.

As part of our defense, we must modernize and rebuild our nuclear arsenal, hopefully never having to use it, but making it so strong and so powerful that it will deter any acts of aggression by any other nation or anyone else. Perhaps someday in the future there will be a magical moment when the countries of the world will get together to eliminate their nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, we are not there yet, sadly.

Last year, I also pledged that we would work with our allies to extinguish ISIS from the face of the Earth. One year later, I am proud to report that the coalition to defeat ISIS has liberated very close to 100 percent of the territory just recently held by these killers in Iraq and in Syria, and in other locations as well. But there is much more work to be done. We will continue our fight until ISIS is defeated.

Army Staff Sergeant Justin Peck is here tonight. Near Raqqa last November, Justin and his comrade, Chief Petty Officer Kenton Stacy, were on a mission to clear buildings that ISIS had rigged with explosives so that civilians could return to that city, hopefully soon and hopefully safely.

Clearing the second floor of a vital hospital, Kenton Stacy was severely wounded by an explosion. Immediately, Justin bounded into the booby-trapped and unbelievably dangerous and unsafe building and found Kenton but in very, very bad shape.

He applied pressure to the wound and inserted a tube to reopen an airway. He then performed CPR for 20 straight minutes during the ground transport and maintained artificial respiration through 2½ hours of emergency surgery.

Kenton Stacy would have died if it were not for Justin's selfless love for his fellow warrior. Tonight, Kenton is recovering in Texas. Raqqa is liberated. And Justin is wearing his new Bronze Star, with a "V" for "valor." Staff Sergeant Peck: All of America salutes you.

Terrorists who do things like place bombs in civilian hospitals are evil.

When possible, we have no choice but to annihilate them. When necessary, we must be able to detain and question them. But we must be clear: Terrorists are not merely criminals. They are unlawful enemy combatants. And when captured overseas, they should be treated like the terrorists they are.

In the past, we have foolishly released hundreds and hundreds of dangerous terrorists, only to meet them again on the battlefield—including the ISIS leader, al-Baghdadi, whom we captured, whom we had, whom we released.

So today, I am keeping another promise. I just signed, prior to walking in, an order directing Secretary Mattis, who is doing a great job—thank you—to reexamine our military detention policy and to keep open the detention facilities in Guantanamo Bay.

I am asking Congress to ensure that, in the fight against ISIS and al-Qaida, we continue to have all necessary power to detain terrorists—wherever we chase them down, wherever we find them. And in many cases, for them, it will now be Guantanamo Bay.

At the same time, as of a few months ago, our warriors in Afghanistan have new rules of engagement. Along with their heroic Afghan partners, our military is no longer undermined by artificial timelines, and we no longer tell our enemies our plans.

Last month, I also took an action endorsed unanimously by the U.S. Senate just months before: I recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Shortly afterwards, dozens of countries voted in the United Nations General Assembly against America's sovereign right to make this decision. In 2016, American taxpayers generously sent those same countries more than \$20 billion in aid.

That is why, tonight, I am asking Congress to pass legislation to help ensure American foreign-assistance dollars always serve American interests and only go to friends of America, not enemies of America.

As we strengthen friendships all around the world, we are also restoring clarity about our adversaries.

When the people of Iran rose up against the crimes of their corrupt dictatorship, I did not stay silent. America stands with the people of Iran in their courageous struggle for freedom.

I am asking Congress to address the fundamental flaws in the terrible Iran nuclear deal.

My administration has also imposed tough sanctions on the communist and socialist dictatorships in Cuba and Venezuela.

But no regime has oppressed its own citizens more totally or brutally than the cruel dictatorship in North Korea.

North Korea's reckless pursuit of nuclear missiles could very soon threaten our homeland. We are waging a campaign of maximum pressure to prevent that from ever happening.

Past experience has taught us that complacency and concessions only in-

vite aggression and provocation. I will not repeat the mistakes of past administrations that got us into this very dangerous position.

We need only look at the depraved character of the North Korean regime to understand the nature of the nuclear threat it could pose to America and to our allies.

Otto Warmbier was a hardworking student at the University of Virginia, and a great student he was. On his way to study abroad in Asia, Otto joined a tour to North Korea. At its conclusion, this wonderful young man was arrested and charged with crimes against the state. After a shameful trial, the dictatorship sentenced Otto to 15 years of hard labor before returning him to America last June—horribly injured and on the verge of death. He passed away just days after his return.

Otto's wonderful parents, Fred and Cindy Warmbier, are here with us tonight, along with Otto's brother and sister, Austin and Greta—incredible people. You are powerful witnesses to a menace that threatens our world, and your strength truly inspires us all. Thank you very much. Tonight, we pledge to honor Otto's memory with total American resolve.

Finally, we are joined by one more witness to the ominous nature of this regime. His name is Mr. Ji Seong-ho. In 1996, Seong-ho was a starving boy in North Korea. One day, he tried to steal coal from a railroad car to barter for a few scraps of food which were very hard to get. In the process, he passed out on the train tracks, exhausted from hunger. He woke up as a train ran over his limbs. He then endured multiple amputations without anything to dull the pain or the hurt. His brother and sister gave what little food they had to help him recover and ate dirt themselves—permanently stunting their own growth. Later, he was tortured by North Korean authorities after returning from a brief visit to China. His tormentors wanted to know if he had met any Christians. He had; and he resolved after that to be free.

Seong-ho traveled thousands of miles on crutches all across China and Southeast Asia to freedom. Most of his family followed. His father was caught trying to escape and was tortured to death. Today he lives in Seoul, where he rescues other defectors, and broadcasts into North Korea what the regime fears most—the truth.

Today he has a new leg. But, Seong-ho, I understand you still keep those old crutches as a reminder of how far you have come. Your great sacrifice is an inspiration to us all. Thank you.

Seong-ho's story is a testament to the yearning of every human soul to live in freedom.

It was that same yearning for freedom that nearly 250 years ago gave birth to a special place called America. It was a small cluster of colonies caught between a great ocean and a vast wilderness. It was home to an incredible people with a revolutionary

idea: that they could rule themselves, that they could chart their own destiny, and that, together, they could light up the entire world.

That is what our country has always been about. That is what Americans have always stood for, always strived for, and always done.

Atop the dome of this Capitol stands the Statue of Freedom. She stands tall and dignified among the monuments to our ancestors who fought and lived and died to protect her—monuments to Washington and Jefferson, to Lincoln and King.

They are memorials to the heroes of Yorktown and Saratoga—to the young Americans who shed their blood on the shores of Normandy and the fields beyond, and others who went down in the waters of the Pacific and the skies all over Asia.

And freedom stands tall over one more monument: this one—this Capitol, this living monument. This is the monument to the American people.

We are a people whose heroes live not only in the past, but all around us—defending hope and pride and defending the American way.

They work in every trade. They sacrifice to raise a family. They care for our children at home. They defend our flag abroad. They are strong moms and brave kids. They are firefighters, police officers, border agents, medics, and marines. But above all else, they are Americans. And this Capitol, this city, this Nation, belong entirely to them.

Our task is to respect them, to listen to them, to serve them, to protect them, and to always be worthy of them.

Americans fill the world with art and music. They push the bounds of science and discovery, and they forever remind us of what we should never ever forget: the people dreamed this country, the people built this country, and it is the people who are making America great again.

As long as we are proud of who we are and what we are fighting for, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

As long as we have confidence in our values, faith in our citizens, and trust in our God, we will never fail. Our families will thrive. Our people will prosper. And our Nation will forever be safe and strong and proud and mighty and free.

Thank you, and God bless America.

Good night.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet; the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court; the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2018.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 30, 2018, at 4:58 p.m.:

That the Senate concurs in House of Representatives amendment to the bill S. 534.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 4708.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

**MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT RE-
FERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE
STATE OF THE UNION**

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Whole House of the state of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, February 2, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.**

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3857. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a determination that a public health emergency exists nationwide as a result of the consequences of the opioid crisis, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3858. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report on Assessment of Solid-State Lighting, Phase Two, pursuant to Public Law 110-140, Sec. 321(h)(3); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3859. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting reports concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Za-

blocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3860. A letter from the Director, Financial Reporting and Internal Controls, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3861. A letter from the Director, White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a notification of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3862. A letter from the Director, White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a notification of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3863. A letter from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of an action on a nomination and a notification of discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3864. A letter from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification on a nomination and a notification on an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3865. A letter from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification on a nomination and a notification of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3866. A letter from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a nomination and a notification of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3867. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3868. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2017 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

**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. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services; H.R. 3299. A bill to amend the

Revised Statutes, the Home Owners' Loan Act, the Federal Credit Union Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require the rate of interest on certain loans remain unchanged after transfer of the loan, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-538). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 620. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to promote compliance through education, to clarify the requirements for demand letters, to provide for a notice and cure period before the commencement of a private civil action, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-539). 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. BACON (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 4896. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide States with limited authority to reduce the frequency with which qualified law enforcement officers must meet firearm training standards in order to be eligible to carry a concealed firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 4897. A bill to require a study on women and lung cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 4898. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities relating to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4899. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for treatment of heroin, opioids, cocaine, methamphetamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), and phencyclidine (PCP) abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BEYER, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H.R. 4900. A bill to authorize additional funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 4901. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to treat flamethrowers the same as machineguns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 4902. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to provide to State infrastructure financing authorities additional opportunities to receive loans under that Act to support drinking water and clean water State revolving funds to deliver water infrastructure to communities across the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce,

for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 4903. A bill to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress on best practices in use by Federal departments and agencies to reduce opioid usage following medical procedures; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 4904. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to allow producers to file a one-time program contract for certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas):

H.R. 4905. A bill to provide for improvements to National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 4906. A bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to prohibit the use of questions on citizenship, nationality, or immigration status in any decennial census, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. PAL-LONE, and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 4907. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a grant program to assist eligible entities in carrying out programs to replace lead service lines for schools and solder that is not lead free used in the plumbing for schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. PAL-LONE, and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 4908. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide assistance to schools to replace drinking water fountains that may contain lead, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 4909. A bill to reauthorize the grant program for school security in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 4910. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 4911. A bill to establish a Joint Commission on Budget Process Reform; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHENEY:

H. Res. 719. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BASS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEWIS

of Georgia, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BEATY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. NEAL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H. Res. 720. A resolution recognizing the coordinated struggle of workers on the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers strike to voice their grievances and reach a collective agreement for rights in the workplace; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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. BACON:

H.R. 4896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. LoBIONDO:

H.R. 4897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. ROSEN:

H.R. 4898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, 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. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 4900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 4901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 4902.

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 Power, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 4903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 4904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 4905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 2 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 4909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 4910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 4911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 217: Mr. BIGGS.
 H.R. 365: Mr. LONG.
 H.R. 389: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 586: Mr. BIGGS.
 H.R. 656: Mr. BIGGS.
 H.R. 664: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 731: Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 754: Mr. MCEACHIN.
 H.R. 785: Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida.
 H.R. 807: Mr. CURTIS.
 H.R. 853: Mr. BIGGS.
 H.R. 866: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
 H.R. 1017: Mr. GALLAGHER.
 H.R. 1027: Mr. GOMEZ.
 H.R. 1078: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1141: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1144: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1173: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 1192: Mrs. ROBY.
 H.R. 1203: Mr. BIGGS.
 H.R. 1204: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 1227: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 1298: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 1339: Mr. BLUM.
 H.R. 1341: Mr. GARRETT.
 H.R. 1419: Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 1458: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 1554: Mr. POLIQUIN.
 H.R. 1627: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 1772: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUM, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 1970: Mr. UPTON.
 H.R. 1972: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. GALLAGHER.
 H.R. 2019: Mr. BIGGS.
 H.R. 2077: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 2095: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 2149: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. FLORES.
 H.R. 2215: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. SPEIER.
 H.R. 2260: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 2310: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2436: Mr. DENHAM and Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 2472: Mr. MOULTON.
 H.R. 2528: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 2550: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2583: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 2634: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 2683: Mr. MACARTHUR.
 H.R. 2712: Mrs. WAGNER.
 H.R. 2723: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 2790: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 2899: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 2996: Mr. GARRETT.
 H.R. 3199: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 3252: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 3301: Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. BASS, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
 H.R. 3350: Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 3361: Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H.R. 3444: Ms. LEE.
 H.R. 3477: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
 H.R. 3497: Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 3513: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 3563: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 3580: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3593: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. PALMER.
 H.R. 3641: Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 3654: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KIHUEN, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
 H.R. 3671: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 3692: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mrs. COMSTOCK.
 H.R. 3730: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 3738: Mr. MOULTON and Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 3740: Mr. MARINO.
 H.R. 3773: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. GALLEGRO.
 H.R. 3878: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 3981: Mr. QUITGLEY.
 H.R. 4016: Mr. ROUZER and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 4022: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CRIST, Mr. COOK, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. MACARTHUR.
 H.R. 4099: Mr. COLE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. BUGSHON, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 4115: Miss RICE of New York.
 H.R. 4203: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4215: Mr. HUDSON.
 H.R. 4229: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 4265: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
 H.R. 4306: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 4311: Mr. HUDSON, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. HUNTER.
 H.R. 4312: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BIGGS.
 H.R. 4314: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. MACARTHUR, and Mr. MARSHALL.
 H.R. 4327: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. BRAT.
 H.R. 4345: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. POSEY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 4396: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 4397: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 4403: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. BUGSHON.
 H.R. 4439: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 4444: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 4473: Mr. COOK.
 H.R. 4492: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
 H.R. 4518: Mr. KEATING, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 4525: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. BYRNE.
 H.R. 4547: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. CURTIS.
 H.R. 4548: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 4573: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 4575: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. HUDSON.
 H.R. 4587: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4610: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4631: Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. FOSTER.
 H.R. 4655: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. KATKO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
 H.R. 4666: Mr. LONG and Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 4673: Mrs. LOVE, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 4677: Mr. NEAL and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4681: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 4703: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 4706: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 4724: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 4732: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 4744: Mrs. TORRES and Ms. ROSEN.
 H.R. 4747: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. YOHO.
 H.R. 4760: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. MESSER.
 H.R. 4782: Mr. HASTINGS.
 H.R. 4820: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 4821: Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. HUDSON.
 H.R. 4827: Mr. JONES, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRIST, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 4840: Mr. YOHO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MAST, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. DUNN.
 H.R. 4855: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 4859: Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LEE, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 4885: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 4888: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. KIHUEN, and Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 4889: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. NOLAN.
 H.R. 4894: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.
 H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. ROSKAM.
 H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. PALAZZO.
 H. Con. Res. 63: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. PANETTA.
 H. Res. 188: Mr. RUSH and Mr. RUIZ.
 H. Res. 239: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H. Res. 252: Mr. PAYNE.
 H. Res. 353: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H. Res. 401: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. MACARTHUR.
 H. Res. 466: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. MACARTHUR.
 H. Res. 613: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
 H. Res. 661: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. RASKIN.
 H. Res. 673: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H. Res. 683: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H. Res. 697: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H. Res. 707: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H. Res. 711: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. GARRETT.
 H. Res. 716: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MARINO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. HASTINGS.
 H. Res. 717: Mr. BUDD.



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No. 20

Senate

The Senate met at 10 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, the Earth belongs to You and everything in it. Even when wrong seems overwhelming, You continue to rule. Create in our lawmakers a hunger and thirst for integrity and honesty. Give them pure hearts and truthful lips, accompanied by a passion to glorify You.

Lord, provide them wisdom to live for the honor of Your Name as they remember that they are Your ambassadors. May they look to You for help, knowing that You surround them with the shield of Your Divine favor.

We pray in Your Holy 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. SASSE). The majority leader is recognized.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this evening, President Trump will deliver his first State of the Union Address. As tens of millions of Americans tune in, he will continue a time-honored tradition by taking stock of the past year and laying out his vision for the future.

For anyone who has been reading the headlines over the last year and paying

attention to the issues that directly impact middle-class families, the state of our Union will not come as a surprise.

Unemployment is low and consumer confidence is high. The news is packed with all the pay raises, special bonuses, expanded benefits, and new investments that are flowing into American households and communities because of a landmark tax reform law that Congress passed and the President signed in December.

Hundreds of companies have announced that a more competitive tax code is allowing them to quickly ramp up the amount they can invest in their own American workers. This includes some of our country's largest employers.

Walmart is increasing its starting wage for all hourly associates, expanding maternity and parental leave, and giving \$1,000 bonuses to its own employees. Disney, AT&T, and Bank of America are giving \$1,000 tax reform bonuses to more than 100,000 workers each. The list goes on. It is not just the big guys who are benefiting.

Yesterday afternoon, here on the floor, I talked about Verst Logistics in Walton, KY, which paid its full-time workers bonuses as a result of tax reform. I shared the story of a woman who works for Verst. She fought back tears as she explained what this bonus would do for her family. Money had gotten tight around the holidays, but while she and her husband had saved enough to give their five children a merry Christmas, mom and dad were planning to go without gifts of their own. But because Congress seized this opportunity to modernize our Tax Code, she got her very own tax reform bonus. With that extra money she and her husband were able to buy each other Christmas presents after all and enjoy a nice dinner out, to boot.

I can share these stories all day. I am so proud that Congress and the President teamed up to take money out of

Washington's pocket and put it back in the pockets of hard-working Americans who earned it.

Some of our Democratic colleagues don't seem to feel that way. They all voted against a law that would raise take-home pay for American families, who have spent a decade struggling not just to get ahead but oftentimes to simply stay afloat. Several have made news in recent days by scoffing at these bonuses, pay raises, and new benefits.

My friends the Democratic leaders in both the Senate and the House have both used the word "crumbs"—"crumbs." One of their colleagues, the former chair of the DNC, said she doesn't think \$1,000 "goes very far for almost anyone." So \$1,000 doesn't go far for almost anyone? That might be true in New York or San Francisco, but it sure isn't true in Kentucky. I think taking that argument to most kitchen tables would get you laughed out of the room.

Of course, the immediate raises, bonuses, and worker benefits are far from the whole story. Tax reform will also deliver direct relief to middle-class families across America by cutting our tax rates and doubling the standard deduction.

A typical family of four earning a median income will get to keep more than \$2,000 of their own money that they would have otherwise sent to the IRS next year.

Furthermore, the law repeals ObamaCare's punitive individual mandate tax, and soon many Americans are likely to see lower utility rates as utility companies pass along their savings to consumers.

Just yesterday, two major Kentucky utilities asked the Kentucky Public Service Commission for permission to pass \$180 million in tax reform savings on to their customers, which could lower their bills this year. That is particularly important to low-income families, because paying their utility

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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bill is a big percentage of any of their take-home pay.

We are already seeing early signs that tax reform will create an environment where wages will be higher and opportunity will be more abundant for years, even decades, to come.

President Trump and Republicans in Congress understand that when you make America a more attractive place to invest and create jobs, you are helping American families and communities.

We understand that the myth of an “us versus them” economy, where employers must lose for workers to win, is nothing more than a divisive political talking point with no basis in economics. That is why we seized this generational opportunity to provide a 21st century tax code that will give our country a fairer fight with our competitors overseas. We are already seeing new factories announced and new investments pouring into our country as a result.

Tax reform is far from the only way this President and this Congress have gone to bat for the future of our country. We have taken a machete to the forest of redtape that the Obama administration left behind.

To name just three examples, Congress and the White House have teamed up to roll back regulations that threatened hundreds of thousands of coal jobs, required States to give grants to Planned Parenthood, and had needlessly blocked oil exploration in a small portion of Federal land in Alaska.

After the Senate confirmed President Trump’s Cabinet, from Secretary Mattis at the Pentagon to Administrator Pruitt at the EPA, these fine officials have notched achievement after achievement for the American people, laying the groundwork for a stronger and safer nation.

We have made major progress for American veterans, like Cpl Matthew Bradford of Central Kentucky, a true American hero who will be attending tonight as a guest of the First Lady.

Congress has passed and the President has signed laws that will help our veterans access the healthcare options they need and the employment training programs they deserve. We have much more to do for our heroes, but these first steps are indeed promising.

We have taken big steps in the war against addiction and the scourge of opioids, an issue that is deeply personal for far, far too many American families.

In just his first year in office, the President has begun to transform the Federal judiciary. President Trump had more new circuit court judges confirmed in his first year than any prior President, a testimony to the fine quality of the nominees he sends here to the Senate, and we will vote to confirm another excellent judge later today. And the President rose to the occasion of a Supreme Court vacancy by filling it with a brilliant and experienced jurist in Justice Gorsuch.

On all of these fronts—from middle-class Americans’ pocketbooks to the ongoing fight against ISIL—there is more good news than I can begin to recite this morning.

I very much look forward to attending the State of the Union tonight and hearing from our President. On behalf of all the Americans we represent—men and women from coast to coast who are seeing the economy turn around and their country grow stronger before their eyes—I am glad there will be so much to applaud.

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 to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. FLAKE. 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 ELDER VON G. KEETCH

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of my friend Elder Von G. Keetch, legal counsel and leader in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His passing on Friday evening was sudden and unexpected, and I wish to extend my condolences to his family during this difficult time.

Elder Keetch served as a general authority and executive director of the LDS Church’s Public Affairs Department. He helped to shape community and government relations for the church as a recognized expert in constitutional law. His career was devoted to defending religious liberty for all religious institutions. His insight was particularly salient during this ever-changing world. As his daughter Steffani Keetch Dastrup said, “He wanted to defend and support all churches and all religious beliefs and all people’s rights to believe and act

the way they feel is right. That was a big part of his work.”

I consider it a privilege to have worked alongside Elder Keetch over the past several years. I was able to witness firsthand the love he had for his wife, the pride he had in his children, and the devotion he had for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for his guidance, for his counsel, and for his friendship.

His humble expertise and kind demeanor will be sorely missed by all those who knew him. His legacy of faith and love will bless his family for generations to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

REMEMBERING ED LORENZEN

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise with great sadness to remember Edward Lorenzen, who, along with his 4-year-old son Michael, perished this weekend in a house fire.

Ed was invaluable to my staff during last year’s tax reform debate. The Washington Post honored his contributions to Congress, saying: “Quietly and intelligently, Mr. Lorenzen provided objective, reliable fiscal information, even—or especially—when facts and figures were the last thing wishful thinkers in Washington [or the government] wanted to face.”

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, where Ed served as a senior adviser, said: “He was a brilliant budget mind—his guidance and expertise is a void that cannot be filled.”

The committee also remembered his deep love for his children, saying: “We worked every day with a kind, loving man who cherished his three kids, bringing them to the office on occasion and lighting up in their presence and at the sound of their names.”

I cannot imagine the grief Ed and Michael’s family and loved ones face. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to them during this difficult time. May we all hold our families a little closer today.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tonight the President will address a joint session of Congress in his first official State of the Union. I want to talk about what I expect the President to say and also what I suspect he will not.

The President will be eager to defend the accomplishments of his nascent administration and take credit for a healthy American economy, pointing to low unemployment, job growth, and a soaring stock market, but the truth is, these trends were present before Donald Trump took office. President Trump was handed an already healthy economy by his predecessor. Like many things in his life, he inherited the healthy economy.

Here are two words we will not hear President Trump say tonight about the

economy—thanks, Obama—because much of the growth in 2017 was created by President Obama’s policies and, by many measures, the growth under President Obama was better than under President Trump.

Under President Obama, employment was driven from over 10 percent down into the fours. The tightening of the labor market finally started to reverse the stagnancy of median income. The stock market President Trump often touts on Twitter was booming under President Obama as well.

In President Trump’s first year, the economy created 2.06 million jobs. That is less than the 2.24 million jobs created in 2016, the last year of Obama’s term.

Again, President Trump, President Obama created more jobs in the last year of his term than you created in the first year of yours. So if you are going to pat yourself on the back, give a shout out to Barack Obama because he did even better than you in job creation.

In 2017, under President Trump, average monthly job growth was lower than in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011, all under President Obama.

Again, President Trump, job growth in the first year of your term was less than in each of the last 6 years of President Obama’s term.

How about the stock market. In the first 6 months of 2017, the percentage growth of the S&P 500 was lower than during the first 6 months of President Obama’s term. In the first year of the Trump Presidency, the percentage growth of the Dow was lower than during the first year of President Obama.

So, again, here are two words we would like President Trump to say tonight about the economy: Thanks, Obama. We may never hear President Trump say those words, but he ought to.

I also expect the President to speak about bipartisanship. President Trump understands there is a very low bar when it comes to the topic. His first year in office has been so divisive, even a mere appeal to bipartisanship sounds like progress, but the proof will be in the pudding. Will President Trump pursue real bipartisanship through his actions or will he fall back on empty rhetoric? When it comes to bipartisanship, President Trump has to walk the walk, not just talk the talk intermittently. Mr. President, when it comes to bipartisanship, actions speak a whole lot louder than words.

I would remind President Trump that this has been one of the most partisan administrations many of us have ever worked with. I have worked under President Reagan, President H.W. Bush, and President W. Bush—all Republicans. All of them were legions more bipartisan than President Trump’s first year.

What have we seen? An assembly line of partisan CRAs designed not to need a single Democratic vote; a Supreme Court Justice picked by the hard-right

Heritage Foundation and Federalist Society, no consultation, not a consensus nominee; a partisan healthcare bill that failed under reconciliation, specifically designed not to include Democrats; a partisan tax bill that ultimately passed, also under reconciliation—no consultation with Democrats, not a single Democratic vote.

The reason these don’t get Democratic votes is President Trump and his administration don’t talk to us. They don’t ask us what we might suggest. They don’t try to create a bipartisan meld which great Presidents have done from the time of George Washington; they just act in a narrow, partisan way, and the American people know it.

There has been hardly a shred of bipartisanship in the Trump era, despite our many appeals for it. The President and congressional Republicans seem to think that bipartisanship happens when one side puts together a bill, pounds the table, and demands the other side support the bill, with no negotiation, no compromise.

They are missing the step where they consult with the other side and work with the other side to earn their support. That is the hard work of legislating in our democracy, but this administration eschews hard work. The Republican majority and the White House have been content to craft legislation on their own, demand Democrats support it, and then label us obstructionists when, without consultation, without compromise, we don’t. That dynamic is the root of the ineffectiveness and gridlock in Congress. I sincerely hope that changes.

If the President calls for bipartisanship tonight, I welcome it. But we eagerly await action, not just a sound bite in a speech. We await the honest debate, the good faith give-and-take, and the eventual compromise that are the actual hallmarks of bipartisanship. If those things arise, even though they haven’t in the first year, Democrats will gladly work with our Republican colleagues and the White House to get things done for the middle class. But we need to see it to believe it. Mere words in a speech tonight will not create bipartisanship; actions will.

Finally, here is something that President Trump should discuss tonight: Russia sanctions. He ought to impose the sanctions, as Congress voted for in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion, or at least explain why he hasn’t done so yet. We call on President Trump in the State of the Union to tell Americans that he will support the sanctions 90 percent of America supports or tell us why he will not.

Over a year ago, the U.S. intelligence community concluded that Russian President Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. Presidential election. That is a fact. That is a fact that is shocking. A hostile foreign power interfered with an American election and likely influenced it in measurable ways. The Founders of our country feared this

very possibility. They knew that for a democracy to work, the election of the people’s representatives must be free, fair, and legitimate, and that foreign powers, even back then, would try to corrupt the process. They wrote safeguards into the Constitution to protect it.

Last year, the American people were the victim of such an attack by an antagonistic foreign power: Russia. I call on President Trump tonight to use his State of the Union to tell Americans what he plans to do about Russian attacks on our democracy.

Implement sanctions, President Trump, or at the very least tell us why you haven’t.

Today is the day the President is supposed to obey the sanctions issue Congress voted on overwhelmingly a while back. There is no subject more worthy of a thorough and unbiased investigation than the Russian interference in our elections. Yet the President and his allies have waged a scorched-earth campaign to discredit the investigation in any way possible—by assassinating the character of career civil servants, assailing the credibility of the media, attacking our own law enforcement agencies and officers, even denigrating the institutions of American Government.

The White House and congressional Republicans’ attacks on Mueller and his investigation make you believe it was taking place in a banana republic, Erdogan’s Turkey, or Putin’s Russia, not in the United States of America. What has been done by House Republicans and gone along with by just about the whole Republican establishment is not worthy of this democracy. It makes us look like a banana republic, and it is shameful.

A different kind of President would be encouraging Special Counsel Mueller’s investigation and shouting down those forces who tried to interfere with it. A different kind of President would want to know how precisely Russia meddled in our election and would have severely punished Putin for it to discourage him from ever trying it again.

Here we are, 180 days since the President signed the historic Russia sanctions bill passed by this body by a vote of 97 to 2, and he hasn’t even implemented those sanctions. He is supposed to do it today, the day of the State of the Union.

Again, Mr. President, implement the sanctions tonight, or at least tell the American people why you are not, opening an invitation to Russia to do it again.

Why won’t Donald Trump use the power given to him by a near-unanimous vote in Congress to hold Russia accountable?

The administration refused to implement secondary sanctions against the Russian defense and intelligence sectors. Last night, the administration released a mandated report of Russian

oligarchs that seems to match a list already put together by Forbes magazine. This is a reflection of the lack of seriousness with which they took up this task.

When it comes to sanctions, the White House has engaged in a dangerous Kabuki theater that tries to show strength when in fact there is none. These actions are not good enough. They are for show.

Why is the President so afraid to sanction Putin, his associates, or other corrupt Russian actors and officials? Why is President Trump giving Putin a free pass after he attacked our democracy? What is he so afraid of? The American people are asking that question, and they have their answers.

Only a year after a hostile foreign power shook the very bedrock of our democracy, any other President would spend his first State of the Union talking about efforts that were underway to punish the abuser and prevent such an attack from ever recurring. Why not this President?

If President Trump wishes to save his Presidency from the shame of having failed to address one of the gravest threats threatening our country, he will announce this evening in no uncertain terms that he is sanctioning President Putin. Any other President would have already made it their priority to take decisive action in their first year, but this President is paralyzed when it comes to Putin and his cronies in Russia.

Here are two words the President may not say tonight: "Russia sanctions"—but he ought to.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

HONORING SHERIFF'S DEPUTY HEATH GUMM

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a horrible tragedy that occurred in Adams County, CO, on January 24, just last week. Adams County sheriff's deputy Heath Gumm was pursuing a suspect when he was shot and killed in the line of duty.

Heath was 31 years old and is survived by his wife and other loving family members. He had served with the Adams County Sheriff's Office since 2012, which was not a surprise to those who knew him best, because of his upbringing.

He grew up in a family of first responders. His father is a retired West Metro Fire Protection District engineer. So his teachers and classmates who knew Heath as a student at Mullen High School, in Denver, were not shocked to learn that he had decided to become a law enforcement officer.

As reported by the Denver Post, Heath's ninth grade English teacher, Sean Keefe, said:

By all accounts, he lived his life as a grown man as he did as a kid. He was a good guy. That didn't change. That only got more accentuated as he grew up. He lifted his friends. He made his friends the best version of themselves, and they did that to him as well.

Heath's cousin remembers him as the "kind of man you wanted out there protecting our streets. He was kind, fair, funny and friendly to everyone."

Keefe went on to remember Heath as "someone people gravitated towards, and he was someone who people could count on."

It is these qualities that made Heath such an incredible sheriff's deputy.

At a press conference last Thursday, Adams County sheriff Michael McIntosh read parts of a letter he had received from a stranded motorist whom Heath had recently helped when he was out on patrol.

The resident wrote: "Heath made the interaction enjoyable and easy to get through instead of acting like I was in trouble or a nuisance."

Heath showed what it means to be a law enforcement officer who selflessly serves and protects a community. He went to work each and every day—ready to walk that thin blue line.

When we lose an officer in Colorado, I come to this Chamber to honor his sacrifice and recite the words of LTC Dave Grossman, who wrote that American law enforcement is the loyal and brave sheepdog who is always standing watch for the wolf that lurks in the dark.

Unfortunately, many in this Chamber have heard me read that quote far too often in the last weeks.

Across Colorado and across the country, we owe so much to Heath and law enforcement officers for their service. Instead of fleeing to safety, they run toward danger to save lives. They provide hope and safety to our families in the worst of times.

I thank Heath for answering the call. He protected his community. I, along with Coloradans across the State, are forever grateful. We will never forget his sacrifice, and we will always honor his memory.

We also lost a sheriff's deputy on New Year's Eve in Colorado, just a few weeks before. In a tribute to him, I read something that former State Representative Joe Rice had written during his service in the Army. I think it is appropriate to share it now because, each and every day they wake up, I know the thoughts of many in law enforcement are reflected in the words of Representative Joe Rice:

In a few hours, it will be Christmas in Afghanistan. I spent 3 Christmas Days in Iraq. Only on one of them did I have to go out on Christmas Day, itself. I found myself praying that I didn't want to die this day and ruin every future Christmas for my family. I realize that most of the other soldiers I was with were quietly or openly saying the same thing.

So, for all of those around the world who are in harm's way, we pray with you: Please God, just not today.

To our men and women in law enforcement, please know that I pray with you each and every day: Please God, just not this day.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). The Senator from Florida.

DISASTER AID

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I am absolutely shocked that FEMA has announced that on Wednesday it will stop distributing food and water to Puerto Rico. Cutting this aid to the people of Puerto Rico, while still almost a third of them do not have electricity, is unconscionable and a travesty.

I urge the administration to reverse this disastrous decision immediately and to continue providing the people of Puerto Rico with the help they need as they are trying to recover from two disastrous hurricanes.

This Senator has been speaking on the floor over and over of their desperate needs, but here I am again to remind our colleagues that Puerto Ricans are American citizens, that they are just like the people of any State, including those in the States of Kentucky, Texas, Wyoming, and in so many of the other States where needs might be forgotten. They are our fellow countrymen, and they deserve the same care and protection that we would provide any other citizen in his time of need. They have supplied some of the greatest warriors of our U.S. military in World War I, World War II, Korea, and on up to the present.

If the people of any other State were being neglected like the people of Puerto Rico have been in the wake of this storm, there would be an absolute outrage in this Senate. The people of Puerto Rico need help, but they are not the only ones. Millions of people were affected by the storms that hit last year in my State of Florida, in the State of Texas, in, of course, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and in Puerto Rico, and many were affected by the wildfires in California.

Right now, many of them are desperately waiting for the Senate to act on a disaster supplemental package to help them recover. We are trying to pass it, and it keeps getting shuffled off into the future. We are trying to add to the supplemental—the necessary disaster aid that is needed in agriculture, particularly for the citrus industry in Florida—the financial assistance that is needed in Puerto Rico. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will understand the urgency of this matter. We cannot keep pushing this off into the future. The need to act is now.

In addition, people in Florida are struggling. We should not neglect what is happening on the mainland. It is true in Texas. It is true in California. It is true in Florida. It is true on the islands. The storm destroyed homes and damaged apartments all around Florida, but we haven't seen any real attempt to address the housing needs of the hurricane victims in the State—by the way, including those coming to Florida from Puerto Rico.

Florida received about \$600 million out of the \$7.4 billion, which was made available in the CDBG-DR, in the September supplemental. What percentage is that of \$7.4 billion? It is much less than 10 percent. It defies comprehension. Florida was one of the places that

was the hardest hit last year. Hurricane Irma virtually covered up the entire peninsula of Florida. It wreaked havoc all across the State. Add to that the aftereffects of Hurricane Maria, with thousands fleeing Puerto Rico and going to Florida, and we have a real housing crisis on our hands. The \$600 million, which is to help those who have been left bare by two of the most devastating storms to hit the country in decades, is a drop in the bucket. We should be able to get people the help they need in the time they need it. It is required now—not a year later, not 6 months later, but now.

Schools in Florida have been stretched thin in their having enrolled nearly 12,000 students who have evacuated Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Every child has a right to a quality education, but the school systems cannot do it on their own, not after a natural disaster. Dealing with such a large influx of students in a short period requires extra resources.

The House has passed a package that includes \$2.9 billion for education funding. We desperately need it. The schools and students need this aid now. We cannot keep kicking the can down the road. Their educations cannot wait. You cannot keep relying on teachers to go out and get the extra supplies for them.

I mentioned our citrus growers. The industry has already been devastated by a bacteria called greening. When it gets into the phloem sap of the tree, it kills the tree in 5 years. We are not going to have a citrus industry if we can't find the cure for that. With the extra care of the groves, they have been able to nurture back crops. So here are all of these crops of oranges and grapefruit on the trees, and along comes Irma. In some groves, not only have 100 percent of the crops been blown off the trees, but the trees have been uprooted. That is why we desperately need the money—to clean up and replant.

The farmers in Florida suffered at least \$2.5 billion in losses when Hurricane Irma tore through the State, and that included a lot of our citrus. Citrus alone experienced \$760 million in losses. That is on top of the difficulties that they were having already with the bacteria.

The USDA is estimating that Florida growers will only harvest 46 million boxes this season. Get this: 10 years ago, there were 203 million boxes of citrus harvested. A decade before that, there were 244 million boxes of oranges harvested. For months our farmers have been told to wait their turn. Some of them are going bankrupt. They have waited long enough. They need the help now. We just have to act on this disaster bill.

Additionally, it has been over 100 days since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico. Over 30 percent of the island remains without power, and parts of the island still lack running water. Some people have running water still, but

they cannot drink it. They have to boil it.

When I was there in the little mountain town of Utuado, the source of water about 2 weeks after the hurricane—with the roads cut off, the only source of outside help was by helicopter, and the running water that they had was from a pipe that was coming out of the mountain, the mountain water draining down. I don't want to mince words here. We have a full-blown humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico right now. My colleague, MARCO RUBIO from Florida, has been there also, and he is here to testify to the same thing.

As a result, recent estimates suggest that over 300,000 Puerto Ricans may have moved to Florida. Some are fortunate enough to move in with relatives, but others are living in motels that line the I-4 corridor. Some are living out of their cars. This is absolutely heartbreaking. How can we fail fellow American citizens like this? Yet, given the current situation, the administration thinks that now, today, is the appropriate time to cut off food and water for the people of Puerto Rico.

There is no common sense here. FEMA needs to continue to provide food and water to the island until, at the very least, all of the island has access to potable water and electricity. They are suffering, and while the administration is trying to abandon the responsibility of the United States to Puerto Rico, the House aid package shortchanges recovery efforts on the island. We must enhance it in the Senate package.

For instance, it fails to address the current Medicaid crisis that is just a month away. If nothing is done, Puerto Rico's Medicaid Program is going to run out of money. Congress must act; otherwise, over 1 million U.S. citizens will be denied healthcare coverage when they need it the most.

It has been over a month since the House passed the disaster bill. We haven't seen any action. The longer we wait, the more people suffer. It is clear the government is not working the way it should. We need to turn the corner, and it needs to start with this disaster bill being bumped up in the Senate and then quickly passed.

I beg our colleagues, and Senator MARCO RUBIO joins me: Let's take up this bill. Let's fix the deficiencies, and let's pass it immediately.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I want to begin by thanking Senator NELSON, the senior Senator from our State, for once again raising this on the floor. I am glad to be able to follow him and to make many of the same points about the importance of acting on this.

The Presiding Officer is from a State that has been impacted by storms. He knows that long after the cameras leave and long after the stories have been written, real people's lives have

been disrupted, sometimes permanently, certainly in ways that we don't think about. We have come to think about hurricane damage as roofs being ripped off of buildings and trees in the road, and once those are picked up, everything is back to normal. What we don't recognize is that underneath all of that is the long-term damage done to a small business that went 2 weeks without any sort of income, so they closed.

There is the impact we see in the Florida Keys, where there are a lot of people, for example, who have used their retirement savings to buy a small property that they rent out in the Florida Keys. It is very common. They buy a small townhouse, they rent it out in the winter for people to stay there, and then they use it in the summer for their family.

Well, guess what. This winter they are probably not getting a lot of visitors. In some cases—I know of one in particular—there is all this debris from the storm that is sitting in the canal. It is not very attractive for a visitor to come to the Keys and stay in a townhouse where they can't even go out into the ocean because the canals and the waterways that take them out have refrigerators floating in them and have all kind of debris in them. By the way, there is still debris there from previous storms, almost 15 years—10 years ago.

What does that mean? That means the owner of the unit doesn't have the rent they were using to pay the mortgage. She might be a teacher or he might be a firefighter, and now they are not getting the income they were counting on to make the mortgage, so they potentially could fall behind and could lose this rental property that they had invested in for their family. These are not rich people. These are people who had an investment for the future and had a good business model until the storm came. That is not measured anywhere, but that is real harm.

The small businesses have been harmed. The Florida Keys, in particular, is a place that has had lot of small businesses that have been there for a long time. Some of these places have gone months without clients. If that person doesn't come and rent out that unit I just described, that means that person isn't using the fuel from the local gas station, isn't eating at the local restaurants, and isn't contributing to the local economy.

To top it off, it is so expensive. Imagine if you are a worker at one of these buildings making \$15 an hour. It is so expensive. They already had a housing problem, and this has made it worse. So it would be a mistake to say that the hurricane damage is over, and the effort to address it ends the minute the trees are removed from the road and the roofs are tarped and repaired. It goes on for a while.

In the case of this particular storm, Florida was also impacted by the impact that Maria had on Puerto Rico. As

Senator NELSON just outlined, up to 300,000 American citizens—I say that because there are still a lot of people wondering, why are we giving aid to Puerto Rico? Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, and its residents are U.S. citizens. There are 300,000 U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico who have moved to Florida. They enrich our State, but our schools weren't counting on the kids, so they have to scramble to deal with that.

Our housing stock—I met with a group of people on Friday. We still have people living in hotels who have been there for 3 or 4 months. Even if they wanted to go out and find an apartment, there is nothing available. There are all sorts of challenges. We have heard stories, for example, that they have to pay a \$75 application fee for each one of the housing units they apply for, even if they are turned down. Just figure that out. If someone applies to just three or four of them, that is a lot of money out of pocket for someone who has already lost everything in the storm. Florida is facing that as well.

I am disappointed. If someone had told me that we would get to the last week of January without taking up disaster relief, I would have been surprised because we had a chance to actually address this at the end of last year. The House sent over a bill that didn't go far enough. The Senate had ideas about how to make it better, and then for reasons involving leverage and using it as a tool to get people to vote for CRs—short-term spending at the end—it has been held up. That is unfortunate because these problems are only getting worse, not better, as time goes on.

Senator NELSON talked about the citrus industry. One of our signature crops, if not our signature crop, was already being challenged by citrus greening, which is a terrible disease. Senator NELSON and I went to some of those groves together, and there are growers who basically were already hurting. They have lost everything for this year. There is no money coming in. The fruit is gone. Once that fruit touches the ground and that ground is wet, you can't sell it. The trees are damaged. It is not as though we can just buy a new tree at Walmart, and in 1 year it produces. It has to put it in the ground, and it takes 5 years before it will start to produce. They are hurting, and they are wondering, should I replant? Is this a good business for me to be in?

Some of these families have been in citrus for three or four or five generations, and this could be the end, not just the end for them but the end of Florida citrus. We helped them in the tax bill with the ability to immediately expense replanting, but that will not be enough. That is why this package has to include USDA resources to help replace these lost trees and rehabilitate the groves that were flooded. This is critical and essential to our food supply.

The Army Corps of Engineers plays a huge role in the State of Florida. For example, there is the Herbert Hoover Dike, which is a dike on Lake Okechobee that would prevent a catastrophic flooding event, should the lake levels rise too high. We have people living just south of it, and what happened, almost a century ago, is that people died because of flooding there. So this dike was built. It has been found to be and rated among the most vulnerable water infrastructure projects in the Nation, and we are lucky that it wasn't breached in the storm, but it could have been, had the rainfall been located at the right place at the right time. It has been the priority of our delegation for a long time to expedite the construction of rehabilitation to strengthen that dike. This is a good opportunity to do that because there will be other storms. Because the project was delayed when the storm hit, this is a chance to finish that role.

Other parts that are critical to Florida's economy are beach renourishment and intracoastal navigation projects. These are hugely important and not just what makes Florida an attractive place to live; it is the reason people visit. Some of these beaches were severely eroded. Particularly in Northeast Florida, there is no beach, and the water is coming up to the edge of the property lines. If there is no beach, the hotels and the condominiums that rent out on that beach do not have visitors. People will not go there unless there is sand on the beach, and the erosion that happens in a storm like this needs to be fixed.

Of course, we have all been engaged, and I hope all are committed to our Everglades restoration projects. The Everglades are some of the most unique environments on the planet. They happen to be in the United States and happen to be in our home State. In these Everglades restoration projects, we want to continue to make progress toward our goal of saving them.

By the way, the Everglades are a source of water for over 8 million Floridians. So I hope the disaster funding also addresses all the work that was destroyed and the damage that happened to a lot of the restoration projects that were in place.

I will not go deep into education because Senator NELSON has already addressed that, but suffice it to say we had thousands of students who were displaced, and we add to that thousands of people from Puerto Rico whom the school districts welcome but weren't counting on. Now we have to accommodate classroom space. In many cases, for these children, although everyone in Puerto Rico learns English and Spanish, their primary language is Spanish, so we have to get instructors who are able to bring them to proficiency in English. That is a challenge. All of that is falling on the State of Florida as well. While Florida welcomes our fellow Americans from

Puerto Rico who are seeking refuge, the costs need to be accounted for.

We had hospitals that were damaged from the storms, and the repairs to some of these continue to rise. In some cases, these hospital repairs resulted in the closure of the hospital for more than a year.

There is a hospital in the Keys that is going to be completely rebuilt. If you have ever been to the Florida Keys, the distances are bad, and there is a hospital that is going to have to be completely rebuilt.

In addition to all of that, we have our healthcare providers in Florida who provided charitable care, not just to Floridians after the storm but to displaced Americans from Puerto Rico and from the U.S. Virgin Islands. They need to be reimbursed for doing that. They didn't sit back and say: We are not going to do it unless you send us a check. They did it, and there were real expenses. Then they were also hit by the storm, and they are dealing with those new expenses.

By the way, one of the things I hope we will do is expedite hiring authority for medical personnel in HHS because, for years, we have failed to maintain adequate levels of personnel willing to give a couple of weeks of their time to aid in a time of disaster. Our medical teams are depleted, and at this rate we will already have a staffing shortage by the next hurricane season, which is just a few months away.

NOAA, another Federal agency—the disaster bill needs to fund the continued removal of the things I have already discussed: marine debris, lost lobster traps, capsized vessels. There is an environmental component to it, and there is an economic component to it. If our canal is full of refrigerators, debris, things that need to be removed, the water cannot be navigated. The value of all that property is wiped out, and also what is wiped out is the desire of people to come and visit. Beyond increasing—or as we call it around here “plussing up”—critical FEMA accounts like the Disaster Relief Fund, we should also include language in the bill to protect counties, cities, towns, and individual homeowners who received FEMA disaster assistance from the uncertainty about when the Federal Government may come back in a few years and claw back that support. In essence, they can come back in a few years and say: We gave you too much money; give it back to us.

If someone did something wrong, I am not talking about that. I am talking about a good faith estimate that both sides agreed on, and they delivered the money, and then 4 years later they show up and say: Hey, we have looked at it again, and in hindsight we gave you \$1,000 more in the case of an individual or \$50,000 or \$100,000 more in the case of a city or a county, and now they have to scramble to pay this back.

So I will continue to work to make sure that FEMA has the resources it needs to assist for recovery victims for

both short-term and long-term recovery but without this threat of clawback, and there are ways to do that which will allow us to be fiscally responsible.

I have already talked about the housing issue in Monroe County in Southwest Florida. Monroe County is in the Florida Keys, and that is why it is critical that FEMA has the resources to utilize programs such as direct relief assistance, which will enable the Federal Government to lease a property that would not generally be available to the public, such as corporate lodging, to house survivors, to house people, as opposed to just giving them a voucher and saying: Go find a hotel.

Here is what happens. They get a hotel in South Dade in Homestead, and the big rates come in February, and everyone gets kicked out in February because those rooms were booked a year ago at those rates, and they have nowhere to go. It is disruptive. If we were able to lease out an entire long-term corporate housing or lodging facility, these people would have some certainty to go about their lives while their homes and their lives are rebuilt. Programs such as Direct Lease assistance provide the type of flexibility that Florida and, quite frankly, the whole country needs. We are going to continue to advocate for the program so we can provide roofs over the heads of displaced Floridians and Puerto Ricans.

Infrastructure damage throughout Florida is also substantial. In particular, I was able to go down to the Everglades to Flamingo. It is a place we have gone often. It is one of the places we leave from to go fishing with my children. The facilities there were already in bad shape, to be frank. It looked like something out of one of those 1960s black-and-white movies they show in schools.

This place was badly hurt. Again, this is Federal property. That is a national park that belongs to the American people, under the custody of the Federal Government, and it was wiped out and hurt and destroyed. We need to help rebuild it. By the way, that includes airports, NASA—the Kennedy Space Center—which also suffered damages.

I have a couple more points, then I will close.

Housing and Urban Development. On December 14, I introduced the Disaster Assistance Simplification Act. That prohibits HUD from penalizing victims of natural disasters who apply but then turn down an SBA disaster loan. So if you apply for an SBA disaster loan, HUD will come back and take away your assistance or render you ineligible for HUD assistance not because you received the HUD loan but because you applied for it. That should be taken out.

I have worked with colleagues to ensure that this language is included in the upcoming supplemental because I don't understand how we can allow

unsynchronized and burdensome disaster assistance programs to make recovery more difficult for someone impacted by a storm. You just went through a storm. Your business was destroyed. Your home was destroyed. Your family had to move to another county or another city. On top of that, you have to agonize over what the Federal Government may or may not give you. If they gave it to you, you have to agonize over when they may come back and take it away. We can't further victimize victims by penalizing victims who do not take assistance. Our laws are discouraging people from applying for SBA disaster loans.

Again, on that particular point, I am not talking about people who are double-dipping. I am talking about people who applied for HUD and SBA. Just the act of applying for that loan means you can't get the HUD assistance. That is ridiculous.

I will close with Puerto Rico. It doesn't get enough attention, in my mind. We read about the situation every day. Now the articles are saying: Can you believe they still don't have electricity in Puerto Rico? There are a lot of problems that need to be addressed. Puerto Rico had a lot of problems before the storm.

At end of the day, here is the bottom line. Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory. It is the responsibility of the United States. These are American citizens. They are children. They are residents. They wear the uniform of this country. If you go to Arlington Cemetery, not far from here, you will see their names after paying the ultimate sacrifice. They contribute to every area of our lives, whether they choose to live on the mainland or on the island. Perhaps because it isn't always in the headlines, a lot of people just don't understand its status, its importance, and our relationship and obligations.

We have been involved from the very beginning, not just because of the impact it has had on Florida but because, on a personal level, I have so many friends and people I care about who live there. If you live in Florida, you know people who have people they love who live there.

Right after the storm, I sent three members of my staff, who spent over a week at their emergency operations center, just trying to act as a conduit to facilitate between Federal efforts and the efforts of Puerto Rico's government, but the work that remains is extraordinary.

I talk about the people who are still displaced. We have seen the story of people losing their housing vouchers who were staying in a hotel. People say: We just heard from the government in Puerto Rico that your home is habitable so you are done. Check out tomorrow afternoon. They have nowhere to go. If they have family, maybe, but if they don't, where do they go that night? It is a problem. We have seen that happen in Connecticut and fear it could happen in other places.

On the disaster relief, we think recovering is not just about putting up light posts. We think it is about helping the economy grow, about attracting business and investment back, and about helping people who want to stay to be able to stay.

We have a number of provisions we hope will be included. One is a temporary payroll tax deduction so whatever it is you get paid, you get to keep more of it. It would be temporary for a year, but at least it is a way of giving people a raise without being a burden on businesses.

We would also like to see a temporary expansion of the child tax credit. Because of a quirk in the law, people who file taxes from Puerto Rico are not eligible for it at its full value the way someone on the mainland would be. Again, all they have to do is move to Florida, and they can do it.

These are U.S. citizens. If they can fight in our Armed Forces, if they pledge allegiance to our flag, if they are citizens of our Nation, why should they not be entitled to the same tax versions there that they would be if they were living on the mainland?

We also need to deal with, as Senator NELSON talked about, the Medicaid cliff. Because of the healthcare law that passed a number of years ago, the funding mechanism that was created places them in a position where soon they will run out of money in their Medicaid Program. Ultimately, what will happen is, people who need these services will move to Florida or some other State, and then they will sign up for Medicaid in the States and get what they couldn't get in Puerto Rico. It will actually cost more. If money is what you are worried about, it will cost more in the long run not to do it than to do it.

I also think we need to increase funding for energy grid technical assistance from the Department of Energy. On that note, I would say, we are getting reports that they are being forced to rebuild using the exact same equipment that was there before the storm. Some of this equipment is so old, it isn't even manufactured anymore. They don't make it anymore. They had to retrofit and make things up.

If we are going to rebuild or help rebuild the grid in Puerto Rico, shouldn't they be able to put in something that is modern as opposed to rebuilding the old stuff? That makes no sense. It will actually make the system more resilient.

A lot of these proposals may meet with resistance, but they all make sense. We can justify every single one of them. I hope we will pursue them. I worked very closely with Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez on these efforts. I am grateful for her strong advocacy and the support of so many of my colleagues on behalf of our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico.

I close by asking our colleagues this. I know we have the policy work this week. The Democrats and Republicans

are doing their thing. I know we have funding issues a week from this Friday that we have to address. I know immigration is an important issue that we need to confront, but do not forget about disaster relief. We have to get it done for the people out west in California, the people in Texas, the people of Florida, the people of Puerto Rico, and for our fellow Americans who were hurt by the hurricanes this season and the fires of 2017.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, as we continue the debate on the issue of immigration as it relates to providing a permanent solution to those young immigrants who benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the scope of this debate has expanded to include other issues.

Some of these issues are directly related to the DACA issue, including persistent concerns on our southern border, like improving barriers and border access roads, providing hiring and retention incentives for Customs and Border Protection personnel to ensure that all locations on the border remain secure. Other things being debated, like changes to legal immigration levels, truly need their own debate.

Some appear to have seized on this as an opportunity to push forth an agenda aimed at limiting the future flow of legal immigration. Before this idea gains any steam, we have to fully discuss and debate its potentially enormous impact on our economy. It is easy for some to see unemployed Americans and point to immigrants as a scapegoat. To suggest that every immigrant who passes through our borders represents a job being pried from the hands of an American citizen is far-fetched, at best.

After taking the time to actually examine the facts, the shortsightedness of this thinking is exposed. For example, cleaving the number of new legal immigrants by almost 50 percent—which is what the White House proposal appears to envision over time—would initially reduce the overall rate of economic growth in the United States by an estimated 12.5 percent when compared to currently projected levels through 2045. This is because labor force growth is one of the most important factors tied to economic growth. More troubling, these changes in legal immigration would come just as the aging U.S. population increases our dependence on a growing workforce.

Some have suggested that legal immigrants represent some sort of drag on government resources. In fact, the National Academy of Sciences estimates that the average immigrant contributes, in net present value terms, \$92,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits over their lifetime.

We can only expect these numbers to increase as we move to a kind of merit

or employment-based system. I should note that in the bipartisan approach in 2015, we did restrict the number of family-based visas. I think it was from a total of 75 percent of legal immigration, we moved it down to 50 percent from family-based visas. At that same time, what we did was reallocate those visas to merit-based or employment-based visas so we wouldn't have an overall drop in legal immigration.

To look into the future of what happens when the philosophy of limiting legal immigration takes hold, we need to look no further than the current economic struggles Japan is having. In a timely piece by Fred Hiatt in the Washington Post this last Sunday, he points out that Japan's population of 127 million is forecast to shrink by one-third over the next half century. The increase in lifespans coupled with a decrease in fertility is projected to lead to near-stagnant economic growth, reduced innovation, labor shortages, and huge pressure on entitlements and pensions in Japan.

These disastrous realities facing Japan are the direct result of that nation's historically low level of immigrants. As Hiatt astutely points out, "You can be pro-growth. You can be anti-immigration. But honestly, you can't be both."

Legal immigration policy is complicated, but it is important, and it is worth debating this reform on its own. There may be a strong appetite for merit-based immigration, but rather than drastically cutting legal and necessary immigration flows, we need to work together to provide a way for the best and brightest to make it to the United States, both for their benefit and ours.

Let's not be lured into thinking that legal immigration is some kind of simplistic zero-sum game that can be easily reformed without consequence. During the last administration, many of us rejected the new normal of low economic growth driven by overregulation and irrational tax policy. It would be a supreme irony if we were to fix those anti-growth fiscal and regulatory policies only to counteract them with immigration restrictions that affect our workforce.

Let's give this important and complex issue the time for discussion, analysis, and debate it deserves and not shoehorn it into a DACA fix.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

THE BUDGET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I cannot help but note that the fiscal year began October 1 last year. Four months have passed. That is 122 days since the start of the fiscal year, and we still don't have a budget deal to allow us to finish the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bills. That is 122 days, and the Congress has not done their job.

Recently, President Trump has taken to Twitter. He has accused Democrats of holding up funding for our troops.

Well, the idea that Democrats are holding up defense spending doesn't pass the laugh test. I mean, last July—7 months ago—I called for bipartisan budget negotiations, something we have always done in the past. As the vice chairman of Appropriations, I put forward a proposal that would increase defense spending by \$54 billion and would increase nondefense spending by an equal amount of \$54 billion. Basically, what we did when Senator MURRAY and then-Congressman RYAN worked out the budget agreement. We did that years ago based on parity. The proposal was responsible, it was reasonable, and it was based on parity. It was something we have done for years. It would have fully funded President Trump's budget request for our military, but it would also have provided much needed relief from the damaging effects of sequestration that we have seen on both sides of the ledger, defense and nondefense.

But instead of trying to reach a bipartisan budget deal to allow us to finish our spending bills on time, the Republican leadership, which controls the agenda, had other priorities. They spent the last 7 months trying to repeal healthcare for millions of Americans and rolling back important consumer protections. They cut environmental and workplace protections, protections for women in the workplace, and they passed budget-busting tax cuts that primarily benefit big corporations and the wealthiest Americans. As a result of doing that, the funding for our troops, as well as for key domestic priorities, has been left to limp along under four continuing resolutions.

Yesterday, the Trump administration—and I wonder if they have actually looked at the President's budget—accused Democrats of holding defense spending hostage over arbitrary demands for lower priority domestic programs.

I am curious. What are the domestic programs the Trump administration considers a lower priority? Do they consider the services for our veterans that are lacking around this country—do they think helping our veterans is a lower priority? What about the funding to combat the opioid epidemic? Every single State represented by every single Senator here, Republican and Democrat alike, in every corner of our country, has been hurt by the opioid epidemic. Is the Trump administration saying that is a lower priority? How about investments in education for our Nation's children? Is that a lower priority? Is disaster relief for our communities that have been devastated by hurricanes—there are so many—a lower priority? What about replacing our crumbling bridges all across the country before people start dying in record numbers? Is that a lower priority?

The President puts before us a false choice, and it makes me wonder if he is actually seeing the budget his administration proposes. There is no reason we

can't fight for and fund both our military and other domestic programs. It is not an either/or choice. It has never been an either/or choice, whether we have had a Democratic or Republican administration.

One thing we do know is that operating under four continuing resolutions is no way to govern. I think it is time to get serious about reaching a deal.

Later today, the House is going to pass another Defense appropriations bill that will exceed the budget caps by \$73 billion, and they don't even know where it will be spent. But if you don't have a budget deal to raise the caps, this would be a false promise to our military because that funding level would trigger a sequester. It would force a 13-percent across-the-board cut on defense programs. It is not a serious bill; it is a messaging bill.

There are those who are going to tout it on the floor of the House, saying: Look what we are doing to raise it. Will they at least take a moment to say that it actually cuts our defense programs 13 percent across the board? I asked the Secretary of Defense what he thinks about that. He says it would be a disaster.

What we are doing is we have been substituting sound bites for substance. I think we are past the time for that kind of messaging.

The budget and the appropriations process are where we set our priorities as a nation and where we put those priorities into action. That has been our policy here in the Senate under Democratic and under Republican leadership for decades. Instead of doing this basic job, Congress and the President have put the Federal budget on perpetual autopilot, so it never gets done. It comes up, we talk about it, and it doesn't get done. It comes up again, we talk about it, and it doesn't get done. The can has been kicked down the road over and over again.

It makes me think of "Groundhog Day." We are coming up on Groundhog Day. Well, it is "Groundhog Day," plus a sequel, plus another sequel, plus another sequel and yet another sequel. Well, that may have been a funny movie, but this is real life for over 300 million Americans, and 100 Americans are entrusted to make their lives better.

Kicking the can down the road and playing "Groundhog Day" is corrosive and damaging to our Nation and to the American people in countless ways.

Certainly, my experience with a Republican administration and a Democratic administration, many times in the majority in this body and many times in the minority in this body—one thing I have learned, and many of my Republican colleagues tell me the same thing, is that you can't govern by continuing resolution. It is easy. It means you don't have to do your work. But neither the military nor our country can properly function under sequestration. They can't function if we don't do our jobs.

This week, we are taking another recess after this afternoon. I wish we would just stay here and get these bills passed. I am willing to. Vermont is a very nice place to be this time of year—great skiing, lovely place. I have kids and grandkids there, but I will stay here if it means we can get the appropriations bills passed, get us off this corrosive, wasteful continuation of a continuing resolution and sequestration.

The continuing resolution expires on February 8. That is 9 days from today. It is up to the Republican leadership in both Chambers to get serious about striking a bipartisan budget deal. I believe there is something we can do. Talking with both Republican and Democratic Senators, I think we could have a budget deal that would get 60 votes in the Senate. We could raise the caps. We could take care of defense but also take care of a lot of priorities we hear about when we walk down Main Street in the towns and cities we represent. These aren't people who have a partisan attitude; they just want to see the government work.

The States that have suffered from hurricanes and flooding want to see us help them as a nation. If their community is devastated by opioids, they want to see us do something about it. They would like to see the Federal Government do something about stopping the millions of opioids flooding into this country illegally from China. They are not coming across the wall; they are coming from China through the mail, through the post offices we all have in our communities.

Let's start to look at the real threats to America. You don't do it by sound bites; you do it by substance and hard work. There are many Senators on both sides of the aisle who are willing to do that hard work. We have unbelievably talented staff from both Republicans and Democrats who have been working very hard to get us there. Let's start doing that. Let's stop looking for the sound bite. Let's start looking for the substance. I am ready to. I have talked with key Members of both parties about this. It can be done.

I felt honored the other day when Senator Robert Dole, one the titans of this body—a Republican, a conservative Republican—asked me to be one of the two Senators to speak when he received the Congressional Gold Medal. We had a chance to chat first about how we used to do it. Without sounding like the old-timer talking about the good old days, what we would do is the Republicans and Democrats—key Members of both parties—would sit down and we would work something out because we could take each other's word for it. We set aside political posturing, and we did what was best for the country.

Senator Dole joined with Senator Moynihan—a conservative Republican and a liberal Democrat—and they saved Social Security. Senator Dole joined with Senator George McGov-

ern—again, a conservative Republican and a liberal Democrat. As a result, millions of children were fed, others were fed, hungry people were fed in this country and in other countries. What a great humanitarian gesture. Both Senator Dole and Senator McGovern fought in World War II. Both had a distinguished military career. Senator Dole was severely injured. Senator McGovern volunteered to fly many, many missions beyond the number he was required to, even though so many planes in those missions were being shot down. But they came back and said: OK. We did that. Now what are we doing for the people we fought to save?

We should listen to people like that. We should listen to them. We would be a better Senate, we would be a better country if we did.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to speak for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today on this 13th day of January to call out this body, the body of the U.S. Senate, for its dereliction of duty. Enough is enough. We need a long-term budget bill for all of America, including my home State of Montana, because that is what Americans expect because it is our job.

It has been 122 days since Congress has failed to pass a budget. What makes this even more egregious is the fact that we haven't done anything but continuing resolution after continuing resolution after continuing resolution. There is no certainty in that. And even if we passed a long-term budget deal, it isn't even for that long of a term—through the end of this fiscal year, which is when it needs to be done by.

For the last 122 days, Congress has left community health centers, small business owners, America's families, Montana's families without the certainty of a long-term budget. During that time, Congress has instead settled for four short-term, crisis-funding bills that don't do what is necessary and that provide more uncertainty and more chaos.

I have heard a lot of folks say that government needs to be run like a business. There is no business that would put off what it is doing just because it is convenient. In my real life, I am a farmer. I know that you have to plan. I know that you can't go from month to month with uncertainty ahead of you because if you do, you will end up in a situation where it will put you out of business. You have to be able to

plan, whether it is for the seeds you buy or equipment maintenance or anything else in agriculture. It is the same way in any business, and by the way, it is the same way in government.

Unfortunately, the norm has been a month of funding in continuing resolutions, or 3 weeks, instead of coming to a point where we can fund things until the end of the fiscal year, which will give folks certainty, whether it is the military or our southern border or community health centers.

Why do I bring this up? It is because fully 10 percent of the citizens of Montana depend on community health centers for access to their healthcare. It is in some cases the only source of healthcare for these folks. I have had listening tours and roundtables and over a dozen different public meetings on healthcare over the last year, and I can tell you that these facilities are critically important.

So who cares? Why should we worry about that, because we have a continuing resolution. Why? Because these folks right now, if you go talk to them in the State of Montana and I think in any other State in the Union, they will tell you they are not sure whether they will keep their doors open. That does not provide the kind of certainty they need and the kind of access to healthcare folks in our country need, and Montana is no exception.

We cannot continue governing from crisis to crisis. Montana deserves better. America deserves better. We need a budget that goes to the end of the fiscal year, that provides the kind of certainty and security the American people elected us to do. Congress simply needs to do its job.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

HONORING DEPUTY MARSHAL CHRISTOPHER HILL

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about two separate matters. The first is a very painful and difficult topic, but I feel it is important to address.

I wish to recognize, acknowledge, and honor the heroic life and legacy and sacrifice of one of Pennsylvania's finest: Deputy U.S. Marshal Christopher Hill.

On January 18 of this year, Deputy Hill was shot and killed while he was apprehending a fugitive in Harrisburg, PA. Christopher Hill lived in York, PA. He was only 45 years old. He was a husband and the father of two young children. He dedicated his life to serving and protecting first his country and later his community. He was an 11-year veteran of the U.S. Marshals Service. He was a former U.S. Army Ranger who had been deployed to Somalia. In 2014, Deputy Hill was one of the deputy marshals who helped capture a notorious cop killer in Pennsylvania, Eric Frein, who was the subject of one of the largest and longest manhunts in recent history throughout rural Pennsylvania.

The fact is that day in and day out for a very long period of time, Chris-

topher Hill put his life on the line for the rest of us. He did it as an Army Ranger in Somalia. He did it as a deputy U.S. marshal. I had the privilege of attending the memorial service for him recently. It was extraordinary to hear one after another of the people whom he had served with in various capacities speak about a truly extraordinary individual, a guy who was by all accounts humble and modest but absolutely dedicated with a passion to his family, to his community, and to his country.

Sometimes it is easy for us to forget the risks and sacrifices that are being taken by the men and women who wear various uniforms that represent the various organizations that defend and protect us. But I want to say to the people of Pennsylvania and to the family of Christopher Hill that we are never going to forget the bravery and the sacrifice and the service he provided for all of us.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, another topic I wish to touch on this afternoon is a much happier topic; that is, the extraordinary consequences we are already seeing of the tax reform we passed just about a month ago.

Yesterday, I had a chance to tour a small- to medium-sized company in the eastern part of Pennsylvania—Easton, PA, which is where they are located. Sussex Wire is the name of the company. They have a very sophisticated technology whereby they take wire, and without heating it and without grinding it, they use a process that turns it into the shape and form that their customers require. It is a very sophisticated process. They can crank out tremendous volumes.

This relatively small business—I think they have 55 employees—is doing very well. It is manufacturing in Pennsylvania, in America. As a direct result of the tax reform we passed, their tax burden has been diminished, and that has, in turn, allowed them to speed up the hiring of five or six new workers—five or six people who don't have a job today, but they are going to have a job soon because Sussex Wire is hiring. Right now they are out looking for the folks who are going to expand their workforce, expand the ability of this terrific company to do even more.

The tax reform is also accelerating their ability to purchase new equipment. The new equipment they buy allows them to do more work more productively. It allows their workers to produce more of the little tools and devices that they produce. When workers produce more, when they are more productive, they can earn more income, and that is exactly what is happening at Sussex Wire. This is before we have had the opportunity to have all of these investments actually take place.

I am thrilled at how quickly we are seeing tangible benefits for the people I represent as a result of this tax reform.

Of course, it is not just Sussex Wire; it is happening all across America. It is

happening certainly all across Pennsylvania, and I hope we will hear about some of the examples tonight when the President gives his State of the Union Address.

At latest count, there are over 3 million American workers who have already gotten an increase in their compensation. Their employers have provided them either a pay raise or a bonus or a contribution to their pension plan or some combination of those things precisely because these businesses have more free cash flow as a result of lower taxes. Three million workers from almost 300 businesses, and since the last time I came to the floor and spoke about this phenomenon, there have been many more Pennsylvanians benefitting from this.

The employees of Home Depot, at 70 locations across Pennsylvania, are benefiting. Those employees—thousands, I suppose, altogether—are receiving \$1,000 each.

FedEx, which has a huge presence in Pennsylvania, has announced \$200 million in raises, \$1.5 billion in new investment in distribution hubs, and another \$1.5 billion that they are contributing to their employees' pensions.

PPG in Pittsburgh, PA, is spending \$50 million in new capital projects, in part because the Tax Code treats that investment better than our Tax Code used to, and it is encouraging more of this investment.

H&K Equipment in Coraopolis in western Pennsylvania is increasing its investments by 15 percent this year, again in response to this tax reform.

The Wall Street Journal reported over the weekend that manufacturing investment is already going up. It is already increasing. This is going to be very beneficial. First of all, it helps all the workers who produce the equipment in which companies are investing. Secondly, someone needs to operate this equipment, so when a company goes out and buys a new piece of equipment, new machinery, there is the job security or the new job being created for the person who operates it. Thirdly, there is the enhancement in productivity, which allows for higher compensation.

This is all happening at a time when our unemployment rate is relatively low. It is at an alltime record low for African Americans. It is low generally by standards of recent decades. This means that demand for more workers is going to translate into upward pressure on wages. I think we are already seeing it. It is very, very encouraging, and it is just a tremendous success for our workers.

I was very confident that this would be among the constructive consequences of our tax reform, but I will confess that I didn't realize it would happen so quickly. This is great news for Pennsylvanians, and it is great news for Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. DUHNKE III

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a former staff member of mine, William D. Duhnke III, who dedicated over 20 years of his life's work to the Senate.

Prior to his time on Capitol Hill, Bill Duhnke served in the U.S. Navy as a naval officer and at the Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces. Bill received his juris doctorate from Catholic University and a bachelor of arts degree from his home State university, the University of Wisconsin. In 1995 Bill Duhnke joined my personal staff to handle defense, foreign relations, and judiciary policy. He quickly revealed his high work ethic and innate ability to thrive when tasked with the most challenging of assignments.

After swiftly climbing the ladder in my office, Bill became my staff director and general counsel when I chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee and later the Senate Banking Committee, where he was general counsel and staff director. He also served as my staff director when I was the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, when the Democrats were in control.

As a former naval flight officer, Bill always brought a high level of respect and discipline to the workplace. Without hesitation, he was able to spearhead tasks and get things done. Not only was he a trusted adviser, but he was an esteemed manager across Capitol Hill, where he was duly respected. Bill is exceptionally smart and was always well versed on the issues at hand. I would be hard-pressed to recall a time when he was unprepared. I can't think of one.

I am certain that Bill will continue to operate in this manner in his new role as Chairman of the Public Accounting Oversight Board.

I have relied on Bill Duhnke's professional advice and leadership for 20 years, and I know he will be an asset as the Board works to improve audit quality and promote public trust in our securities area. I believe SEC Chairman Jay Clayton has made an excellent choice in selecting Bill Duhnke to chair the PCAOB.

I have no doubt that Bill has stepped into his new leadership position with ease. His intellect and experience ensure his future success in this role, and I am confident that Bill will remain an outstanding leader as he continues on this new path in his career.

It is my honor to offer my deep appreciation and gratitude to Bill Duhnke for his decades of hard work and dedication to the entire country. I am privileged to have had him on my staff for all of those years.

I yield the floor.

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. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX REFORM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the good news about tax reform continues to roll in—wage increases, better benefits, increased investment, and employee bonuses. So far, more than 250 companies have announced good news for their employees—pay hikes, increased retirement contributions, or bonuses, and the list continues to grow.

Last week, JPMorgan Chase, Disney, Starbucks, and FedEx all announced increased investment in American workers. JPMorgan Chase announced that it will raise wages for 22,000 workers, add thousands of new jobs, and open 400 new branches in the United States. It also plans to increase its lending to small businesses. Disney will invest in employees' education and provide employee bonuses. Starbucks is raising wages, increasing benefits, and rewarding employees with company stock. FedEx announced plans to expedite raises and invest \$1.5 billion to expand its FedEx Express hub in Indianapolis. It is also making a \$1.5 billion contribution to its pension plan. To top it off, yesterday ExxonMobil announced that, thanks in part to tax reform, it will invest an additional \$35 billion into the U.S. economy over the next 5 years. That means a lot of new jobs and opportunities for American workers.

Stories like this are why we made business tax reform a key part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Obviously, a huge priority was immediately lowering Americans' tax bills, which is why we lowered rates across the board, nearly doubled the standard deduction, and doubled the child tax credit. But our other priority was creating the kind of economy in which Americans can thrive for the long-term—an economy that would create good jobs, higher wages, and more opportunities.

So how do we go about doing that? Well, the only way for individual Americans to thrive is for American businesses and the American economy to thrive. So we took action to improve the situation for American businesses.

Prior to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, American businesses, large and small, were weighed down by high tax rates and growth-killing tax provisions. Plus, our outdated international tax rules left America's global businesses at a competitive disadvantage in the global economy.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act changed all that. We lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. We expanded the business owners' ability to recover investments they make in their businesses, which will free up cash that they can reinvest in their operations and their workers.

We lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate, which up until January 1 was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. We brought the U.S. international tax sys-

tem into the 21st century by replacing our outdated worldwide system with a modernized territorial tax system so that American businesses are not operating at a disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts. Now, just a month into the new tax law, we are already seeing the results.

Thanks to the new tax law, businesses are seeing a future of growth, and based on those forecasts, they are making plans to invest in their workers, raise wages, create new jobs, and invest in the American economy: AT&T, Boeing, Fiat Chrysler, Bank of America, Home Depot, Great Western Bank in my State of South Dakota, First Hawaiian Bank, SunTrust Bank, Comcast, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Humana, Visa, Nationwide Insurance, JetBlue Airlines. The list of companies announcing good news for American workers thanks to tax reform goes on and on and on.

Tech giant Apple announced that as a result of tax reform, it will bring home almost \$250 billion in cash that it has been keeping overseas and invest it here in the United States. That is good news for the American economy, and it is a direct result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Before the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our Tax Code encouraged American businesses to keep cash overseas. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ended that. Now that we have altered the Tax Code to remove the penalty for bringing profits home to the United States, we can expect to see more companies bringing profits home and investing in the U.S. economy the way that Apple is doing.

We have seen a tremendous amount of good news this month, but it really is only the beginning. As the benefits of tax reform continue to sink in, we expect to see more growth, more jobs, and more opportunities for American workers, and we expect to see the kind of economy that will provide security and prosperity for Americans for the long term.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:29 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stras nomination?

Mr. BURR. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 27 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Perdue
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heitkamp	Risch
Cassidy	Heller	Roberts
Cochran	Hoeben	Rounds
Collins	Inhofe	Rubio
Corker	Isakson	Sasse
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott
Cotton	Jones	Shelby
Crapo	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Klobuchar	Thune
Daines	Lankford	Tillis
Donnelly	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	Manchin	Warner
Ernst	McCaskill	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	Young
Flake	Moran	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Harris	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Sanders
Booker	Heinrich	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Nelson	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Capito
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 Senator from Arkansas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas.

(The remarks of Mr. BOOZMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2364 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

STOP ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I want to talk about the opioid epidemic that has gripped our country and my State of Ohio and talk a little about a report we issued last week with regard to synthetic opioids coming in through the U.S. mail system.

This tragedy has hit Ohio hard. We are not alone, though. Opioids affect every American regardless of age, area code, class, or color. Every State represented here in this body has experienced this—broken families, devastated communities, higher crime rates, friends lost, and, of course, lives taken through opioid overdoses.

The Centers for Disease Control recently reported that more than 63,600 Americans died in 2016 from drug overdoses. That is the last year for which they have statistics, but we all believe it was worse in 2017. With 63,600 Americans dying of overdoses, that means, on average, more than 174 Americans die every single day. That is up from approximately 143 Americans who died, on average, every day from drug overdoses a year earlier in 2015 and 105 Americans who died every day in 2010.

The problem is getting worse, not better. Drug overdoses, in fact, are now the No. 1 cause of death—not just accidental deaths but the No. 1 cause of death—in America for Americans under the age of 50. The reason for this increase in overdose deaths is the spread of heroin, prescription drugs, and now the synthetic opioids—fentanyl and carfentanil. Opioids were involved in more than 42,000—about two-thirds—of the overall deaths in 2016. Opioid deaths were five times higher in 2016 than they were just a few years ago.

This is a national epidemic. It has unfolded in three different waves.

The first wave was the prescription drug epidemic—pain pills—15 to 20 years ago. That started to increase dramatically.

Next, heroin deaths spiked. Heroin was turned to as a less expensive and more accessible way for people who were addicted to pain pills to continue to receive the high—in this case, from heroin coming mostly from Mexico.

Now synthetic forms of heroin are overtaking the illegal opioid market, and the results have been even more deadly. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin, has become the new scourge of the epidemic. Fentanyl is so deadly that 2 milligrams of it—as little as two flakes of it—can be lethal. It is cheap, easily accessible, and can be added to make any number of illegal drugs more potent—cocaine, heroin, pills.

In Ohio, fentanyl and its variations, such as carfentanil, were responsible for 60 percent of our State's more than 4,000 overdose deaths in 2016—the most recent year for which we have statistics. That 60 percent is a huge increase from just the previous year, 2015, when fentanyl was responsible for about 37 percent of the deaths. We have had more deaths from overdoses and a lot more deaths linked to fentanyl.

Sadly, again, this situation is getting worse, not better. Just last week in Ottawa County, OH, outside of Toledo, we had five overdoses in 1 single day. We had three people die of overdoses in 1 week. The suspected cause, of course, is fentanyl.

Earlier this month in Akron, a 57-year-old man—a board member of the Akron Public Schools system—was found unconscious in his car from a drug overdose. First responders were thankfully able to revive the man with Narcan—a miracle drug that reverses the effects of overdoses—and treat him at a local hospital. Again, fentanyl caused that overdose.

In July of last year, a 12-year-old Columbus boy encountered fentanyl while he was at his cousin's for a sleepover. He was rushed to the hospital but died days later from a lack of oxygen to his brain as a result of fentanyl.

These synthetic drugs have invaded communities across Ohio and across the country. Unbelievably, this deadly poison is primarily shipped into America from China through our U.S. Postal Service. The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair along with ranking member Senator TOM CARPER, recently held a hearing on this issue. It came on the heels of our year-long bipartisan investigation that resulted in a 100-page investigative report that examined how these drug traffickers in China exploit vulnerabilities in our international mail system to ship these deadly synthetic drugs into our communities.

I encourage people to look at that report on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations website. The results of the report were shocking. We found that it was incredibly easy to buy fentanyl online. By simply searching "fentanyl for sale" on Google, our staff identified hundreds of websites, many affiliated with Chinese labs, all openly advertising this deadly drug. Online sellers were quick to respond, unafraid of being caught, and ready to make a deal. They even offered discounts for bulk purchases and tried to upsell us to carfentanil—fentanyl's even more powerful and deadly cousin.

This is an email from Chinese traffickers offering "a hot sale" for one fentanyl analogue before it is discontinued. Their preferred shipping method is the U.S. Postal Service because, as they told us, the chances of the drugs being seized were so insignificant that delivery was essentially guaranteed.

This chart shows a carfentanil advertisement and the online traffickers

suggesting “USPS” as their preferred shipping method. Why? Because USPS is the way in which the delivery is virtually guaranteed. “DHL, UPS, FedEx, TNT are quicker, but not safe, and will be detained frequently.” Instead, they say: “We suggest USPS only.” Wow.

It is inexcusable that these drugs are as easy to ship as a postcard and that traffickers’ preferred shipment method for these deadly poisons is through a Federal agency. Our post office has become a conduit for these deadly drugs.

By the way, this is incredibly dangerous for the postal employees, the letter carriers, those who have to handle these packages.

I should note that our team never purchased any of these drugs online, but we did use the online sellers’ payment information to determine if others were buying. Of course, we found out that they were. We narrowed our search to just six websites. From those six sites, we identified more than 500 payments to those six online sellers by more than 300 Americans in 43 States just in the last couple of years.

This map shows where the fentanyl went. As you can see, just from those six websites and those few hundred people, it went all over the country. The largest concentration of buyers was in my home State of Ohio, where you see the red. They were also in Pennsylvania and Florida. But, as I mentioned, it went to all 43 States. We were able to track hundreds of packages related to the online purchases.

By analyzing more than 2 million lines of shipment data obtained in our investigation, we located three individuals in the United States who seem to be distributing these drugs. We also identified two other individuals who purchased items to make pills, including pill presses, chemical bonding agents, and empty pill casings.

Our report also reinforced the risk associated with these deadly synthetic drugs. We identified seven individuals who died from fentanyl-related overdoses shortly after receiving packages from these online sellers. One of those seven individuals who died was a 49-year-old Ohioan from the Cleveland area who sent about \$2,500 to an online seller and received 15 packages through the Postal Service over a 10-month period. His autopsy confirmed he died from “acute fentanyl intoxication” just a couple of weeks after receiving a package from this online seller.

We are already working with law enforcement authorities to make sure these drug dealers can be brought to justice. We recently released all our documents to the Department of Homeland Security for them to do their own investigation.

China has responded to our report. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said last week that China stands “ready to work with the U.S. to enhance our coordination in this field.” I welcome China’s cooperation and coordination in this fight. But we need more than words. We need action. We need China to ban

more of these deadly drugs and do it quicker. We need China to shut down these illegal fentanyl laboratories and arrest those responsible for shipping drugs into our country.

I had the opportunity last year to travel to China as part of a congressional delegation, and I was able to speak directly to some of the Chinese authorities, including Premier Li. We talked about these deadly poisons coming into our communities and how we needed more help to be able to shut down these labs and to arrest these individuals. I also made the point that there is evidence that some of this opioid material that is being synthetically produced in China is leaking into their communities and that they have a problem too. We need to work together to shut this down.

One way that we can assist law enforcement in this war on synthetic opioids is by simply providing them the tools they need to identify packages coming in that likely contain these drugs. Whether they are from China, whether they are shipped somewhere else, or whether they are from another country that begins to produce these drugs, we have to do a better job finding these packages and stopping them.

Because of the roughly 500 million packages that come in by mail every year, interdicting these small packages is very difficult. It can be like finding a needle in a haystack. So law enforcement has asked us to help them be able to get the information they need to target suspect packages.

That is why what is called advance electronic data is so very important. This is information that comes in advance—such as what is in the package, where it is from, where it is going—is information for packages entering the United States that can greatly assist our law enforcement.

Customs and Border Protection is responsible for this mail coming into our country, and they want to identify these suspicious packages and be able to trace them back to both the U.S. distributor and user but also, of course, to their overseas traffickers. When they have that information, they are able to stop packages but also then initiate investigations, prosecutions, and arrests.

As part of our investigation, we found that last year the Postal Service only received this advance electronic data on about 36 percent of the more than 498 million packages coming into our country. That means the United States received more than 318 million packages with no data. That means there was little to no screening at all.

We also found that the quality of the data that was provided was often inadequate and unhelpful to law enforcement. Even when the Postal Service conducted a pilot program to screen for these drugs through the use of this data, they only presented 80 percent of these packages targeted by Customs and Border Protection for inspection. In other words, about 20 percent of

these suspect packages came into our communities without inspection, despite being suspect packages.

With these glaring holes in the screening process, it is no wonder these drug dealers choose the Postal Service as their preferred drug delivery system. It is a massive loophole that is undermining the safety and security of our country.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks, collecting the advance electronic data was identified as a national security priority.

In 2002 Congress wrote legislation that required private carriers to collect this advance electronic data and authorized and encouraged the Postal Service to do it but left the implementation up to the Postal Service. That was 16 years ago.

Because of the 2002 law, private carriers like UPS, FedEx, DHL, and others, require useful data on every package entering the United States, while the Postal Service gets its data for less than 40 percent of the hundreds of millions of packages it receives every year. Again, the Postal Service data is sometimes not usable, and 20 percent of those packages targeted because of the data are never presented to law enforcement to be inspected. Folks, this is just wrong. We can and we must do better.

We talked earlier about the number of people dying from fentanyl overdoses and the fact that this is the new scourge. It is coming in our mail system. We have to be able to do better, and we can.

This is why I have introduced what is called the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act, or STOP Act. This bipartisan bill will require the Postal Service to get that electronic data on all international packages entering the United States. The coauthor of the STOP Act is Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota, and we now have 29 Senate cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. The bipartisan House companion bill is now, I believe, cosponsored by a majority of the House of Representatives. Why? Because this is just a commonsense solution that people understand has to be done.

I urge all of my Senate colleagues to join us in doing what we can to stop some of this poison from coming into America and to at least raise the price on the street of this synthetic heroin that is cheap and accessible.

By holding the Postal Service, a Federal agency, to the same standard we have for private mail carriers, we can give law enforcement the necessary tools they are asking for to identify and stop these deadly poisons from reaching our communities.

I understand that this is just one part of the solution to deal with the opioid epidemic. Trust me; I get that. I have been working on this for over 20 years, focused mostly on the prevention side, treatment, and the recovery. Those are all important. We need to continue to do that because our States

are gripped by these opioids, and all of us need it. But there is clearly a need for a legislative solution to prevent these drugs from entering our country through our own mail system.

The STOP Act is a clear opportunity and responsibility for Congress to help turn the tide of addiction. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting the STOP Act and, by doing so, in saving lives.

I yield back.

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. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, tonight the President will address the Nation from the Chamber of the House of Representatives. This is called the State of the Union, and its tradition dates back to George Washington's time when he gave his first annual message in 1790.

Tonight is an important speech. It gives the President a chance not only to look forward but to look back on the first year of his term in office. That first year was marked by a steady stream of impressive accomplishments working together with Congress. These successes are easily missed when the decibel level here in Washington remains so high. The good news all too often gets drowned out by the noise, although, the truth is that the President's policy decisions have been spot-on, particularly when it comes to our Nation's economy.

First and foremost, last year he signed comprehensive tax reform into law. This is something we haven't been able to do since 1986. Our reforms lowered rates across the board for every tax bracket, doubled the child tax credit, and incentivized U.S. businesses to create jobs here at home rather than overseas, and, finally, it repealed the ObamaCare individual mandate, making the Affordable Care Act voluntary and not mandatory.

All across the country, we have seen the chain reaction as at least 263 businesses, large and small, have used the tax savings to increase workers' wages, expand their operations, and create jobs. According to one poll, small businesses' optimism is now at an 11-year high. The economy, thank goodness, continues to improve. A key economic indicator rose more than expected last month, but the momentum has been building over the last 12.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average has reached record highs. Everyone with a 401(k), a savings account, a pension, or somebody who dabbles in the stock market has seen the value of their holdings go up by about 25 per-

cent in this last year. Federal workers who invest in their thrift savings plans through these index funds have seen their retirement funds grow to a huge amount—25 percent—consistent with the stock market.

President Trump's economic policies have been joined by his administration's strong insistence on suspending or eliminating job-stifling regulations. Now, don't get me wrong. Regulations are necessary for public health, safety, and welfare, but they can go too far and stifle innovation and economic growth. Unfortunately, that is what has happened.

He signed an Executive order when he first came to office and has cut at least 16 rules and regulations for every new one that was created. I think his original goal was to cut two for every new one, but, actually, he has done better than that. He has cut 16 for every new one that was created, and that has saved roughly \$8.1 billion in compliance costs.

We need to keep in mind here in Washington that when we pass a law or when we pass a regulation, somebody often has to hire somebody to comply with that law. If there is a change in the Tax Code, you have to hire an accountant to help you figure out how to comply with the law or, if you are a manufacturing facility, you want to make sure OSHA and other Federal agencies don't come in and fine you so you hire people to help you comply with regulations and laws. These aren't people who necessarily help you become more productive; these are just people to keep up with the rules and regulations that emanate from Washington. The savings, as a result of rolling back some of the unnecessary regulations, has been pretty dramatic.

We in Congress did our part using the Congressional Review Act to eliminate heavyhanded regulations passed during the eleventh hour of the last administration.

President Trump's policies have stimulated the economy in other ways too. They have expanded energy infrastructure projects like the Keystone Pipeline and, with the help of Congress, opened part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas exploration. This is something that was set aside specifically for energy production years ago, but as a result of the logjam in Congress, that important natural resource for America was out of bounds because of congressional inaction. Well, no more.

I have flown over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and, believe me, it is not someplace you would go on a vacation. It is a pretty rough area, but because people think of it as a wildlife refuge, they think, well, maybe this is a threat to the wildlife. Just the opposite is true. We know the caribou population has sprung up in areas where they have an oil pipeline because they use it for nesting grounds. It just goes to show how little the bureaucrats here in Washington who believe there is

nothing they shouldn't regulate or overregulate—they can be wrong.

Meanwhile, the President has been hard at work enforcing our immigration laws, something he was elected to do. He has added immigration judges and removed more than 36 percent more criminal gang members than in fiscal year 2016.

When it comes to immigration in the Senate, we have been working together to find a bipartisan solution for the recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—the so-called DACA Program.

People will remember this was something President Obama did, unilaterally circumventing Congress, and the courts later told him, no, he couldn't do it, placing the future of some 690,000 young DACA recipients in jeopardy. President Trump wisely has given us a deadline of March 5, but kicked it back to Congress to do what only Congress can do; that is, to come up with a solution. The President, helpfully, has laid out his priorities, and now we in this Congress have to come up with a consensus on how to move forward.

We know these young adults deserve future certainty, but also we don't want to repeat the mistakes of the past. We finally need to secure our borders and fix the flaws in our immigration laws that are exploited by the human traffickers and coyotes, and we aim to do both. There has to be symmetry. On one hand, we can show the sort of compassion that Americans have always shown, but we also need to have the security and knowledge that our laws and our border will be enforced.

The President shares this dual aim. On Sunday, my friend and fellow Texan, Roger Rocha, the head of the League of United Latin American Citizens—or LULAC—sent a letter to President Trump. Now, you wouldn't ordinarily think that LULAC and President Trump would see eye to eye, but here, President Rocha congratulated the President for setting what LULAC called a reasonable framework for immigration reform and border security. LULAC stated that as long as we stay within the President's parameters, the organization can support the eventual proposal because they are eager to make sure these young people—some 690,000—have a positive future. The President has gone over and above that and said, not only the people who signed up for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, but those who were eligible and who did not sign up can still participate in this pathway the President has prescribed for them, as long as we do our job when it comes to border security—dealing with the diversity lottery visa and dealing with chain migration.

I think LULAC's endorsement of these four parameters is very encouraging. It is huge news. LULAC has more than 145,000 members, and it is heralded as one of the oldest civil rights organizations in America itself.

It believes that now is the time to move forward, and that is something, hopefully, all of us will agree with.

LULAC believes the President's framework will keep the momentum of progress on its proper trajectory, they say. What this means is, President Trump is now on the brink of delivering something to the American people—certainty to DACA recipients, enforcement of our immigration laws, and securing our borders—that previous Presidents have been unable to do. Let me say that again. What this means is, President Trump is now on the brink of delivering to the American people certainty for the DACA recipients, enforcement of our immigration laws, and securing our borders, something previous Presidents have been unable to accomplish.

Democrats remain at a standstill on the very issue they have advocated for years, though. To my Democratic colleagues, I say the following: We are still waiting to see your alternative that could become law. The President has made a proposal. So you owe it to the American people, and you certainly owe it to the DACA recipients—whom some people call the Dreamers—you owe it to them to come up with an alternative. We can't negotiate with ourselves; we need a negotiating partner who will work with us in good faith to get to a solution that can get a Presidential signature. We are running out of time, and we need to get this done.

One unsung story of President Trump's first year has been the reshaping of the Federal judiciary. He nominated 73 Federal judges, including Neil Gorsuch, above all, who was confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court last spring. We have helped him see that 12 appellate court judges have now assumed the robe and taken to the bench. This, of course, is the intermediate appellate court that, for all practical purposes, is the court of last resort, since the Supreme Court of the United States only hears about 80 cases a year. They decide cases where the appellate courts disagree or where there is a dissent by one of the judges, and usually it is the circuit courts that are the final word, interpreting, of course, Supreme Court precedence.

I am particularly proud of two of those supreme court justices: Don Willett, formerly of the Texas Supreme Court, and Jim Ho, who has served as my chief judiciary counsel, among other distinguished service, and who was a law clerk for Clarence Thomas and served as solicitor general of Texas. I am proud of the fact that these two men are now serving on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Last but not least, the President has worked to increase defense spending and shown deft leadership in handling a broad array of foreign threats. I think that is, in part, responsible and due to the incredible team he has surrounded himself with, including General McMaster, the National Security Advisor; Rex Tillerson, the Secretary of

State; and James Mattis, Secretary of Defense. They are a strong and impressive team, and they serve the President and the Nation well by providing the President the kind of advice he needs to lead and to keep our country safe and to maintain America's leadership in world affairs.

We know, for example, that under our military leaders' strategy, as authorized and enabled by the President himself, the terrorist organization ISIS has lost most of its territory and many of its followers.

This administration has also strengthened U.S. policy in Iran, which is the No. 1 state sponsor of international terrorism. He has held Syria accountable for crossing redlines when they violated international norms by using chemical weapons—something the previous administration declined to do. This administration has stood up to an increasingly belligerent North Korea and used diplomacy to encourage China to use its clout as a bordering nation to North Korea to try to dissuade Kim Jong Un from pursuing his nuclear power goals. I hope that is successful.

It is no surprise, then, that based on polling data, Americans are substantially more satisfied with the Nation's military strength, security from terrorism, and the state of the economy now than they were at the end of the previous administration.

Our President is only 1 year into his term, but he has already changed this country's political landscape. I share his goal of continuing to build a safer, stronger, and prouder America.

The question then becomes how, working together, we can do that. During tonight's State of the Union Address, there are a few specific topics I look forward to hearing more about—shared priorities for the upcoming year—for example, rebuilding our Nation's depleted infrastructure. I recently introduced a bill with our colleague the senior Senator from Virginia. It would expand an infrastructure financing authority already in use by many States and local governments. I come from a big State, where we have a growing population, and we need to continue to build our infrastructure there to keep commerce flowing and to keep our roads safe and to protect our environment. This legislation I have introduced with my colleague from Virginia would raise the statutory cap on something known as private activity bonds, which assist various types of transportation construction.

In the near future, I expect to introduce other infrastructure initiatives, and I look forward to working with my colleagues as well as this administration to see them signed into law.

I am also keen to hear the President's thoughts on issues relating to public safety and law enforcement. I myself am a strong proponent of the Second Amendment, but I believe tragedies like that which occurred in Sutherland Springs prove the incredible

danger of dangerous felons purchasing and possessing firearms. That is illegal, but it happens, and, unfortunately, the consequences can be devastating to the families affected.

That is why I have introduced the bill we call the Fix NICS Act. NICS, of course, is the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which makes sure that when you go in to purchase a firearm, if you are a convicted felon, if you have been committed for mental illness, or if you are guilty of domestic violence, you cannot legally buy a firearm in America, but if the background check system isn't uploaded properly, as in this case the Air Force declined—or I should say failed—to provide the necessary information to the criminal background check system, somebody can go in and lie and purchase firearms they can't otherwise legally purchase. That is why it is so important that we fix the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. That is something that has broad bipartisan support, and I hope to see it passed into law soon.

I see my colleague from Rhode Island here whom I have been working with on prison reform, another issue I hope the President touches on this evening, and I believe he will. I believe one of the most effective ways for us to legislate is to let the States be the laboratories of democracy. In this case, many of our States have been laboratories of democracy when it comes to reforming our criminal justice system and specifically our prison system. I know, for a long time, people had this idea that we are going to lock up folks and throw away the key, but the reality is, people who go to prison usually get out of prison. The question is, Are they going to be better prepared when they get out and hopefully avoid reincarceration and hopefully become productive members of society or are they just simply going to be warehoused and then let out, only to repeat their criminal acts and end up back in prison again?

We have had some enormous success in Texas and others States about incentivizing low- and medium-risk offenders, to provide them an opportunity to deal with their drug or alcohol problem or to learn a skill that they can earn a living with once they get out of prison or to get a GED. They have been very successful in cutting down on the rate of recidivism, decreasing the crime rate, and along the way saving the taxpayers money because they don't have to just build another prison to warehouse more people. We can keep the hard-core criminals locked up while we extend an olive branch and some help, a helping hand to those who will take advantage of it to turn their lives around and become productive members of society. So I am looking forward to the President talking about that.

I know the President will be talking about that and other important issues, such as immigration, and he will be

speaking from the heart tonight, and we should all listen to his words carefully. Whether we voted for this President or not, he is the duly elected President of the United States, and we, I believe, are obligated—those of us in Congress—to work with him, where we can, to try to help make things better for the people we represent.

Once he concludes his remarks tonight, then the ball is in our court to follow up on his calls to action, and I hope we will.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for several minutes and then turn the floor over to the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and then, thereafter, that we may be permitted to engage in a brief colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have come to the floor with a shared concern that the raiding parties are circling the Mueller investigation and preparing for an attack on that investigation.

We see this with collateral attacks on individual members of law enforcement. We see this with efforts to discredit the FBI and the Department of Justice in general. We have seen it even with Presidential tweets seeking to discredit folks who might be witnesses before a grand jury, which would, with the right state of mind, actually amount to obstruction of justice itself.

The first thing I want to say is that the Senate is entitled to a full and truthful explanation of why Deputy Director McCabe of the FBI left. We do not know the reason behind his sudden, abrupt departure. But we do know that Sally Yates was fired; we do know that Jim Comey was fired; we do know that Bob Mueller was not fired only because White House Counsel threw himself in front of that decision by President Trump and said: If you do that, I am out.

So firings at the top of our Department of Justice are becoming an unpleasantly frequent thing, and they tend to relate to matters where investigations touch on the White House: Sally Yates and the Flynn investigation; Jim Comey and the obstruction of justice, Russia collusion investigation; and, of course, Bob Mueller leading that investigation. I think we are entitled to answers, and I call for a full and truthful explanation.

The second thing going on is the more general attack on the FBI, the latest episode of which is this so-called Nunes memo, which has been described by Democratic House Members who have seen that memo and the under-

lying documents out of which it was selectively cherry-picked as profoundly misleading. It had the political purpose of spreading a false narrative—the political purpose of spreading a false narrative. This is like the information operations the Kremlin used to run against the free world if they had a political purpose of spreading a false narrative.

They also said it has the purpose of undermining legitimate investigations. Guess which legitimate investigations they mean.

This business of selectively cherry-picking things out of classified information to spread a false narrative has a very unpleasant echo for me because this is what the Bush administration was up to when it was trying to defend the torture program. They selectively declassified, for instance, that Abu Zubaydah had been the subject of what they called their enhanced interrogation techniques program and that he had produced important, actionable intelligence. What they did not declassify was that all the actionable intelligence he gave them had been provided before they started on the torture techniques. Then, once the pros from Dover came down—who didn't know anything about how to interrogate somebody but only knew how to do torture techniques—he clammed up, and that was the last actionable intelligence we got out of him. So deliberately misleading by selectively declassifying is an established technique, and it is one that is both shady and dangerous.

The process by which this so-called Nunes report or memo came out smells. It is the first ever invocation of an obscure House rule allowing for the selective declassification of material. It happened on a purely partisan vote. Trump's own appointees to the Department of Justice have called efforts to release the memo "extraordinarily reckless." Yet, on a purely partisan vote, using this previously never used rule, they are putting the selectively cherry-picked false narrative out into the public debate.

Why are they steaming ahead with a report that Ranking Member ADAM SCHIFF says "contains significant errors of fact, mischaracterizations, and omits critical context and detail"? At the same time, they are pulling one more procedural stunt, which is to stall for at least a week a Democratic report that would rebut and expose the misleading character of the Republicans' document.

The only conceivable purpose is to take the false narrative and give it a headstart of a week so that the poison gets out into our information system. Sure enough, they are pounding away at getting that information out. FOX News is already whipping it up, talking about how it is going to be a bombshell and explosive. The House Freedom Caucus has Trump revved up about the memo, urging him to support its release—against the advice of his own law enforcement and national security officials.

Over at Breitbart, FOX News, and throughout the rightwing echo chamber, hashtag "Release the Memo" became the rallying cry. Not only was it the rallying cry of Breitbart and FOX News—guess what. It was the rallying cry of our friends, the Russians. Hashtag "Release the Memo" remains the most used hashtag by social media accounts associated with Russian influence operations. Even the President's son, Don junior, got involved in the game, tweeting out that "Democrats & deep state govt officials"—I guess by that he means the Trump appointees who said that releasing this report would be extraordinarily reckless—are behind some mischief and therefore, all caps, "RELEASE THE MEMO."

When you see a political steamroller like that happening, when you see bizarre, peculiar, and unprecedented procedures, when you see that it is entirely partisan and against the advice of our national security officials, it is hard to draw a good conclusion about what the heck is going on.

Mr. President, I yield to my distinguished colleague from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we are here at a historic moment. The President of the United States will come before us for his first State of the Union tonight, at a time when there is a credible case of obstruction of justice against him and an overwhelming case to show that the campaign that elected him was aided and abetted by the Russians. But the immediate threat is even more dire.

Yesterday was a new low for the House Intelligence Committee. The House Republicans, in an act of partisan gutter politics, voted to release a four-page, misleading, deceptive characterization of warrants submitted to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. This partisan gutter politics brings us to a dark day of character assassination much like the McCarthy days, when Members of this Chamber were counted in history as to whether they stood up and spoke out against this kind of smear campaign.

Not only is there character assassination at work here but also, equally dangerous to our democracy, the potential compromising of sources and methods vital to our national intelligence and our national security. That is the reason President Trump's own appointee at the Department of Justice, Stephen Boyd, stated that the release of this memo would be "extraordinarily reckless."

Those words come from a former staffer for a Republican Congresswoman and then-Senator Jeff Sessions—hardly a Democratic partisan. "Extraordinarily reckless." Why? Because this memo, four pages long, summarizing a warrant that typically is tens or hundreds of pages, will reveal sources and methods vital to the continued operation of our intelligence community.

My colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE, has very powerfully and eloquently stated why this development is so threatening and so deeply troubling, but my Republican colleagues are apparently averse to listening to this kind of reasonable and sensible need for caution. They are about to ask the President to defy his own Department of Justice and disclose this memo.

Now, let's be very clear. I am one of the leading advocates in this body for transparency and disclosure. In fact, I believe strongly that all of the transcripts of interviews before the Judiciary Committee on the obstruction of justice investigation should be disclosed, and all of those witnesses should be called before us—in open hearings, under oath—to tell their stories so that the American public can understand what happened. I am in favor of challenges to warrants in the FISA Court—the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court—that may be defective or fallible. In fact, I was the leading advocate and drafter of a provision in the law now that provides for challenges to those warrants. It does so within the bounds of confidentiality that are necessary to protect our secrets and our national security.

What the House Intelligence Committee and potentially the President of the United States are about to do is essentially defy the law, an end-run so as to avoid the need for secrecy and confidentiality when it comes to intelligence gathering vital to our national security.

There is a procedure for challenging warrants when they are fallible. The House Republicans are refusing to follow it, and they are also refusing to provide any rebuttal to the distortions and mischaracterizations in that four-page memo.

Here is the reality: The United States was interested in Carter Page, who was viewed by the FBI as a Russian agent well before the 2016 Presidential campaign. In fact, their interest dates back to 2013, well before the Steele dossier, well before the election when Russian operatives sought to recruit him as a spy.

I am going to repeat that. The FBI thought Carter Page, who became a Trump campaign official, was an agent of the Russian Government. That is a stark public truth. That, in and of itself, would have been enough to obtain a FISA warrant to surveil him. Remember, he doesn't have to be convicted. He doesn't have to be proven a spy beyond a reasonable doubt. It is the probable cause standard and sufficient suspicion that he is a Russian spy that provide the opportunity, legally, and indeed the obligation to do surveillance.

We also know that European and other intelligence agencies—including from the UK, Netherlands, Germany, France, Poland, Estonia, and Australia—all discovered interactions between Trump's inner circle and Russian intelligence beginning in 2015. In

fact, the Australian Government told the FBI that George Papadopoulos bragged to an Australian diplomat over drinks at a bar that Russia had "political dirt" on Hillary Clinton while he was working for the Trump campaign. We know also that the Dutch Government informed the FBI of Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election through hacking. We know that Carter Page openly traveled to Moscow to give a pro-Russian speech, and we know he met with Russian officials just as the Kremlin was working to undermine the 2016 election.

The purpose of releasing this memo is to create, very simply, a false narrative, a distraction, a red herring—call it whatever you wish. Its purpose is to discredit and degrade the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice—law enforcement agencies that deserve the American people's support no matter who they are investigating as long as they are doing it objectively and dispassionately, as they are doing here.

Republicans conveniently ignore the facts—not only the facts that I have just recounted, the facts that are declassified, but also facts that they know well, facts that may continue to be classified. A 4-page memo simply cannot accurately summarize what is typically 100 pages or more in a FISA warrant application without cherry-picking facts to suit the Republican author's message.

I want to paraphrase one of our former colleagues, my friend and mentor Senator Patrick Moynihan: Everybody is entitled to their own opinion but not their own facts.

The American people should not be selectively presented with the facts and deceived by a memo that amounts to character assassination, a memo that endangers our national security, compromises the sources and methods of our intelligence community, and has only the purpose of degrading and discrediting the FBI and our Department of Justice as they engage in a valid, necessary investigation, through the special counsel, of Russian collusion in the last campaign, with the campaign itself, electing Donald Trump, and potential obstruction of justice afterward.

The hypocrisy and silence of many of my Republican colleagues in both Houses is deeply disappointing. Now is the time for people of conscience to stand up and speak out in favor of the rule of law and know that the fate and future of our democracy depends on it.

There will be a lot of rhetoric tonight in these Halls, but what matters now is action to defend our democracy. I am grateful to my very distinguished colleague for calling attention to the continued Russian meddling and interference in our democracy. Hashtag "Release the Memo," which was retweeted 200,000 percent in a span of 48 hours and became the leading hashtag on twitter, was spread by accounts associated with the Russian Government or agents.

House Republicans are playing right into the hands of the Russians. The President of the United States, defying the law, declined to impose sanctions even after an overwhelming number of our colleagues here—98 to 2—voted in favor of those sanctions. Why is it that Donald Trump is so much enthralled with Vladimir Putin and the Russians? Perhaps it is because of the last campaign.

They are continuing with their interference and meddling, and they will do it again in 2018. CIA Director Mike Pompeo said today that they will do it again. And indeed they will unless they are made to pay a price. The absence of sanctions speaks louder than my words.

It is time for us to stand up and speak out.

I thank my colleague from the State of Rhode Island for being here today to join me.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, to follow the words of my distinguished colleague from Connecticut, not only are House Republicans—to use his phrase—playing into the hands of the Russians, they are actually playing by the playbook of the Russians. If you understand the Russian information warfare, the Gerasimov doctrine, the way in which Russians—and before them, Soviets—for years tried to poison the factual environment around them, and then you put that up against this scheme where you start with the selective release of classified material that the public can't get behind because the rest is classified, the false narrative that the ranking member has pointed out that that creates, the partisan and peculiar process for getting there, the ignoring of warnings from their own national security officials about how bad this is, the convenient whipping up of all of this in far-right media at the same time, the amplification of that actually by Russian bots and other sources, and the fact that this is all pointed, not coincidentally, at the agency and officials who are engaged in investigating the Trump White House and the Trump campaign, it is so appallingly obvious what the game is that is being played here.

It is stunning to me, to follow on what Senator BLUMENTHAL said, that we have heard nothing—at least I have heard nothing—perhaps the Senator from Connecticut can illuminate further, but I have heard nothing from our Director of National Intelligence, DNI Coats, and I have heard nothing from CIA Director Pompeo for—how long it has been? Since the very foundation of the FISA Court in the wake of Watergate, it has been an essential defense of our intelligence community that they don't want release of the FISA Court records. Now we have a partisan release that touches back to FISA applications that the Department of Justice has said is reckless. And where are they? It is astonishing that the custodians of those secrets appear to have absolutely no concern about this

partisan and peculiar, selective release of classified information.

I will echo another point Senator BLUMENTHAL made. This just happens to be happening at a time when the sanctions we voted on by massive bipartisan majorities—I can stack the votes together, House and Senate. It was something like 515 to 5. It was an enormous, bipartisan vote to sanction the Russians for what they have been doing, and that just went live. The President could impose those sanctions now. Yet he has not. What is the explanation?

The only people this President seems incapable of being tough on are Russians. It is a very unpleasant set of coincidences. At the same time, here we are with the Republican leadership in the House and the Republican leadership in the Senate and virtually every law enforcement and national security official who has come before us is saying: Hey, yeah, they did attack our last election in 2016, and they are going to attack our next election in 2018.

We are warned that a hostile foreign power is going to attack our 2018 election. Where is the legislation to defend against that? Where is the markup of the legislation? Where is the effort to do what needs to be done to defend our democracy? Here we are just a few months out from the election. We are 9 months out. Do I have the math right? It is 9 months between here and there. Nothing.

Why is it that whenever the Russians come up, it seems that the Republican Party has to go into complete stasis, just roll right over.

I offer those thoughts to the distinguished Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I want to very quickly and simply emphasize a couple of those very important points, and maybe the overriding one is the need for action.

The Presiding Officer has demonstrated repeatedly his convictions and conscience, and I want to say how much I have admired much of what he has done during his Senate career. My hope is that others in this body will step forward and say: Enough is enough.

The FISA Court—Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court—is a carefully crafted bipartisan institution meant to protect our country against foreign threats that would destroy our democracy—the very kinds of threats that Russia has repeatedly mounted against us. Its function is balanced by a concern about civil rights and civil liberties, which is why it is a court that must approve warrants for surveillance and searches. Its secrecy goes to the core of what it does so that the agents, operatives, and informants who are the sources of intelligence are protected.

The House Intelligence Committee is about to trash that carefully crafted structure. They are about to release a memo that says, in effect: That court—that carefully crafted balance as a re-

sult of bipartisan work over many years, involving many in this Chamber—means nothing. We will use it for the most gross partisan purposes, partisan gutter politics, and character assassination.

It is a reminder of the darkest days of the McCarthy era when similarly there was a contempt for basic fairness which persisted until Senator McCarthy was asked: Have you no sense of decency?

We are at that moment now, but it is a moment that is dark for all of us in this democracy. It is a moment that should elicit our strongest impulses for decency and democracy.

We know that the special counsel is proceeding with his investigation. We know there is a need to protect that special counsel against firing and political interference. We know there is a need for legislation that is bipartisan, and the need is now. This use of the most gross partisan politics and tactics is proof-positive that there is a need for this legislation.

My hope against hope is that the President will, in fact, impose sanctions; that there will be a bipartisan outcry against this defiance of a 517-to-5 vote, and in this body, a 98-to-2 vote; that there should be sanctions when there is this defiance of our interests by the Russian Government; and, rather than simply listing oligarchs from a Forbes magazine account, that there be real action and accountability. Certainly, the President has avoided the finding of significant transactions, which is his duty under the law.

We need people of conscience and conviction now to step forward at this historic moment. In speeches going forward, I hope that, again, the Senator from Rhode Island—my friend and a leader in this body—will come to the floor and talk further about this issue.

For now, my hope is that the President will heed the advice he has received from his Department of Justice. Yet it is not really his; it is the Nation's Department of Justice. It is his appointee who has said that the release of this memo would be extraordinarily reckless, that it would be reckless, reprehensible, irresponsible, and in defiance of the President's duty to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

I yield the floor.

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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the January 29, 2018, vote on calendar No. 294, motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2311, the Pain-Capable Un-

born Children Protection Act. I would have voted nay.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the January 29, 2018, vote on Executive Calendar No. 622, motion to invoke cloture on David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Eighth Circuit. I would have voted nay.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I offer this statement to ensure the record reflects my opposition to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, S. 2311, calendar No. 294, as considered by the Senate on Monday, January 29, 2018. Cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 2311 by a vote of 51 to 46. Unfortunately, I was unable to be present for the rollcall vote to invoke cloture on this measure due to multiple flight delays traveling from Wisconsin to Washington, DC.

I oppose this divisive legislation and would have voted against it, as I have previously when I voted against cloture on the motion to proceed to this legislation, H.R. 36 when it was considered by the Senate on September 22, 2015. Let me be clear: I believe every American woman deserves access to quality, safe healthcare and the freedom to exercise her individual and constitutional rights to make her own private health decisions with her family and her doctor, without political interference.

Too many States have already enacted record numbers of laws that restrict a woman's access to reproductive health services and the freedom to make her own healthcare decisions. In Wisconsin, numerous measures have been signed into law that impose unreasonable requirements on providers and clinics that often leave families with nowhere to turn and threaten the ability of clinics in my home State to keep their doors open. Like the measure before the Senate, introduced by Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Republican politicians in Wisconsin have already enacted a 20-week ban on abortion procedures in our state, which has real and grave consequences for our families. Politicians are doing this because they think they know better than women and their doctors. The fact is they don't. It is not the job of politicians to play doctor and to dictate how these professionals practice medicine, nor is it the job of government to intrude into the private lives and important health decisions of American families.

The threat in Wisconsin and in States across the country is clear: When politicians play doctor, American families suffer. This is why my good friend and colleague Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL and I have introduced the Women's Health Protection Act, S. 510, which would put a stop to these attacks on women's freedoms. This measure would prohibit laws, including State and local regulations,

which unduly limit access to abortion services, including laws that single out providers, close down clinics, and impose onerous restrictions that do nothing to further women's health or safety.

I will continue to work for access to comprehensive reproductive care and vote against proposals that threaten a woman's right to make her own health decisions.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALBERT J. GOMEZ

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring LTC Albert J. Gomez on his outstanding career as he retires from serving as the West Point field force State coordinator.

Lieutenant Colonel Gomez—Al—has set a standard of excellence in Idaho leaving a lasting, positive impression in the lives of many. For nearly 20 years, he has been an invaluable asset to our offices. In 2000, the Idaho congressional delegation began to hold annual service academy days. Service academy days are an opportunity to provide information to Idaho's best and brightest young men and women who are interested in attending our Nation's service academies. Al has been instrumental in setting up service academy days from the beginning while juggling deployment and other commitments. He has assisted numerous Idaho students with obtaining an exceptional educational and service opportunities available at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He is responsible for incorporating the principle method into the delegation's nomination process, which has made a significant difference in the number of Idaho appointees to West Point. In fact, he is considered the "secret weapon" in our delegation responsible for the high success rate of Idaho students receiving appointments to West Point. For Lieutenant Colonel Gomez, his remarkable work has always been about his love for West Point and our country. He is known for his extraordinary mentorship of youth, and candidates are frequently told to listen to Al if they want to be successful.

As a West Point alumni, Al has clear insight into what it takes to succeed at a service academy and what it means to serve our Nation. He earned his regular Army commission in 1979 and started his career in 1980 as a lance missile platoon leader serving in Germany. His assignments took him and his family to Fort Sill, OK, and Neckarsulm, Germany, which included command of a Pershing II missile nuclear capable firing battery. He served in deployments in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was selected to represent the U.S. Army and provide testimony to the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces in November 1992. Al continued his military education with a 1994 grad-

uation from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He served as a State Inspector General for both the Idaho and Guam National Guard for nearly a decade before his retirement from the U.S. Army in 2006. As a civilian, he worked for the Idaho National Guard as a special security officer for the Supervisor Human Resource Office before his current position, as the State equal employment manager.

His strong work ethic and dedication have not only given him a reputation among the delegation of being a go-to-guy when something needs to be done right and quickly, but also have contributed to him being recognized with many honors for his service to our country. These include the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal, 4th Award; Army Commendation Medal, 3rd Award; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal, 2nd Award; and many other recognitions.

Lieutenant Colonel Gomez has set an honorable example in how he cares for Idaho service academy candidates and how he has served our Nation. He has created a strong team of West Point liaison officers who will continue his mission of providing Idaho students a chance to obtain a world-class education. We congratulate LTC Albert Gomez on his exemplary career.

Your leadership and friendship will be greatly missed. Thank you for setting such a high standard of outstanding service to our Nation and Idahoans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WETHERBEE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Sheridan School Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee for his commitment to students' success. Mike was recently honored with the 2017 Montana Association of Agricultural Educators' Administrator of the Year award, as well as the 2017 Montana Association of Career and Technical Education's Administrator of the Year award.

Mike came out of retirement to serve as superintendent when he saw there was a need in the community. When STEM and STEAM learning were just getting a foothold in education, Mike wanted to be sure the school would be on the frontlines. With buy-in from the community, Sheridan Schools are becoming well known for putting kids on a path to success through hands-on learning and experiences. In fact, high school students are now teaching fourth graders how to code. In Mike's own words, "We've got it going on academically."

When asked about the awards, Mike is much more interested in talking about what the school is doing to build a great FFA program and thriving

business department. What excites him the most about these programs, which he has been recognized for, are the opportunities they provide students to leave Sheridan High School and become successful in other places. Mike, who grew up in Montana, understands what service to the community means, and he is doing it every day by building up the students in Sheridan schools.

Thanks, Mike, for your continued work to shape Montana kids into the bright leaders of Montana's future.●

STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, since 2010, I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

I would like to congratulate the almost 600 students who participated this year. It is truly heartening to see so many young people engaged in finding solutions for the problems that face our country. To my mind, this is what democracy is all about.

A volunteer panel of Vermont teachers reviewed the essays and chose Marjorie "Maggie" Parker as this year's winner. Maggie, a sophomore at Woodstock Union High School, focused on the need to prevent hate crimes, particularly against members of the LGBT community.

Alaura Rich, a senior at St. Johnsbury Academy, was the second place winner. Alaura wrote about the prohibitive cost of a college education at a time when the United States needs to have the best educated workforce in the world.

Oliver Minshall, a junior at Hanover High School, was the third place winner, having written about addressing income inequality and creating a more equitable and sustainable economy.

I am very proud to ask to have printed in the RECORD the essays submitted by Maggie, Alaura, and Oliver. The material follows:

MARJORIE PARKER, WOODSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL
SOPHOMORE, WINNER

In our current day and age, I believe that one major challenge that faces our country is the prevention of hate crimes against minorities. One group I believe needs specific protection, especially with the new administration, are members of the LGBT community. With the recent military ban on transgender Americans, the LGBT community is feeling singled out and at risk. One way to bring a greater feeling of peace to these fellow Americans is by increasing protections instead of taking them away. I believe two major steps forward to help these people would be a law against employment discrimination for LGBT people, and also a repeal of "bathroom bills" which put transgender people at a greater risk of being harassed for their identity.

Firstly, on the topic of employment discrimination, many LGBT Americans face discrimination in the workplace simply for being open about their identities. In 2011, the

Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy conducted a series of surveys and found that 43 percent of LGBT Americans said they had faced discrimination in the workplace, and also found that straight coworkers say they had witnessed discrimination based on sexual orientation. One way to solve these struggles would be to put in place a law that prohibits employers discriminating against current and prospective employees on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. A law such as this could help reduce workplace discrimination and make it easier for LGBT people to find a hold a job.

Second, on the topic of so-called “bathroom bills”, all people should have a safe place to use the restroom, regardless of gender identity. During the Obama presidency, an order was put into place that allowed students in all public schools to use the bathroom that best matched their gender identity. While there was much push-back, this was generally a step forward for young transgender people. However, early in 2017, President Trump reversed this order, effectively taking away much protection for transgender youth. It is important for this order not only to go back into place for schools but also in all places. It is unfair and uncomfortable for transgender Americans, who are living their lives as their true identity, to be forced to use a restroom that does not correspond to that identity. This is not only an embarrassment for them, but can also put them at greater risk of violence in said bathroom.

All in all, I believe that protection for LGBT Americans is one major challenge facing our country. If we truly want to be an example of an accepting country, with protections for minorities, we have to be able to step up and protect our fellow citizens. Through the changes I have outlined above, as well as others, I truly believe that our country can start to be a leader in the civil rights movement across the world.

ALaura RICH, ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY SENIOR,
SECOND PLACE

As the country that leads the global economy, the United States needs the best-educated workforce in the world. Our Nation cannot afford to be left behind due to a lack of fair and just educational opportunities. Yet, the educational system in America is failing to provide some of the brightest and most capable young people across the Nation with equal educational opportunities: ones that are affordable for minorities who are of low socioeconomic status or are the first in their family to attend college.

As a member of Upward Bound, one of the federally-funded TRIO programs that supports first-generation, low-income students, I have known for years that the cost of college was going to be a considerable barrier for me. However, it was my understanding that if I worked hard enough, I would find the means to pay for my college education without going deeply into debt. This assurance diminished after receiving my first award letter from a public, in-state university with notice that I would need to borrow \$40,000 over a four year period—\$10,000 above the national borrowing average—just to attend a public school within my own State. Many students like myself across the Nation face these same financial barriers.

Although there are many major issues that our country is struggling to solve, our fractured, inequitable educational system does not fall short of making this list. The appeal of a college education has shifted dramatically from what it began as: rather than a means of developing equal opportunities for young people in pursuit of work-related skills and knowledge, it has become a soci-

etal expectation with a large price tag that can only be easily achieved by those of upper-middle-class status. First-generation, low-income students are left at a significant disadvantage. These students often lack parental support, knowledge of the process, and critical resources. Furthermore, their country is failing to provide them with the financial aid system that they desperately need in order to afford a college education.

It's time to enact change within the American higher education system. We must make public colleges and universities tuition-free, end the Federal Government's ability to make a profit off student loans, substantially cut student loan interest rates, and allow low-income students to use need-based financial aid and work-study programs to make their college debt-free by covering room and board, books, and living expenses. By taking these steps, the opportunity gap in America would see a significant decrease. Minority students would see the same basic right to higher education as their more advantaged peers, and the future economic state of our Nation would be in the hands of the promising young individuals who are currently being underrepresented in colleges nationwide due to a lack of support. The Declaration of Independence birthed the underlying fundamental foundation of our Nation's belief in both opportunity and upward mobility, and it is the responsibility of the United States government to ensure equal educational opportunities for all.

OLIVER MINSHALL, HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIOR, THIRD PLACE

Income inequality is our greatest challenge, our most present danger and an existential threat to America. Our society is among the most unequal societies in the world, consistently ranking behind other industrialized nations, like France and Denmark according to the CIA. Leaders are taking notice of this issue, in 2013 President Obama declared that making the economy work for everyone was “the defining challenge of our time.” To improve the state of this great country, we must find a solution to the pernicious scourge of income inequality and create a more just, equitable and sustainable path for our economy.

An analysis by economist Edward Wolf confirmed that the top one percent of income earners own 40 percent of the country's wealth, the highest share in 50 years. At a time when we are among the most prosperous nations in the world, the bottom ninety percent has less wealth than the top one percent. Robert Reich has observed closely as the very building blocks of capitalism have been strategically manipulated by the wealthiest one percent and large corporations for their own benefit. Thomas Piketty discovered that modern markets tend to produce increasing inequality in the long run due to the tendency of capital investments to increase in value at a faster rate than the economy at large. Median income rose to its highest level ever in 2017 according to Business Insider but when adjusted for inflation the real purchasing power for many poor and middle class people is stagnant. While the sources of this inequality are far from certain, the deleterious effect on society is indubitable.

This is not just a moral problem but a threat to the future of American democracy. The political scientist Martin Glens contends that while America enjoys many of the features of political democracy, citizens have so little economic power, and therefore influence, their views do not have any practical effect on policymaking. That is an attack on popular sovereignty, a core principle of our democratic system. Piketty too points out this trend, asserting that while some in-

equality is necessary for the function of efficient markets, excess inequality is detrimental to the long term function of our democratic institutions. Furthermore unequal societies undermine the very markets they are based upon. Inequality causes political and economic turmoil that harms society.

The solution to this issue is a comprehensive strategy to deal with inequality. We need to raise taxes on the top one percent, implement the Harkin-Defazio financial transactions tax, remove the arbitrary and regressive cap on taxable income for Social Security payroll taxes, tax capital gains as earned income and use the revenue to fund new programs like free tuition, a public option in healthcare, and new infrastructure. If we embrace these policies and the shared ideals of economic justice, and political democracy we can transform America into a vibrant and equitable society worthy of the American dream and those who strive every day to realize it.●

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON JANUARY 30, 2018—PM 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, the First Lady of the United States, and my fellow Americans:

Less than 1 year has passed since I first stood at this podium, in this majestic chamber, to speak on behalf of the American People—and to address their concerns, their hopes, and their dreams. That night, our new Administration had already taken swift action. A new tide of optimism was already sweeping across our land.

Each day since, we have gone forward with a clear vision and a righteous mission—to make America great again for all Americans.

Over the last year, we have made incredible progress and achieved extraordinary success. We have faced challenges we expected, and others we could never have imagined. We have shared in the heights of victory and the pains of hardship. We endured floods and fires and storms. But through it all, we have seen the beauty of America's soul, and the steel in America's spine.

Each test has forged new American heroes to remind us who we are, and show us what we can be.

We saw the volunteers of the “Cajun Navy,” racing to the rescue with their fishing boats to save people in the aftermath of a devastating hurricane.

We saw strangers shielding strangers from a hail of gunfire on the Las Vegas strip.

We heard tales of Americans like Coast Guard Petty Officer Ashlee Leppert, who is here tonight in the gallery with Melania. Ashlee was aboard

one of the first helicopters on the scene in Houston during Hurricane Harvey. Through 18 hours of wind and rain, Ashlee braved live power lines and deep water, to help save more than 40 lives. Thank you, Ashlee.

We heard about Americans like firefighter David Dahlberg. He is here with us too. David faced down walls of flame to rescue almost 60 children trapped at a California summer camp threatened by wildfires.

To everyone still recovering in Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, California, and everywhere else—we are with you, we love you, and we will pull through together.

Some trials over the past year touched this chamber very personally. With us tonight is one of the toughest people ever to serve in this House—a guy who took a bullet, almost died, and was back to work three and a half months later: the legend from Louisiana, Congressman STEVE SCALISE.

We are incredibly grateful for the heroic efforts of the Capitol Police Officers, the Alexandria Police, and the doctors, nurses, and paramedics who saved his life, and the lives of many others in this room.

In the aftermath of that terrible shooting, we came together, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as representatives of the people. But it is not enough to come together only in times of tragedy. Tonight, I call upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out common ground, and to summon the unity we need to deliver for the people we were elected to serve.

Over the last year, the world has seen what we always knew: that no people on Earth are so fearless, or daring, or determined as Americans. If there is a mountain, we climb it. If there is a frontier, we cross it. If there is a challenge, we tame it. If there is an opportunity, we seize it.

So let us begin tonight by recognizing that the state of our Union is strong because our people are strong.

And together, we are building a safe, strong, and proud America.

Since the election, we have created 2.4 million new jobs, including 200,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone. After years of wage stagnation, we are finally seeing rising wages.

Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low. African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded, and Hispanic American unemployment has also reached the lowest levels in history.

Small business confidence is at an all-time high. The stock market has smashed one record after another, gaining \$8 trillion in value. That is great news for Americans' 401k, retirement, pension, and college savings accounts.

And just as I promised the American people from this podium 11 months ago, we enacted the biggest tax cuts and reforms in American history.

Our massive tax cuts provide tremendous relief for the middle class and small businesses.

To lower tax rates for hardworking Americans, we nearly doubled the standard deduction for everyone. Now, the first \$24,000 earned by a married couple is completely tax-free. We also doubled the child tax credit.

A typical family of four making \$75,000 will see their tax bill reduced by \$2,000—slashing their tax bill in half.

This April will be the last time you ever file under the old broken system—and millions of Americans will have more take-home pay starting next month.

We eliminated an especially cruel tax that fell mostly on Americans making less than \$50,000 a year—forcing them to pay tremendous penalties simply because they could not afford government-ordered health plans. We repealed the core of disastrous Obamacare—the individual mandate is now gone.

We slashed the business tax rate from 35 percent all the way down to 21 percent, so American companies can compete and win against anyone in the world. These changes alone are estimated to increase average family income by more than \$4,000.

Small businesses have also received a massive tax cut, and can now deduct 20 percent of their business income.

Here tonight are Steve Staub and Sandy Keplinger of Staub Manufacturing—a small business in Ohio. They have just finished the best year in their 20-year history. Because of tax reform, they are handing out raises, hiring an additional 14 people, and expanding into the building next door.

One of Staub's employees, Corey Adams, is also with us tonight. Corey is an all-American worker. He supported himself through high school, lost his job during the 2008 recession, and was later hired by Staub, where he trained to become a welder. Like many hardworking Americans, Corey plans to invest his tax-cut raise into his new home and his two daughters' education. Please join me in congratulating Corey.

Since we passed tax cuts, roughly 3 million workers have already gotten tax cut bonuses—many of them thousands of dollars per worker. Apple has just announced it plans to invest a total of \$350 billion in America, and hire another 20,000 workers.

This is our new American moment. There has never been a better time to start living the American Dream.

So to every citizen watching at home tonight—no matter where you have been, or where you come from, this is your time. If you work hard, if you believe in yourself, if you believe in America, then you can dream anything, you can be anything, and together, we can achieve anything.

Tonight, I want to talk about what kind of future we are going to have, and what kind of Nation we are going to be. All of us, together, as one team, one people, and one American family.

We all share the same home, the same heart, the same destiny, and the same great American flag.

Together, we are rediscovering the American way.

In America, we know that faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, are the center of the American life. Our motto is "in God we trust."

And we celebrate our police, our military, and our amazing veterans as heroes who deserve our total and unwavering support.

Here tonight is Preston Sharp, a 12-year-old boy from Redding, California, who noticed that veterans' graves were not marked with flags on Veterans Day. He decided to change that, and started a movement that has now placed 40,000 flags at the graves of our great heroes. Preston: a job well done.

Young patriots like Preston teach all of us about our civic duty as Americans. Preston's reverence for those who have served our Nation reminds us why we salute our flag, why we put our hands on our hearts for the pledge of allegiance, and why we proudly stand for the national anthem.

Americans love their country. And they deserve a Government that shows them the same love and loyalty in return.

For the last year we have sought to restore the bonds of trust between our citizens and their Government.

Working with the Senate, we are appointing judges who will interpret the Constitution as written, including a great new Supreme Court Justice, and more circuit court judges than any new administration in the history of our country.

We are defending our Second Amendment, and have taken historic actions to protect religious liberty.

And we are serving our brave veterans, including giving our veterans choice in their healthcare decisions. Last year, the Congress passed, and I signed, the landmark VA Accountability Act. Since its passage, my Administration has already removed more than 1,500 VA employees who failed to give our veterans the care they deserve—and we are hiring talented people who love our vets as much as we do.

I will not stop until our veterans are properly taken care of, which has been my promise to them from the very beginning of this great journey.

All Americans deserve accountability and respect—and that is what we are giving them. So tonight, I call on the Congress to empower every Cabinet Secretary with the authority to reward good workers—and to remove Federal employees who undermine the public trust or fail the American people.

In our drive to make Washington accountable, we have eliminated more regulations in our first year than any administration in history.

We have ended the war on American Energy—and we have ended the war on clean coal. We are now an exporter of energy to the world.

In Detroit, I halted Government mandates that crippled America's autoworkers—so we can get the Motor City revving its engines once again.

Many car companies are now building and expanding plants in the United States—something we have not seen for decades.

Chrysler is moving a major plant from Mexico to Michigan; Toyota and Mazda are opening up a plant in Alabama. Soon, plants will be opening up all over the country. This is all news Americans are unaccustomed to hearing—for many years, companies and jobs were only leaving us. But now they are coming back.

Exciting progress is happening every day.

To speed access to breakthrough cures and affordable generic drugs, last year the FDA approved more new and generic drugs and medical devices than ever before in our history.

We also believe that patients with terminal conditions should have access to experimental treatments that could potentially save their lives.

People who are terminally ill should not have to go from country to country to seek a cure—I want to give them a chance right here at home. It is time for the Congress to give these wonderful Americans the “right to try.”

One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs. In many other countries, these drugs cost far less than what we pay in the United States. That is why I have directed my Administration to make fixing the injustice of high drug prices one of our top priorities. Prices will come down.

America has also finally turned the page on decades of unfair trade deals that sacrificed our prosperity and shipped away our companies, our jobs, and our Nation’s wealth.

The era of economic surrender is over.

From now on, we expect trading relationships to be fair and to be reciprocal.

We will work to fix bad trade deals and negotiate new ones.

And we will protect American workers and American intellectual property, through strong enforcement of our trade rules.

As we rebuild our industries, it is also time to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.

America is a nation of builders. We built the Empire State Building in just 1 year—is it not a disgrace that it can now take 10 years just to get a permit approved for a simple road?

I am asking both parties to come together to give us the safe, fast, reliable, and modern infrastructure our economy needs and our people deserve.

Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to produce a bill that generates at least \$1.5 trillion for the new infrastructure investment we need.

Every Federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with State and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private sector investment—to permanently fix the infrastructure deficit.

Any bill must also streamline the permitting and approval process—get-

ting it down to no more than two years, and perhaps even one.

Together, we can reclaim our building heritage. We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways, and waterways across our land. And we will do it with American heart, American hands, and American grit.

We want every American to know the dignity of a hard day’s work. We want every child to be safe in their home at night. And we want every citizen to be proud of this land that we love.

We can lift our citizens from welfare to work, from dependence to independence, and from poverty to prosperity.

As tax cuts create new jobs, let us invest in workforce development and job training. Let us open great vocational schools so our future workers can learn a craft and realize their full potential. And let us support working families by supporting paid family leave.

As America regains its strength, this opportunity must be extended to all citizens. That is why this year we will embark on reforming our prisons to help former inmates who have served their time get a second chance.

Struggling communities, especially immigrant communities, will also be helped by immigration policies that focus on the best interests of American workers and American families.

For decades, open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our most vulnerable communities. They have allowed millions of low-wage workers to compete for jobs and wages against the poorest Americans. Most tragically, they have caused the loss of many innocent lives.

Here tonight are two fathers and two mothers: Evelyn Rodriguez, Freddy Cuevas, Elizabeth Alvarado, and Robert Mickens. Their two teenage daughters—Kayla Cuevas and Nisa Mickens—were close friends on Long Island. But in September 2016, on the eve of Nisa’s 16th Birthday, neither of them came home. These two precious girls were brutally murdered while walking together in their hometown. Six members of the savage gang MS-13 have been charged with Kayla and Nisa’s murders. Many of these gang members took advantage of glaring loopholes in our laws to enter the country as unaccompanied alien minors—and wound up in Kayla and Nisa’s high school.

Evelyn, Elizabeth, Freddy, and Robert: Tonight, everyone in this chamber is praying for you. Everyone in America is grieving for you. And 320 million hearts are breaking for you. We cannot imagine the depth of your sorrow, but we can make sure that other families never have to endure this pain.

Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to finally close the deadly loopholes that have allowed MS-13, and other criminals, to break into our country. We have proposed new legislation that will fix our immigration laws, and support our ICE and Border Patrol Agents, so that this cannot ever happen again.

The United States is a compassionate nation. We are proud that we do more

than any other country to help the needy, the struggling, and the underprivileged all over the world. But as President of the United States, my highest loyalty, my greatest compassion, and my constant concern is for America’s children, America’s struggling workers, and America’s forgotten communities. I want our youth to grow up to achieve great things. I want our poor to have their chance to rise.

So tonight, I am extending an open hand to work with members of both parties—Democrats and Republicans—to protect our citizens of every background, color, religion, and creed. My duty, and the sacred duty of every elected official in this chamber, is to defend Americans—to protect their safety, their families, their communities, and their right to the American Dream. Because Americans are dreamers too.

Here tonight is one leader in the effort to defend our country: Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Celestino Martinez—he goes by CJ. CJ served 15 years in the Air Force before becoming an ICE agent and spending the last 15 years fighting gang violence and getting dangerous criminals off our streets. At one point, MS-13 leaders ordered CJ’s murder. But he did not cave to threats or fear. Last May, he commanded an operation to track down gang members on Long Island. His team has arrested nearly 400, including more than 220 from MS-13.

CJ: Great work. Now let us get the Congress to send you some reinforcements.

Over the next few weeks, the House and Senate will be voting on an immigration reform package.

In recent months, my Administration has met extensively with both Democrats and Republicans to craft a bipartisan approach to immigration reform. Based on these discussions, we presented the Congress with a detailed proposal that should be supported by both parties as a fair compromise—one where nobody gets everything they want, but where our country gets the critical reforms it needs.

Here are the four pillars of our plan:

The first pillar of our framework generously offers a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age—that covers almost three times more people than the previous administration. Under our plan, those who meet education and work requirements, and show good moral character, will be able to become full citizens of the United States.

The second pillar fully secures the border. That means building a wall on the Southern border, and it means hiring more heroes like CJ to keep our communities safe. Crucially, our plan closes the terrible loopholes exploited by criminals and terrorists to enter our country—and it finally ends the dangerous practice of “catch and release.”

The third pillar ends the visa lottery—a program that randomly hands

out green cards without any regard for skill, merit, or the safety of our people. It is time to begin moving towards a merit-based immigration system—one that admits people who are skilled, who want to work, who will contribute to our society, and who will love and respect our country.

The fourth and final pillar protects the nuclear family by ending chain migration. Under the current broken system, a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives. Under our plan, we focus on the immediate family by limiting sponsorships to spouses and minor children. This vital reform is necessary, not just for our economy, but for our security, and our future.

In recent weeks, two terrorist attacks in New York were made possible by the visa lottery and chain migration. In the age of terrorism, these programs present risks we can no longer afford.

It is time to reform these outdated immigration rules, and finally bring our immigration system into the 21st century.

These four pillars represent a down-the-middle compromise, and one that will create a safe, modern, and lawful immigration system.

For over 30 years, Washington has tried and failed to solve this problem. This Congress can be the one that finally makes it happen.

Most importantly, these four pillars will produce legislation that fulfills my ironclad pledge to only sign a bill that puts America first. So let us come together, set politics aside, and finally get the job done.

These reforms will also support our response to the terrible crisis of opioid and drug addiction.

In 2016, we lost 64,000 Americans to drug overdoses: 174 deaths per day. Seven per hour. We must get much tougher on drug dealers and pushers if we are going to succeed in stopping this scourge.

My Administration is committed to fighting the drug epidemic and helping get treatment for those in need. The struggle will be long and difficult—but, as Americans always do, we will prevail.

As we have seen tonight, the most difficult challenges bring out the best in America.

We see a vivid expression of this truth in the story of the Holets family of New Mexico. Ryan Holets is 27 years old, and an officer with the Albuquerque Police Department. He is here tonight with his wife Rebecca. Last year, Ryan was on duty when he saw a pregnant, homeless woman preparing to inject heroin. When Ryan told her she was going to harm her unborn child, she began to weep. She told him she did not know where to turn, but badly wanted a safe home for her baby.

In that moment, Ryan said he felt God speak to him: “You will do it—because you can.” He took out a picture of his wife and their four kids. Then, he

went home to tell his wife Rebecca. In an instant, she agreed to adopt. The Holets named their new daughter Hope.

Ryan and Rebecca: You embody the goodness of our Nation. Thank you, and congratulations.

As we rebuild America’s strength and confidence at home, we are also restoring our strength and standing abroad.

Around the world, we face rogue regimes, terrorist groups, and rivals like China and Russia that challenge our interests, our economy, and our values. In confronting these dangers, we know that weakness is the surest path to conflict, and unmatched power is the surest means of our defense.

For this reason, I am asking the Congress to end the dangerous defense sequester and fully fund our great military.

As part of our defense, we must modernize and rebuild our nuclear arsenal, hopefully never having to use it, but making it so strong and powerful that it will deter any acts of aggression. Perhaps someday in the future there will be a magical moment when the countries of the world will get together to eliminate their nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, we are not there yet.

Last year, I also pledged that we would work with our allies to extinguish ISIS from the face of the Earth. One year later, I am proud to report that the coalition to defeat ISIS has liberated almost 100 percent of the territory once held by these killers in Iraq and Syria. But there is much more work to be done. We will continue our fight until ISIS is defeated.

Army Staff Sergeant Justin Peck is here tonight. Near Raqqa last November, Justin and his comrade, Chief Petty Officer Kenton Stacy, were on a mission to clear buildings that ISIS had rigged with explosives so that civilians could return to the city.

Clearing the second floor of a vital hospital, Kenton Stacy was severely wounded by an explosion. Immediately, Justin bounded into the booby-trapped building and found Kenton in bad shape. He applied pressure to the wound and inserted a tube to reopen an airway. He then performed CPR for 20 straight minutes during the ground transport and maintained artificial respiration through 2 hours of emergency surgery.

Kenton Stacy would have died if not for Justin’s selfless love for a fellow warrior. Tonight, Kenton is recovering in Texas. Raqqa is liberated. And Justin is wearing his new Bronze Star, with a “V” for “Valor.” Staff Sergeant Peck: All of America salutes you.

Terrorists who do things like place bombs in civilian hospitals are evil. When possible, we annihilate them. When necessary, we must be able to detain and question them. But we must be clear: Terrorists are not merely criminals. They are unlawful enemy combatants. And when captured overseas, they should be treated like the terrorists they are.

In the past, we have foolishly released hundreds of dangerous terror-

ists, only to meet them again on the battlefield—including the ISIS leader, al-Baghdadi.

So today, I am keeping another promise. I just signed an order directing Secretary Mattis to reexamine our military detention policy and to keep open the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay.

I am also asking the Congress to ensure that, in the fight against ISIS and al-Qa’ida, we continue to have all necessary power to detain terrorists—wherever we chase them down.

Our warriors in Afghanistan also have new rules of engagement. Along with their heroic Afghan partners, our military is no longer undermined by artificial timelines, and we no longer tell our enemies our plans.

Last month, I also took an action endorsed unanimously by the Senate just months before: I recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Shortly afterwards, dozens of countries voted in the United Nations General Assembly against America’s sovereign right to make this recognition. American taxpayers generously send those same countries billions of dollars in aid every year.

That is why, tonight, I am asking the Congress to pass legislation to help ensure American foreign-assistance dollars always serve American interests, and only go to America’s friends.

As we strengthen friendships around the world, we are also restoring clarity about our adversaries.

When the people of Iran rose up against the crimes of their corrupt dictatorship, I did not stay silent. America stands with the people of Iran in their courageous struggle for freedom.

I am asking the Congress to address the fundamental flaws in the terrible Iran nuclear deal.

My Administration has also imposed tough sanctions on the communist and socialist dictatorships in Cuba and Venezuela.

But no regime has oppressed its own citizens more totally or brutally than the cruel dictatorship in North Korea.

North Korea’s reckless pursuit of nuclear missiles could very soon threaten our homeland.

We are waging a campaign of maximum pressure to prevent that from happening.

Past experience has taught us that complacency and concessions only invite aggression and provocation. I will not repeat the mistakes of past administrations that got us into this dangerous position.

We need only look at the depraved character of the North Korean regime to understand the nature of the nuclear threat it could pose to America and our allies.

Otto Warmbier was a hardworking student at the University of Virginia. On his way to study abroad in Asia, Otto joined a tour to North Korea. At its conclusion, this wonderful young man was arrested and charged with crimes against the state. After a

shameful trial, the dictatorship sentenced Otto to 15 years of hard labor, before returning him to America last June—horribly injured and on the verge of death. He passed away just days after his return.

Otto's Parents, Fred and Cindy Warmbier, are with us tonight—along with Otto's brother and sister, Austin and Greta. You are powerful witnesses to a menace that threatens our world, and your strength inspires us all. Tonight, we pledge to honor Otto's memory with American resolve.

Finally, we are joined by one more witness to the ominous nature of this regime. His name is Mr. Ji Seong-ho.

In 1996, Seong-ho was a starving boy in North Korea. One day, he tried to steal coal from a railroad car to barter for a few scraps of food. In the process, he passed out on the train tracks, exhausted from hunger. He woke up as a train ran over his limbs. He then endured multiple amputations without anything to dull the pain. His brother and sister gave what little food they had to help him recover and ate dirt themselves—permanently stunting their own growth. Later, he was tortured by North Korean authorities after returning from a brief visit to China. His tormentors wanted to know if he had met any Christians. He had—and he resolved to be free.

Seong-ho traveled thousands of miles on crutches across China and Southeast Asia to freedom. Most of his family followed. His father was caught trying to escape, and was tortured to death.

Today he lives in Seoul, where he rescues other defectors, and broadcasts into North Korea what the regime fears the most—the truth.

Today he has a new leg, but Seong-ho, I understand you still keep those crutches as a reminder of how far you have come. Your great sacrifice is an inspiration to us all.

Seong-ho's story is a testament to the yearning of every human soul to live in freedom.

It was that same yearning for freedom that nearly 250 years ago gave birth to a special place called America. It was a small cluster of colonies caught between a great ocean and a vast wilderness. But it was home to an incredible people with a revolutionary idea: that they could rule themselves. That they could chart their own destiny. And that, together, they could light up the world.

That is what our country has always been about. That is what Americans have always stood for, always strived for, and always done.

Atop the dome of this Capitol stands the Statue of Freedom. She stands tall and dignified among the monuments to our ancestors who fought and lived and died to protect her.

Monuments to Washington and Jefferson—to Lincoln and King.

Memorials to the heroes of Yorktown and Saratoga—to young Americans who shed their blood on the shores of

Normandy, and the fields beyond. And others, who went down in the waters of the Pacific and the skies over Asia.

And freedom stands tall over one more monument: this one. This Capitol. This living monument to the American people.

A people whose heroes live not only in the past, but all around us—defending hope, pride, and the American way.

They work in every trade. They sacrifice to raise a family. They care for our children at home. They defend our flag abroad. They are strong moms and brave kids. They are firefighters, police officers, border agents, medics, and Marines.

But above all else, they are Americans. And this Capitol, this city, and this Nation, belong to them.

Our task is to respect them, to listen to them, to serve them, to protect them, and to always be worthy of them.

Americans fill the world with art and music. They push the bounds of science and discovery. And they forever remind us of what we should never forget: The people dreamed this country. The people built this country. And it is the people who are making America great again.

As long as we are proud of who we are, and what we are fighting for, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

As long as we have confidence in our values, faith in our citizens, and trust in our God, we will not fail.

Our families will thrive.

Our people will prosper.

And our Nation will forever be safe and strong and proud and mighty and free.

Thank you, and God bless America.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 30, 2018.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:19 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 534. An act to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1426. An act to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act to allow Federal savings associations to elect to operate as national banks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1457. An act to establish requirements for use of a driver's license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2255. An act to clarify that nonprofit organizations may accept donated mortgage appraisals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4792. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to

capital for small businesses affected by hurricanes or other natural disasters, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the Speaker withdraws the appointment of the following individual to the Congressional Award Board on January 25, 2018: Mr. Steve Hart of Washington, DC.

At 3:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill (H.R. 695) to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, and further, that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the aforementioned bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1426. An act to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act to allow Federal savings associations to elect to operate as national banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1457. An act to establish requirements for use of a driver's license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2255. An act to clarify that nonprofit organizations may accept donated mortgage appraisals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4792. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for small businesses affected by hurricanes or other natural disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1847. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security, trafficking, and disaster recovery planning, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-202).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*John H. Gibson II, of Texas, to be Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Anne Marie White, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

*Melissa F. Burnison, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

*Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

*Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(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. UDALL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2354. A bill to provide for the administration of certain national monuments, to establish a National Monument Enhancement Fund, and to establish certain wilderness areas in the States of New Mexico and Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2355. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2356. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address staffing and other issues at facilities, including underserved facilities, of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2357. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to review the processes and requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs for scheduling appointments for health care and conducting consultations under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2358. A bill to require a study on women and lung cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 2359. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a Joint Re-

quirements Council in the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2360. A bill to provide for the minimum size of crews of freight trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2361. A bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to allow a captive insurance company that was a member of a Federal Home Loan Bank before January 19, 2016 to continue or restore the membership of the captive insurance company in the Federal Home Loan Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2362. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require that a consumer authorize the release of certain information; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2363. A bill to establish the Creating American Investment, Redevelopment, and Opportunity Task Force; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2364. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to provide to State infrastructure financing authorities additional opportunities to receive loans under that Act to support drinking water and clean water State revolving funds to deliver water infrastructure to communities across the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2365. A bill to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses by the Government of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 386. A resolution urging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fulfill its agreement to hold credible elections, comply with constitutional limits on presidential terms, and fulfill its constitutional mandate for a democratic transition of power by taking concrete and measurable steps towards holding elections not later than December 2018 as outlined in the existing election calendar, and allowing for freedom of expression and association; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 318. A resolution recognizing January 30, 2018, as "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY,

Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 388. A resolution recognizing January 27, 2018, as the anniversary of the first refugee and Muslim ban, and urging the President to demonstrate true leadership on refugee resettlement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. SASSE):

S. Res. 389. A resolution commemorating the commissioning of the USS Omaha; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 390. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2018 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 116

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 116, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 363

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 534

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.

S. 660

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to fulfill the Federal mandate to provide higher educational opportunities for Native American Indians.

S. 819

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 819, a bill to amend the Fair

Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 842

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 842, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require mandatory reporting of incidents of child abuse or neglect, and for other purposes.

S. 1152

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1152, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1158

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1158, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States Government capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

S. 1257

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1257, a bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to adopt an electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across State lines, and to provide funding to aid States in developing such a system, and for other purposes.

S. 1509

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1509, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize an extension of exclusivity periods for certain drugs that are approved for a new indication for a rare disease or condition, and for other purposes.

S. 1754

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1759

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1759, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities relating to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1909, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to educate individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes.

S. 1947

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1947, a bill to improve food safety, to encourage greater production of agricultural commodities for use in the locality of production, to reauthorize and expand Department of Agriculture support of those efforts, and for other purposes.

S. 2107

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2107, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Health to report major adverse personnel actions involving certain health care employees to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to applicable State licensing boards, and for other purposes.

S. 2147

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2147, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2227

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2227, a bill to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program.

S. 2269

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2269, a bill to reauthorize the Global Food Security Act of 2016 for 5 additional years.

S. 2278

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2278, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve health care in rural areas.

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2278, supra.

S. 2335

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2335, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue permits for recreation services on lands managed by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to establish the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Council.

S. 2345

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2345, a bill to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide additional resources to State and local prosecutors, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED:

S. 2362. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require that a consumer authorize the release of certain information; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Today, I am introducing the Control Your Personal Credit Information Act, which seeks to give consumers greater control over when and how their consumer reports are shared by consumer reporting agencies.

Under existing law, the current consumer reporting system is backwards. Consumer reporting agencies collect vast amounts of personal information on consumers, often without our knowledge, in order to compile consumer reports. These reports are then shared with financial institutions and others without our consent in all cases.

In the wake of Equifax's failure to secure troves of valuable personally identifiable information it collected on over 145 million Americans, it is clear that this system must change. Indeed, the National Consumer Law Center's

Chi Chi Wu stated in her October 2017 testimony before the House Financial Services Committee that the Equifax breach “means half of the US population and nearly three-quarters of the consumers with active credit reports are now at risk of identity theft due to one of the worst—if not the worst—breaches of consumer data in American history. These Americans are at risk of having false new credit accounts, phony tax returns, and even spurious medical bills incurred in their good names.” To make matters worse, the risks of identity fraud may not dissipate over time because as Ed Mierzwinski, U.S. PIRG’s Federal Consumer Program Director, points out “unlike credit card numbers, your Social Security number and Date of Birth don’t change and may even grow more valuable over time, like gold in a bank vault. Much worse, they are the keys to ‘new account identity theft.’”

My legislation attempts to address these concerns and fix the current upside down system by giving consumers greater control, at no cost to the consumer, over when and how their consumer reports are released when applying for new credit, a loan, or insurance. Under my legislation, consumer reporting agencies must confirm a consumer’s identity and obtain their written authorization before releasing consumer reports in the instances that are especially vulnerable to identity theft and fraud. In addition, my bill requires every consumer reporting agency to take appropriate steps to prevent unauthorized access to the consumer reports and personal information they maintain. These steps are designed to make it tougher for criminals to fraudulently open new credit or insurance accounts in other people’s names.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this commonsense legislative effort, and I thank the National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients), U.S. PIRG, Americans for Financial Reform, Public Citizen, Consumer Federation of America, and Consumers Union for their support.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself,
Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN,
and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2364. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to provide to State infrastructure financing authorities additional opportunities to receive loans under that Act to support drinking water and clean water State revolving funds to deliver water infrastructure to communities across the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, tonight in the State of the Union Address, President Trump will discuss the importance of infrastructure investment. This is an important conversation for the administration to lead because our Nation’s infrastructure is in need of an overhaul. Having the sup-

port of the administration provides us tremendous opportunity to revamp the way we prioritize and fund our Nation’s infrastructure.

As a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I understand the importance of infrastructure investment. Since I came to Congress, I have been a constant advocate for increased investment, particularly for our Nation’s water resources. Last Congress, I supported the passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act, as well as a comprehensive highway bill, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act. Passing these pieces of legislation was a major step forward, but only a step in the process. There is still more to be done, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to make critical infrastructure investments this Congress.

Like many Americans, I am encouraged by the President’s commitment to improving our Nation’s crumbling infrastructure. Looking at the example set by President Dwight Eisenhower and the establishment of the Interstate Highway System, it is clear that infrastructure investment boosts our economy, creates immediate jobs, and produces decades of economic prosperity and opportunity.

Unfortunately, since President Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, we have relied on a fix-as-fail approach to our Nation’s infrastructure. Not only is this approach more expensive, increasingly causing delays to commerce, but it also poses a risk to public safety. By ensuring that our roads, bridges, and water systems meet an American standard for excellence, we can save many lives. In water infrastructure funding alone, the United States faces a shortfall of over \$500 billion, which includes drinking water, wastewater, storm water, and water supply projects. This funding shortage is reflected in the American Society of Civil Engineers’ overall grade for America’s infrastructure, which is a D-plus. This is not a rural issue or a big city issue. It is not a red State problem or a blue State problem. This is a national emergency, one where we can find bipartisan support.

We can, and must, work together to provide all Americans with safe and reliable drinking water and effective wastewater and storm water treatment. Access to safe and clean water is critical to the livelihood of every American.

Senator BOOKER and I am introducing commonsense legislation that will revolutionize the way we invest in needed water infrastructure. The Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now—or SRF WIN—Act takes the best of State revolving funds, SRFs, and combines them with the best of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, better known as WIFIA.

The SRF WIN Act creates a significant pot of money within the WIFIA Program that is available only to SRFs. Further, the bill allows State

SRFs to bundle their priority drinking water and wastewater projects together and make a single loan request. This dramatically increases the availability of SRF funding to communities across the Nation while substantially reducing the time and related costs for completing projects.

Because all 50 State SRFs have a triple A bond rating, they have a very low risk of default, less than one-half of 1 percent. This, combined with the leveraging power of WIFIA, has given the SRF WIN Act the leveraging capacity of an incredible 100 to 1, according to technical assistance provided by the EPA’s Office of Water.

Simply put, the SRF WIN Act is a critical component to future water infrastructure financing. With a \$1 billion investment, the U.S. Government will create over \$50 billion in project money.

This is not a handout; this is a loan from the Federal Government to the States that will be paid back over 35 years. The SRF WIN Act gives communities the tools they need to help themselves. Instead of waiting decades for funding, communities will be able to invest in their crumbling water infrastructure now. With 35 years to pay back their loan, ratepayers will avoid harm and not see massive rate spikes.

What the SRF WIN Act does is simple. It combines the efficiency and trust associated with the SRF with the leveraging power of WIFIA. This legislation makes the process easier and more affordable for States and communities to access Federal water infrastructure funding. I encourage my colleagues who support the SRF, WIFIA, and more funding for water infrastructure projects in rural communities and big cities alike to cosponsor the SRF WIN Act.

This has been a monumental effort of bipartisan work. Senator BOOKER and I have been working for months to meet with everyone in the water industry to ensure that our bill helps people all over the country, in communities both big and small. This bill is the result of months of negotiations, taking the best ideas available to ensure this commonsense, bipartisan legislation will work effectively and efficiently, providing billions in project dollars to communities that have traditionally not had access to these types of funds.

I would like to specifically thank the EPA Office of Water, the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities, the American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Federation, and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies for providing us technical assistance to ensure that we preserve the WIFIA and SRF Programs.

The fact is, communities need every possible funding tool at their disposal, and this bill is another great tool that will work with the WIFIA and SRF Programs.

The SRF WIN Act has strong support from rural and municipal water and

wastewater organizations. This landmark legislation also has the support of our Nation's leading construction, engineering, labor, and manufacturing organizations, including the National Rural Water Association, the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Associated General Contractors of America, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Ducks Unlimited, the American Public Works Association, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, the Water Systems Council, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Vinyl Institute, the Hydraulic Institute, and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies.

Congress needs to do a better job of providing basic public services, such as safe roads, bridges, and an up-to-date water infrastructure system. This is the time to act to make water infrastructure investment a priority.

With innovative financing and private sector investment, not only will we be providing Americans with basic water infrastructure, but we will also be creating jobs, keeping commodity and utility prices low, and remaining competitive on the global stage.

We can no longer kick the can down the road and ignore our infrastructure problems. It is time for the United States to be realistic about its water problems and start investing in water infrastructure today.

I ask my colleagues to join Senator BOOKER and me in supporting significant new investment in our Nation's water infrastructure and to cosponsor the SRF WIN Act today.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 386—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO FULFILL ITS AGREEMENT TO HOLD CREDIBLE ELECTIONS, COMPLY WITH CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS ON PRESIDENTIAL TERMS, AND FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE FOR A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION OF POWER BY TAKING CONCRETE AND MEASURABLE STEPS TOWARDS HOLDING ELECTIONS NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 2018 AS OUTLINED IN THE EXISTING ELECTION CALENDAR, AND ALLOWING FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ASSOCIATION

Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 386

Whereas the United States people have a strong relationship with the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and a strong commitment to the principles of democracy and adherence to the rule of law;

Whereas, in 2006, the Government of the DRC adopted a new constitution that limited

the President to two consecutive five-year terms, which for President Joseph Kabila expired on December 19, 2016.

Whereas President Kabila swore to uphold the constitution of the DRC as part of his oath of office;

Whereas the constitutionally required elections have not yet taken place;

Whereas citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo have repeatedly demanded that their constitutional right to elect a new President after two terms be upheld and that President Kabila must therefore step down;

Whereas, on December 31, 2016, the National Episcopal Conference of Congolese Bishops mediated a political agreement between the ruling coalition and main opposition parties under which President Kabila is prohibited from running for a third term, constitutional changes which would extend the president's time in office are prohibited, and elections were to be held before the end of 2017;

Whereas, on March 31, 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2348, which called for a "swift implementation" of the December 2016 political agreement, including "peaceful, credible, inclusive and timely elections no later than December 2017, leading to a peaceful transition of power";

Whereas, on June 21, 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2360, which stressed "the importance of the DRC and its national partners taking all necessary steps to accelerate preparations for the elections without further delays";

Whereas, on November 5, 2017, the Congolese electoral commission released a calendar that would delay elections until at least December 23, 2018, while noting numerous "constraints" that could impact respect of this calendar;

Whereas the failure to hold constitutionally required elections has increased political uncertainty, violence, and instability inside the DRC, and the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator said that amid the political stalemate, "conflict is rapidly spreading across the country and in appalling ways, even in a country blighted by violence and insecurity for decades";

Whereas political space in the DRC continues to be heavily restricted, as evidenced by arrests and detention of members of the political opposition, democratic activists, and journalists, and by restrictions on fundamental freedoms such as speech and assembly; and

Whereas opposition have been targeted, arrested, harassed, and violently attacked by security forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo failed to hold elections in 2016 as required by the Constitution and later failed to fulfill its political commitment to hold elections in 2017;

(2) expresses concern that the growing security, humanitarian, and human rights crisis in the DRC is exacerbated by the lack of a duly elected leadership;

(3) recognizes that impunity and lack of effective rule of law undermine democracy, and that the arrest and detention of civil society activists and the harassment of political opponents close political space and repress peaceful dissent;

(4) calls on the Government of the DRC to complete concrete steps towards holding elections, including—

(A) issuance of district-level voter registration figures;

(B) completion of any legislation to enable redistricting;

(C) fulfillment of the constitutionally-required step of "calling the electorate";

(D) publication of the final list of presidential and parliamentary candidates; and

(E) holding presidential, parliamentary, and provincial elections by December 23, 2018;

(5) calls on the opposition to take all steps possible within the DRC to support and promote immediate free, fair, and inclusive elections; and

(6) urges the President of the United States, in close coordination with regional and international partners, to—

(A) use appropriate means to provide appropriate electoral assistance to support the organization of credible elections as soon as possible; and

(B) use appropriate means to deter further electoral calendar slippage and abuses against the Congolese people, including consideration of targeted sanctions against high-level DRC officials, including close associates of President Kabila responsible for further delay or impediment to elections or otherwise maintaining President Kabila's rule beyond the constitution's two-term limit should any of the election benchmarks fail to be met.

SENATE RESOLUTION 387—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 30, 2018, AS "FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION"

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 387

Whereas, on January 30, 1919, Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu was born in Oakland, California, to Japanese immigrants;

Whereas Fred Korematsu graduated from Castlemont High School in 1937 and attempted to enlist in the military twice but was unable to do so because his selective service classification was changed to enemy alien, even though Fred Korematsu was a United States citizen;

Whereas Fred Korematsu trained as a welder and worked as a foreman at the docks in Oakland until the date on which he and all Japanese Americans were fired;

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the military base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, causing the United States to declare war against Japan;

Whereas, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407 (February 25, 1942)), which authorized the Secretary of War to prescribe military areas—

(1) from which any or all people could be excluded; and

(2) with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave would be subject to any restriction the Military Commander imposed in his discretion;

Whereas, on May 3, 1942, the Lieutenant General of the Western Command of the Army issued Civilian Exclusion Order 34 (May 3, 1942) (referred to in this preamble as the "Civilian Exclusion Order") directing that all people of Japanese ancestry be removed from designated areas of the West Coast after May 9, 1942, because people of Japanese ancestry in the designated areas were considered to pose a threat to national security;

Whereas Fred Korematsu refused to comply with the Civilian Exclusion Order and was arrested on May 30, 1942;

Whereas, after his arrest, Fred Korematsu—

(1) was held for 2½ months in the Presidio stockade in San Francisco, California;

(2) was convicted on September 8, 1942, of violating the Civilian Exclusion Order and sentenced to 5 years of probation; and

(3) was detained at Tanforan Assembly Center, a former horse racetrack used as a holding facility for Japanese Americans before he was exiled with his family to the Topaz incarceration camp in the State of Utah;

Whereas more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were similarly detained, with no charges brought and without due process, in 10 permanent War Relocation Authority camps located in isolated desert areas of the States of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming;

Whereas the people of the United States subject to the Civilian Exclusion Order lost their homes, livelihoods, and the freedoms inherent to all people of the United States;

Whereas Fred Korematsu unsuccessfully challenged the Civilian Exclusion Order as it applied to him and appealed the decision of the United States District Court to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which sustained his conviction;

Whereas Fred Korematsu was subsequently confined with his family in the incarceration camp in Topaz, Utah, for 2 years, and during that time, Fred Korematsu appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas, on December 18, 1944, the Supreme Court of the United States issued *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944), which—

(1) upheld the conviction of Fred Korematsu by a vote of 6 to 3; and

(2) concluded that Fred Korematsu was removed from his home not based on hostility toward him or other Japanese Americans but because the United States was at war with Japan and the military feared a Japanese invasion of the West Coast;

Whereas, in his dissenting opinion in *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944), Justice Frank Murphy called the Civilian Exclusion Order the “legalization of racism”;

Whereas Fred Korematsu continued to maintain his innocence for decades following World War II, and his conviction hampered his ability to gain employment;

Whereas, in 1982, legal historian Peter Irons and researcher Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig gained access to Government documents under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”), that indicate that while the case of Fred Korematsu was before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Federal Government misled the Supreme Court of the United States and suppressed findings that Japanese Americans on the West Coast were not security threats;

Whereas, in light of the newly discovered information, Fred Korematsu filed a writ of error coram nobis with the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, and on November 10, 1983, United States District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel issued her decision in *Korematsu v. United States*, 584 F. Supp. 1406 (N.D. Cal. 1984), that—

(1) overturned the conviction of Fred Korematsu;

(2) concluded that, at the time that senior Government officials presented their case before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1944, the senior Government officials knew there was no factual basis for the claim of military necessity for the Civil Exclusion Order; and

(3) stated that although the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in

Korematsu v. United States, 323 U.S. 214 (1944), remains on the pages of United States legal and political history, “[a]s historical precedent it stands as a constant caution that in times of war or declared military necessity our institutions must be vigilant in protecting constitutional guarantees”;

Whereas the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, authorized by Congress in 1980 to review the facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation and incarceration of Japanese Americans under Executive Order 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407 (February 25, 1942)), concluded that—

(1) the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944), is overruled by the court of history;

(2) a grave personal injustice was done to the United States citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any probative evidence against them, were excluded, removed, and detained by the United States during World War II; and

(3) the exclusion, removal, and detention of United States citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry was motivated largely by “racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership”;

Whereas the overturning of the conviction of Fred Korematsu and the findings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians influenced the decision by Congress to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.) to request a Presidential apology and the symbolic payment of compensation to people of Japanese ancestry who lost liberty or property due to discriminatory actions of the Federal Government;

Whereas, on August 10, 1988, President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.), stating, “[H]ere we admit a wrong; here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.”;

Whereas, on January 15, 1998, President Clinton awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States, to Fred Korematsu, stating, “[i]n the long history of our country’s constant search for justice, some names of ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls: Plessy, Brown, Parks. To that distinguished list, today we add the name of Fred Korematsu.”;

Whereas Fred Korematsu remained a tireless advocate for civil liberties and justice throughout his life by—

(1) speaking out against racial discrimination and violence; and

(2) cautioning the Federal Government against repeating mistakes of the past that singled out individuals for heightened scrutiny on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, or religion;

Whereas, on March 30, 2005, Fred Korematsu died at the age of 86 in Marin County, California; and

Whereas Fred Korematsu is a role model for all people of the United States who love the United States and the promises contained in the Constitution of the United States, and the strength and perseverance of Fred Korematsu serve as an inspiration for all people who strive for equality and justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu for his—

(A) loyalty and patriotism to the United States;

(B) work to advance the civil rights and civil liberties of all people of the United States; and

(C) dedication to justice and equality;

(2) recognizes January 30, 2018, as “Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution”;

(3) denounces any effort to discriminate against any individual based on the national origin or religion of the individual.

SENATE RESOLUTION 388—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 27, 2018, AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST REFUGEE AND MUSLIM BAN, AND URGING THE PRESIDENT TO DEMONSTRATE TRUE LEADERSHIP ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 388

Whereas the world is in the midst of the worst global displacement crisis in history, with more than 22,500,000 refugees worldwide, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2017, UNHCR projected that more than 1,200,000 refugees were in need of resettlement to a third country, and this projection continues to grow in 2018;

Whereas the United States resettlement program is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts, which serves to strengthen global security, leverage United States foreign policy goals, and support regional host countries while serving individuals and families in need;

Whereas, for over 40 years, the United States has resettled up to 200,000 refugees per year, with an average ceiling of 95,000 refugees per year, and on average actually resettled 80,000 refugees per year;

Whereas refugees are the most vetted travelers to enter the United States and are subject to extensive screening checks, including in person interviews, biometric data checks, and multiple interagency checks;

Whereas, it would be an abdication of United States leadership to resettle fewer than 75,000 refugees next fiscal year;

Whereas the United States refugee resettlement system emphasizes early self-sufficiency through employment, and most adult refugees are employed within their first six months of arriving to the United States;

Whereas refugees contribute to their communities by starting businesses, paying taxes, sharing their cultural traditions, and being involved in their neighborhoods, and reports have found that refugees contribute more than they consume in state-funded services – including for schooling and health care;

Whereas, on January 27, 2017, President Donald J. Trump released an executive order banning individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries and all refugees from entering the country;

Whereas, since that time, the President has taken further executive action to ban people from Muslim-majority countries and has taken steps to dismantle the United States refugee program;

Whereas, in September 2017, President Trump announced a Presidential Determination of 45,000 for fiscal year 2018, the lowest refugee admissions ceiling ever set;

Whereas, during the first three months of fiscal year 2018, the United States welcomed a total of 5,323 refugees, in spite of the fact that to meet the 45,000 ceiling, 11,250 individuals should have arrived during this time period;

Whereas, at this pace, the United States may only admit between 15,000-20,000 refugees this year; and

Whereas, United States structures and funding constrictions have resulted in lower capacity and loss of institutional memory and experience in the successful United States Refugee Admissions Program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms our country's proud history of refugee resettlement;

(2) recognizes January 27, 2018, as the anniversary of the first refugee and Muslim ban;

(3) reaffirms the strong bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of refugees;

(4) underscores the importance of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program as a critical tool for United States global leadership;

(5) recognizes the profound consequences faced by refugees and their families who have been stranded, separated, and scarred by current United States policies, leaving many mid-process and more with little hope of anticipated United States entry; and

(6) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to resettle 45,000 refugees in fiscal year 2018;

(B) to resettle at least 75,000 refugees in fiscal year 2019;

(C) to uphold its international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance and protection of the most vulnerable populations; and

(D) to recommit to offering freedom from oppression and resettling the most vulnerable refugees regardless of their country of origin or religious beliefs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 389—COMMEMORATING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "OMAHA"

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. SASSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 389

Whereas the great city of Omaha, Nebraska, was founded on July 4, 1854;

Whereas the Lone Tree Ferry bringing pioneers across the Missouri River into Omaha caused Omaha to become known as the "Gateway to the West";

Whereas Nebraska is the only triply landlocked State in the Union;

Whereas the first USS *Omaha* was a screw sloop launched in 1869, 2 years after Nebraska became a State on March 1, 1867;

Whereas the second USS *Omaha* (CL-4) was an *Omaha* class light cruiser commissioned on February 24, 1923;

Whereas the USS *Omaha* (CL-4) served in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters and captured a German blockade runner a month before World War II officially began;

Whereas the Nebraska Admirals Association, formed in 1931, has had thousands of Admirals commissioned in the Nebraska Navy to promote "The Good Life";

Whereas the Big Red Sub Club—

(1) was formed to support the crews of the USS *Nebraska* (SSBN-739); and

(2) is the most active State organization supporting the submarine fleet of the United States;

Whereas the Navy League of the United States, Nebraska Council, strongly supports a strong United States Navy for national security;

Whereas on June 11, 2012, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that an *Inde-*

pendence class littoral combat ship would be named the United States Ship *Omaha*;

Whereas on November 20, 2015, the United States Navy launched the USS *Omaha*;

Whereas on December 19, 2015, the USS *Omaha* was christened in Mobile, Alabama, sponsored by Omaha philanthropist Susie Buffett; and

Whereas on February 3, 2018, the USS *Omaha* will be commissioned: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates—

(1) the commissioning of the United States Ship *Omaha* (LCS-12); and

(2) the mission of the USS *Omaha* as a networked, agile, stealthy surface combatant capable of defeating antiaccess and asymmetric threats in the littorals.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise this evening to call up and pass a resolution recognizing the commissioning of the USS *Omaha*.

This weekend, the USS *Omaha* is scheduled to be commissioned in the United States Navy as one of our newest *Independence* Class Littoral Combat Ships.

As the only triply landlocked State in the union, you may not think of Nebraska when you think about the world's oceans.

And while we are proud of our heartland heritage, we are equally proud of the ships that have carried the name "USS *Omaha*" to the far corners of the globe.

Just two years after Nebraska became a State, the USS *Omaha*, a screw sloop, was launched in 1869, helping to grow our young Nation's navy.

The second USS *Omaha*, launched in 1923, served with distinction in World War II, capturing a German blockade runner a month before the war officially began.

And now this upcoming weekend, we welcome the newest USS *Omaha*, LCS-12, which carries the distinction of being among our Nation's newest Littoral Combat Ships.

She will enter the navy as an agile surface combatant, and one which I know will prove to be a capable tool in our Nation's naval arsenal.

Though Nebraska may be far from open water that has not stopped countless men and women from our State from answering the call to serve in the United States Navy.

Their service and sacrifice, both in times of war and peace, have helped ensure that the United States continues to enjoy freedom of navigation around the world.

For that reason, I am honored to know that now we will once again have another USS *Omaha* carrying on this proud tradition, and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this momentous occasion.

To the crew of the USS *Omaha*, I wish you well in your mission and all the years of distinguished service to come.

May you enjoy fair winds and following seas, and know that you have the best wishes of the State of Nebraska behind you.

Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 390—RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING THE PREVENTION OF STALKING BY DESIGNATING JANUARY 2018 AS "NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH"

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 390

Whereas approximately 16 percent of women in the United States, at some point during their lifetimes, have experienced stalking victimization, during which the women felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed;

Whereas, during a 1-year period, an estimated 7,300,000 individuals in the United States reported that they had been victims of stalking;

Whereas more than 80 percent of victims of stalking reported that they had been stalked by someone they knew;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of stalking victims were threatened with physical harm by stalkers;

Whereas 11 percent of victims of stalking reported having been stalked for more than 5 years;

Whereas two-thirds of stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week;

Whereas many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including changing their identities, relocating, changing jobs, or obtaining protection orders;

Whereas the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than the general population;

Whereas many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law and the laws of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States;

Whereas stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas national organizations, local victim service organizations, campuses, prosecutor's offices, and police departments stand ready to assist victims of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking;

Whereas there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution;

Whereas there is a need for an increase in the availability of victim services across the United States, and the services must include programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking;

Whereas individuals 18 to 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victimization, and rates of stalking among college students exceed rates of stalking among the general population;

Whereas up to 75 percent of women in college who experience behavior relating to stalking experience other forms of victimization, including sexual or physical victimization;

Whereas there is a need for an effective response to stalking on each campus; and

Whereas the Senate finds that "National Stalking Awareness Month" provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 2018 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”;

(2) applauds the efforts of service providers for victims of stalking, police, prosecutors, national and community organizations, campuses, and private sector supporters to promote awareness of stalking;

(3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of stalking and the availability of services for victims of stalking; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I have 11 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 Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Korean Peninsula and United States strategy in the Indo-Pacific region.”

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress.”

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Growing the Future: Opportunities to Support domestic Seafood Through Aquaculture.”

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “One Year Later: The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.”

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on subcommittee assignments and the following nominations: Melissa F. Burnison, of Ken-

tucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Anne Marie White, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The role of the Geological Survey and the Forest Service in preparing for and responding to natural hazard events, as well as the current status of mapping and monitoring systems.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight Hearing to Receive Testimony from the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt.”

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The Economic Relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Access and Innovation.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Roundtable on Small Business Health Plans.”

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. on Monday, February 5, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 570. I ask consent that there then be 30 minutes 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 297.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Bassett, of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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 Bassett nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 649 through 660 and all nominations placed on the Secretary’s desk, and that the nominations be confirmed, 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

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. Scott D. Berrier

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8037:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Charles L. Plummer

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8081:

To be brigadier general

Col. Sharon R. Bannister

The following named officer for appointment as the Judge Advocate General, United States Air Force and for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while serving as the Judge Advocate General under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8037:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jeffery A. Rockwell

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Anthony R. Hale

Col. Garrick M. Harmon

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. Eric J. Wesley

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. Theodore D. Martin

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Susie S. Kuilan

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. Leslie C. Smith

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. (lh) Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr.

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 C. Ring

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) Scott D. Conn

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1233 AIR FORCE nominations (35) beginning SARAH E. ABEL, and ending

MICHELLE E. WYCHE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 14, 2017.

PN1321 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning BRETT L. HEDGEPEETH, and ending RYAN M. YI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2017.

PN1322 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JOANNA K. KOWALIK, and ending MAHASIN M. HANGALAY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2017.

PN1427 AIR FORCE nominations (19) beginning TRISH M. ARNO, and ending CHRISTOPHER N. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1460 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning JIN HWA LEE FRAZIER, and ending JACK DAVID SPENCER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1461 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning COREY L. ANDERSON, and ending ROBERT K. TALTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1462 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael C. Maine, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1463 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning MELISSA A. DAY, and ending ROBERTA J. STEMEM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1464 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning MATTHEW M. BIRD, and ending PAUL KELLEY STROUD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1465 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning HOLLY L. BREWER, and ending MARIO TOMMASI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1466 AIR FORCE nominations (119) beginning JOHN G. ANDRADE, and ending LAWRENCE P. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1467 AIR FORCE nomination of Joshua M. Kovich, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1468 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning DAVID M. DERSCH, JR., and ending PATRICK J. TRAVERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1469 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning LANCE J. KIM, and ending SONIA W. S. TAOYI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1470 AIR FORCE nomination of David L. Wells, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

IN THE ARMY

PN1323 ARMY nomination of Aleksandr Gutman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2017.

PN1428 ARMY nomination of Robert L. Ozburn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1471 ARMY nomination of Jocelyn A. Leventhal, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1472 ARMY nominations (14) beginning ALYSSA S. ADAMS, and ending BRADLEY

O. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1473 ARMY nominations (2) beginning KENNETH S. KATROSH, and ending DOLLY R. LIVINGSTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1474 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JOSEPH KLOIBER, and ending PAUL NAVAS, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1475 ARMY nomination of Erick C. Crews, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1476 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL C. BRADWICK, and ending DOUGLAS S. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1477 ARMY nominations (5) beginning ZACHARY T. BUSENBARK, and ending JAIME A. SANJUAN RUBIO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1478 ARMY nominations (2) beginning GABBY V. CANCERAN, and ending JOHN P. CROSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1479 ARMY nomination of Adam T. Soto, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1480 ARMY nomination of Philip J. Dacunto, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1481 ARMY nomination of Lyle A. Ourada, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1482 ARMY nomination of Sherry M. Kwon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1433 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (6) beginning Marc Clayton Gilkey, and ending Mark A. Myers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1434 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (90) beginning Alyce S. Ahn, and ending Michele D. Woonacott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1435 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (118) beginning Priya U. Amin, and ending Erik Z. Zahnen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1436 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (93) beginning Angela P. Aggeler, and ending Mari Jain Womack, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1431 MARINE CORPS nomination of Christopher N. Earley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1487 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning WILLIAM DOCTOR, JR., and ending SCOTT E. VASQUEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1490 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning PAULO T. ALVES, and ending PATRICK J. TOAL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1492 MARINE CORPS nomination of Henry W. Soukup, which was received by the

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1493 MARINE CORPS nomination of William W. Inns, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1496 MARINE CORPS nomination of Craig A. Elliott, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1497 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning BILL W. BROOKS, JR., and ending KYLE L. HOLLIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1498 MARINE CORPS nominations (734) beginning EDWARD J. ABMA, and ending JOSEPH A. ZIMMERMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1499 MARINE CORPS nominations (23) beginning JUSTIN R. ANDERSON, and ending MICHAEL D. WILCOX, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1500 MARINE CORPS nomination of Steven P. Hulse, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

IN THE NAVY

PN1244 NAVY nominations (2) beginning PAUL F. MAGOULICK, and ending LI SUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 14, 2017.

PN1303 NAVY nomination of Nicholas H. Steging, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

PN1304 NAVY nomination of Jonathan S. Durham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

PN1324 NAVY nominations (3) beginning LAURA C. GILSTRAP, and ending DIANA TRANYU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2017.

PN1429 NAVY nomination of Todd D. Husty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1430 NAVY nomination of Dawn M. Stankus, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1485 NAVY nomination of Paul I. Ahn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1486 NAVY nomination of Allen G. Gunn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 534.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 534) entitled "An Act to prevent the sexual

abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, nearly a year ago, I met with six gymnasts. All of these young women were world-class athletes. All of them had put their faith in USA Gymnastics. And all of them were sexually abused by an adult who had earned their trust.

It was one of the most difficult meetings I have held as a Senator. Listening to their stories of abuse and how the system let them down left me with equal parts sadness and rage.

These young women weren't telling me their stories to get legislation passed, but that afternoon, I promised them I would do all I could to make sure no one else ever experienced the agony that they had.

I am proud that the Senate will come together and pass the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act in order to send it to the President's desk.

This bill is intended to protect young athletes who participate in amateur sports from the sexual abuse that these gymnasts had to suffer.

In the House, Representative SUSAN BROOKS from Indiana and Representative LOIS FRANKEL from Florida, who cochair the Women's Caucus, partnered with us on this bill. They have been strong champions in protecting young women from abuse.

This bill wouldn't have been possible without the courageous survivors who shared their stories.

Some of the same women who I spoke with in February came back to Washington in March to speak about the bill. It was a very powerful hearing that touched many of us.

One of those brave women was Jamie Dantzscher, who won a bronze medal in 2000.

Jamie told the Judiciary Committee in moving testimony that she fell in love with gymnastics at a very young age. Her parents had to beg her to leave the gym after practice because gymnastics brought her such joy.

While she competed with the national team led by USA Gymnastics, team doctor Larry Nassar was assigned to provide her with medical treatment.

As any young woman would, Jamie put her faith in Nassar, who was employed by USA Gymnastics, but her faith was turned on its head in horrifying ways. In Jamie's words: "What I have only recently come to understand is that the medical treatment he performed for my back pain and other injuries was sexual assault. Dr. Nassar abused me at the USA National Training Center in Texas. He abused me in California and at meets all over the world. Many times the abuse took place in my own room, in my own bed. Worse, he abused me in my hotel room in Sydney at the Olympic Games."

Jamie went on: "When I first spoke out about my abuse at the hands of Dr.

Nassar, I thought I was the only one. I was disbelieved and even criticized by some in the gymnastics community for bringing this disturbing issue to light."

It is impossible to imagine the horror that Jamie felt, but what we do know is that Jamie wasn't the only victim.

Jessica Howard was a 15-year-old rhythmic gymnast when Nassar began abusing her. She testified that her first few years of training were "pure bliss." Eventually, she was sent to Nassar for hip problems. Nassar told her she shouldn't wear underwear for her treatments.

Jessica was confused, but she was fearful to say anything to anyone. She believed she would be prevented from pursuing her dreams if she said anything. This is how so much of this abuse was conducted, under a shroud of fear that the athletes' dreams would be quashed.

Later in her life, Jessica served on USA Gymnastics' board of directors. In Jessica's words: "As an adult, I spent years serving on the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors with a mission of protecting children in my sport from the psychological abuse that I endured. But the meetings seemed to revolve around two things: money and medals. When a sexual abuse case came up during my time on the board, the concern was about the reputation of the coach, not the accusation of the athlete. As I have attempted to come to terms with what happened to me as a teenager, it has become glaringly obvious that USA Gymnastics has not done nearly enough to protect athletes from any form of abuse."

Jessica and others like her were silenced by a culture of complicity where those in power refused to promote a safe environment and survivors could report abuse. That is what the bill we will pass aims to change.

Finally, I would like to talk about another gymnast we heard from more recently. Aly Raisman, one of the most decorated Olympic gymnasts ever, revealed that she, too, was sexually abused by Larry Nassar, starting when she was 15 years old.

As Aly said, "I didn't know anything differently. We were told he is the best doctor."

As a result, Nassar used this trust to manipulate hundreds of victims so they couldn't fully understand that they were being abused.

When telling her story, Aly asked, "Why are we looking at why didn't the girls speak up? Why not look at what about the culture? What did USA Gymnastics do, and Larry Nassar do, to manipulate these girls so much that they are so afraid to speak up? I am angry."

I think we should all be angry by what we have heard from these brave young women. When I heard these stories, I found a common theme: The very institutions tasked with protecting these athletes allowed this egregious conduct to occur.

In my view, these governing bodies were, at best, complicit in the devastation wrought on these young children

and their families. They did far too little to prevent abuse from happening in the first place, and when they saw signs of abuse, they did little to stop it.

In fact, USA Gymnastics, which oversees more than 3,000 gymnasiums nationwide, had bylaws that actually made it more difficult for survivors to report abuse.

For example, the only way for a member athlete to “effectively” make a complaint about a coach was through a signed, written complaint. Not only is this an ineffective way to prevent sexual abuse, it actually serves to protect the abusers by making it harder for child victims to come forward.

USA Gymnastics didn’t even require that sexual abuse be reported to law enforcement when it was discovered. It was a disgusting abuse of power, to say the least.

After we introduced our legislation, USA Gymnastics hired former Federal prosecutor Deborah Daniels to conduct an independent review of USA Gymnastics’ policies and procedures. Needless to say, they were found to be woefully ineffective and insufficient. After reviewing documents and interviewing nearly 160 individuals, Daniels recommended nearly 70 policy changes, including a recommendation that USA Gymnastics “undergo a complete cultural change, permeating the entire organization and communicated to the field in all its actions.”

In one damning finding, Daniels stated, “The overall impression received externally is that the athlete protection function is, at best, secondary to the primary focus: winning medals.” That is completely unacceptable.

The legislation we will soon pass does three main things to help protect sex abuse victims and reform institutions like USA Gymnastics.

First, the bill makes it mandatory for anyone affiliated with USA Gymnastics, or any other national governing body or amateur sports organization that crosses State lines, to immediately report sexual abuse to local and Federal law enforcement or social services agencies. This requirement would apply to USA Gymnastics and each of the other 47 national governing bodies that oversee a variety of Olympic sports, including USA Taekwondo, USA Speed Skating, USA Swimming, and USA Cycling. It is absolutely imperative that a firm line be drawn for everyone working with national governing bodies and amateur sports organizations. Once there is suspicion of abuse, a report must be made as soon as possible to law enforcement. This bill mandates that.

Second, the bill strengthens the law that allows victims of sex abuse to file suits against those who abused them to commit crimes such as sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and child pornography. It clarifies, for example, that victims of child sex crimes are entitled to statutory damages of \$150,000, as well as punitive damages, due to the heinous nature of the crimes.

The bill also extends the statute of limitations so that victims can sue their abusers 10 years after they become aware of their abuse. This is important because, tragically, survivors often do not fully become aware of their abuse until later in life. The statute of limitations extension is part of legislation that Senator CORNYN and I have worked on over the past couple of years, called the Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act.

Third, the bill makes reforms to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, which establishes “national governing bodies” like USA Gymnastics. When I first contacted USA Gymnastics about its poor handling of sexual abuse allegations, the group cited the Stevens Act as a shield, saying that it prevented them from doing more to protect athletes from sexual abuse. The bill we are passing is a direct response to that claim.

It requires the newly created U.S. Center for Safe Sport—championed by Commerce Committee Chairman JOHN THUNE and Ranking Member BILL NELSON—to establish strict policies and procedures for handling abuse allegations, as well as oversight procedures to make sure these policies are adhered to by every national governing body.

The reforms in the bill ensure that national governing bodies and amateur sports organizations will adopt five baseline policy prescriptions.

First, specific policies and procedures for mandatory reporting of sex abuse to law enforcement. Second, policies and procedures to keep track of coaches who leave one gym only to repeat the cycle of abuse at another gym. Third, policies to avoid circumstances where minors and adults are in one-on-one situations. Fourth, policies to facilitate reporting of sex abuse allegations to national governing bodies and other authorities. And fifth, stronger oversight and enforcement policies so that complaints are dealt with uniformly and with fairness and due process.

These new provisions give national governing bodies like USA Gymnastics no excuse not to prevent abuse or to report it when it occurs.

All over the country, survivors of sexual abuse are coming forward to tell their stories of abuse and exploitation. Multiple survivors from around the country have contacted my office and described with great courage their pain and anguish. Each of these stories represents an untold amount of pain and suffering that has generational ripple effects. It is absolutely devastating.

This is why I am so encouraged that my colleagues in this body will soon pass this important legislation to protect abuse victims.

I would also like to acknowledge the list of 270 organizations and individuals who have contributed to and supported this bill. Their names are listed on our website.

I would also like to recognize my staff who have worked on this bill, in-

cluding Peter Hyun, Ashley Schapitl, Sarah Chang, Matthew Halek, Jennifer Duck, and Tom Mentzer.

I would also like to thank Peter Feldman and Ashok Pinto from Senator THUNE’s staff, Christian Fjeld and Ioana Gorecki from Senator NELSON’s staff, Evelyn Fortier and Kyle McCollum from Senator GRASSLEY’s staff, Rob Hicks from Representative SUSAN BROOKS’ staff, Meg Barr from House Judiciary Chairman BOB GOODLATTE’s office, and Yana Mayayeva from Representative LOIS FRANKEL’s staff

Finally, I would like to recognize two individuals who recently passed away. Both were fierce advocates on behalf of survivors of abuse.

Barbara Blaine, who founded SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, passed away in Utah, and Kristine Ward, the cofounder of National Survivor Advocates Coalition, passed away in Ohio. Both of these extraordinary women spent much of their lives giving a powerful voice to those who have been sexually abused.

This bill attempts to do what both women so powerfully advocated for throughout their lives: speak for the voiceless and demand the change necessary to protect our children, our most precious resource.

Thank you very much.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to discuss the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act. This legislation, which Senator FEINSTEIN sponsored and I cosponsored, would promote mandatory reporting of suspected abuse of young athletes and give survivors new tools to hold perpetrators accountable.

As Senate Judiciary chairman, I last year convened a hearing on this legislation, which helped build momentum for its committee approval and passage. I am proud to have helped shepherd this bill through our committee and the Senate, and I am delighted that we are about to send this bill to the President for his signature.

Our congressional hearing illustrated just how bad the problem of sexual abuse in youth sports has become, how long it went on, how many athletes were affected, and, in some cases, how slow the response was from those charged with ensuring these young athletes’ safety. To say that I was alarmed by what we learned at that March 28 hearing would be a huge understatement.

Abuse that occurs by someone in a position of trust, in what should be a safe environment, such as youth athletics programs, is simply outrageous. Sadly, however, sports officials adopted policies that may have allowed predators to victimize children long after they had good reason to suspect sexual abuse.

Recently, we have heard reports that gymnastics officials took as long as 5 weeks to report suspected abuse to the FBI. We have also heard allegations that gymnasts were pressured to remain silent after they brought the

abuse to gymnastics officials' attention. It is imperative that we uncover whatever systemic failures that allowed a predator to singlehandedly target hundreds of girls and young women for so long.

Sexual abuse is a heinous crime, so we must continue to seek justice for these victims. We also need to understand why allegations of sexual abuse so often remain hidden, instead of being immediately reported to law enforcement. The average perpetrator strikes multiple times before being caught, which is why it is so important that these crimes be promptly reported and investigated. I intend to continue to do oversight in this area and champion policies to protect the innocent from sexual abuse.

I thank each of the athletes who came forward to report abuse. Their courage helped make passage of this bill possible.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4708, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4708) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 4708) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider

be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "OMAHA"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 389, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 389) commemorating the commissioning of the USS *Omaha*.

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 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 389) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 390, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 390) raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2018 as "National Stalking Awareness Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. 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 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 390) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDER FOR RECESS AND ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018, AND MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate recess until 8:25 p.m. tonight and, upon reconvening, proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint session of Congress provided under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 101; that upon dissolution of the joint session, the Senate adjourn to then convene for a pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on Friday, February 2, at 11 a.m.; that following the pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until Monday, February 5, at 3 p.m.; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 8:25 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:33 p.m., recessed until 8:25 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. TILLIS).

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, James Morhard; the Secretary of the Senate, Julie E. Adams; and the Vice President of the United States, Michael R. Pence, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018, AT 11 A.M.

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:38 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Friday, February 2, 2018, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate January 30, 2018:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MATTHEW BASSETT, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID RYAN STRAS, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT.

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. SCOTT D. BERRIER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8037:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CHARLES L. PLUMMER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8081:

To be brigadier general

COL. SHARON R. BANNISTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8037:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JEFFERY A. ROCKWELL

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ANTHONY R. HALE

COL. GARRICK M. HARMON

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. ERIC J. WESLEY

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. THEODORE D. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. SUSIE S. KULAN

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. LESLIE C. SMITH

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. (LH) JOHNNY R. WOLFE, JR.

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 C. RING

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) SCOTT D. CONN

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SARAH E. ABEL AND ENDING WITH MICHELLE E. WYCHE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRETT L. HEDGEPETH AND ENDING WITH RYAN M. YI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOANNA K. KOWALIK AND ENDING WITH MAHASIN M. HANGALAY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRISH M. ARNO AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER N. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 8, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JIN HWA LEE FRAZIER AND ENDING WITH JACK DAVID SPENCER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COREY L. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH ROBERT K. TALTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL C. MAINE, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MELISSA A. DAY AND ENDING WITH ROBERTA J. STEMEM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW M. BIRD AND ENDING WITH PAUL KELLEY STROUD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HOLLY L. BREWER AND ENDING WITH MARIO TOMMASI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN G. ANDRADE AND ENDING WITH LAWRENCE P. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOSHUA M. KOVICH, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID M. DERSCH, JR. AND ENDING WITH PATRICK J. TRAVERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LANCE J. KIM AND ENDING WITH SONIA W. S. TAQVI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAVID L. WELLS II, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF ALEKSANDR GUTMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT L. OZBURN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOCELYN A. LEVENTHAL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALYSSA S. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH BRADLEY O. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENNETH S. KATROSH AND ENDING WITH DOLLY R. LIVINGSTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH KLOIBER AND ENDING WITH PAUL NAVAS III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERICK C. CREWS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL C. BRADWICK AND ENDING WITH DOUGLAS S. YOON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZACHARY T. BUENBARK AND ENDING WITH JAIME A. SANJUAN RUBIO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE

SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GABBY V. CANCERAN AND ENDING WITH JOHN P. CROSS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM T. SOTO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PHILIP J. DACUNTO, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LYLE A. OURADA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHERRY M. KWON, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER N. EARLEY, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM DOCTOR, JR. AND ENDING WITH SCOTT E. VASQUEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAULO T. ALVES AND ENDING WITH PATRICK J. TOAL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF HENRY W. SOUKUP, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF WILLIAM W. INNS III, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CRAIG A. ELLIOTT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BILL W. BROOKS, JR. AND ENDING WITH KYLE L. HOLLIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD J. ABMA AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH A. ZIMMERMANN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JUSTIN R. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL D. WILCOX, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF STEVEN P. HULSE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL F. MAGOULICK AND ENDING WITH LI SUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS H. STEGING, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN S. DURHAM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAURA C. GILSTRAP AND ENDING WITH DIANA TRANYU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF TODD D. HUSTY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAWN M. STANKUS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PAUL I. AHN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ALLEN G. GUNN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARC CLAYTON GILKEY AND ENDING WITH MARK A. MYERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 8, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALYCE S. AHN AND ENDING WITH MICHELE D. WOONACOTT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 8, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PRIYA U. AMIN AND ENDING WITH ERIK Z. ZAHNEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 8, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANGELA P. AGGELER AND ENDING WITH MARI JAIN WOMACK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 8, 2018.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT J.
HARRIS'S LEADERSHIP

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a great leader of the U.S. fastener industry. He is one of the basic building blocks of virtually all manufacturing, Robert J. Harris, Managing Director of the Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI) since 1995, retired from the Institute on December 31, 2017. Rob brought financial stability and strategic leadership to IFI, the trade organization that has represented the U.S. fastener manufacturing industry since 1931. Under his guidance, the Institute became the recognized authority in the development of all technical standards for fasteners, a critical component of ensuring capability and safety across all products.

Rob's leadership was perhaps most visible during the 1990s, when a pending regulatory burden imposed by the well-intentioned but fatally flawed Fastener Quality Act (FQA) threatened to shut down the industry and place severe limits on production of automakers, aerospace manufacturers, and a host of other U.S. and international producers. Working with a coalition of IFI members, as well as, representatives of the auto, aerospace, heavy equipment, appliance and other manufacturers, Rob developed and implemented a strategy to revamp the decades-old FQA. Congress approved the Fastener Quality Act Amendments Act in 1998, and it has been a great success in the twenty years since. Before joining IFI in 1995, Rob had already enjoyed a varied and successful career. A native of Kentucky, he graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and subsequently earned a master's degree in International Finance from the College of William and Mary and an MBA from DePaul University. He served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam as a gunboat Captain.

Along with all of the residents of the 14th Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate Rob on a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP
ALEXIS THOMAS

HON. RUBEN GALLEG0

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Bishop Alexis Thomas, who passed away on January 18, 2018.

Bishop Alexis Thomas was many things to many people. He was a pastor, a leader, and a friend. He was a father, a son and a brother. He was a dynamic and passionate leader not just at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, but throughout our community in Phoenix.

Having received his license to preach the gospel at the young age of seven, it is perhaps unsurprising that Bishop Thomas was destined for a life in service of God and his community. Before he was ordained as the Bishop of the State of Arizona in 2003, Bishop Thomas served for eighteen years as the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Rest, which grew by leaps and bounds under his compassionate leadership.

Bishop Thomas' service extended well beyond Pilgrim West Baptist Church. Not only did he serve on the Board of Directors of the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce, but he also founded the African American Christian Clergy Coalition in 2001 and co-founded the African American Strategic Alliance Coalition in Phoenix.

I want to take this opportunity not only to remember and celebrate Bishop Thomas' many accomplishments, but also to share my sincere condolences with Bishop Thomas' family and friends, as well as with the broader Phoenix community mourning his loss.

I was fortunate enough to work alongside Bishop Thomas on issues of social justice. We served together as a part of My Brother's Keeper, and I witnessed firsthand his boundless determination to make our community—and our world—a better place. Bishop Thomas will be recalled fondly by many as a counselor, friend and mentor. He will also be remembered as a man with a sincere and remarkable vision for change. Through our work together in support of the Congressional Black Caucus, I feel incredibly fortunate that I was able to witness Bishop Thomas' inspiring leadership firsthand.

Bishop Thomas worked miracles large and small every day. He touched more lives than perhaps we will ever know.

Mr. Speaker, while we are devastated by his loss, we know that Bishop Thomas' legacy of service and love will live on forever in our community.

IN HONOR OF LEAH COSNER'S
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Leah Cosner on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

I join her friends and family in extending my best to her on this occasion and in celebrating her life and contributions to our great state. I hope she uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Leah Cosner on her birthday. May her year be filled with happiness and blessings.

HONORING LASA JOINER

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Georgian and a great American, Lasa Joiner.

Lasa has been involved in Georgia legislative issues for over thirty years, and is well known throughout the State of Georgia and around the country for her interest and expertise in mental health issues.

Lasa Joiner first began serving as an advocate for and advisor to the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association during the 1988 Session of the Georgia General Assembly and became their Executive Director in 2003. So respected for her leadership, the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association awarded her with the 2008 Dancing Elephant Award for excellence in administrative leadership.

Lasa was the first woman to Chair the Board of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the largest department in state government. She also chaired the Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Committee and the Rehabilitation Services Committee.

Lasa Joiner's years of outstanding advocacy for psychiatric professionals and their patients and her tireless efforts to improve access to quality mental health care in Georgia, have undeniably made our state a better place for all of its residents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Lasa Joiner on her retirement, and extend my sincerest wishes for her continued health and happiness.

God bless Lasa Joiner.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Hanover Park, Illinois.

Hanover Park is a model for other cities and towns to follow through its continued dedication to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike. Located just 17 miles from O'Hare International Airport and 45 minutes from downtown Chicago, Hanover Park has thriving business parks, a growing retail community, and easy access to global markets.

In the years since its first permanent settlers in 1874 and its incorporation in 1958, Hanover Park has become a center of culture and commerce. As a home to 80 nationalities and 30 spoken languages, it is a diverse village. Hanover Park is a great place to work, live, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

raise a family. The Village's police and fire departments are consistently recognized as two of the finest in the state and the local government is highly engaged and enthusiastic. The residents, families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations have made Hanover Park a vibrant and thriving community.

On the occasion of this 60th anniversary, we join together to celebrate Hanover Park's legacy of growth and prosperity and look ahead to the opportunities facing this great village and our nation. Today both marks 60 years of working together to build a brighter future and reminds us that our work continues.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Hanover Park, Illinois, and wishing its residents great success in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 45 and 46 on Monday, January 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 45 and 46.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 2018 a flight delay prevented me from participating in the 6:30 p.m. vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 45, and YEA on Roll Call No. 46.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIRST LIEUTENANT CLAY CULLEN

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of First Lieutenant Clay Cullen. On the weekend of January 20, 2018, Lieutenant Cullen was killed in a training accident while serving in the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. He was an American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Lieutenant Cullen was 25 years old and the son of Robert and Julie Cullen of Bicknell, which is located in Knox County, Indiana. He was an enigmatic young man that left a wave of positive impressions on the people he touched. He attended North Knox Junior/Senior High School where he excelled both in the classroom and on the field. He was named most valuable player of the soccer team while also being an active member of the National Honor Society and the student council.

After graduating from high school, Lieutenant Cullen enrolled and attended Vincennes University before moving on to attend Indiana University where he served in the National Guard. Upon graduation from IU in 2015, he became a commissioned officer on active duty.

During his years of service, Lieutenant Cullen received several awards including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Cullen served his country to his fullest ability and his service will never be forgotten. Please join me today in commemorating the life of First Lieutenant Clay Cullen for his service to our nation.

PANAYIOTA VURNAKES VALLAS

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mrs. Pota Vurnakes Vallas.

Mrs. Vallas grew up in Krissafa, Greece, a small village near Sparta, where she was born in 1908. Her father, Gus Vurnakes, immigrated to the United States in 1924 and brought Pota, who was the eldest of the ten Vurnakes' children, with him.

It was at that time, Mr. Speaker, that Pota's father put her to work assisting him at the California Fruit Store on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, North Carolina where she made homemade ice cream and chocolates.

By 1927, just before the Great Depression Pota married her husband, the late George Theodore Vallas, himself a fellow immigrant. Mr. Speaker, like many families at the time, the Vallas' and Vurnakes' were overwhelmed by the Depression. Pota's family lost their home, their life savings, and the California Fruit Store during that time. But they never lost their will to striving for a better life.

And in 1944, Pota and George travelled to Chicago and where they were able to purchase the distributorship of the National Sewing Machine Company. Their business grew into National Art Interiors—a landmark in Raleigh—supplying furnishings for both homes and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, Pota served on the North Carolina Community Foundation, the First Citizens Bank Board and was a life-long member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. She was presented with the Saint Michael's Award for her years of dedicated service by the Greek Orthodox Diocese of America.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Pota Vallas passed away December 12, 2017 at the age of 109.

She was a loving wife, and mother, as well as a pioneering entrepreneur and businesswoman in North Carolina and she will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 45, a re-

corded vote on a motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 534. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH RUNNING OF THE SAULT SAINTE MARIE INTERNATIONAL-500 ENDURANCE SNOWMOBILE RACE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Sault Sainte Marie I-500 Endurance Snowmobile Race as it celebrates its 50th annual competition. We Michiganders are proud of the I-500's half-century of world-class racing and commitment to the people of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The first official running of the arduous 500-mile snowmobile race took place on February 8, 1969. The 100% volunteer-run event initially hosted 47 racers on the 1-mile oval ice track—the only such track in North America. Since then, the I-500 has become respected as the most prestigious and grueling snowmobile race in the world. Hundreds of racers vie for the winner's purse while snowmobile manufacturers from around the world look to showcase their machines' reliability and durability. Every year, thousands of visitors come to Sault Sainte Marie to watch the race and enjoy the festivities.

The week-long celebration includes days of qualifying laps, open ice skating on the track, vintage snowmobile exhibitions, youth snowmobile races, food truck competitions, the Winter Pub Crawl, and the Miss I-500 Pageant—all leading up to the day of the race. This year, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary, there will also be an attempt to break the world record for the largest snowmobile parade. Through its week of competition, community, and camaraderie, the impact of the I-500 on the people of the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Sault Sainte Marie I-500 Endurance Snowmobile Race for 50 years of exciting competition and community engagement. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing that the First District is home to such a prestigious and dynamic event. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Soo I-500 all the best in its future endeavors, and best of luck to the racers.

REPRESENTATIVE FRELINGHUYSEN RETIREMENT STATEMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today as I announce my retirement at the end of this session of Congress, I want to use the opportunity to strongly encourage the many young people I meet to consider public service. Public service is an incredible way to turn your convictions into something that serves the greater good and to do it alongside people

from every walk of life and background. That has certainly been my experience here in this House, and during my Army service in Vietnam. I thank my friends and colleagues with whom I have served. My years in public service have allowed me to represent my home county of Morris for over 40 years, and also Essex, Passaic, Sussex Counties, and earlier on, Somerset. That would not have been possible without the love and support of my wife, Virginia, our two girls and my late father and mentor, Peter. The unsung heroes of my time in Congress are my staff, both in Morristown and Washington, who tend every day to the needs of 730,000 constituents.

During my time serving here there have been times of great tragedy including the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the ravages of Hurricane Sandy on my home state. In my role on the House Appropriations Committee, I made sure that New Jersey's needs were met in both the immediate aftermath as well as over time in the wake of these events. I have proudly been able to secure key federal investments for New Jersey to strengthen our economy, our institutions of higher education, our hospitals and public transportation systems, to preserve open space and protect the environment and to better serve our veterans and our fellow citizens with mental illness and disabilities.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, this past year I have had a singular focus on "getting our work done". We completed 12 appropriations bills left over from 2017, we passed all 2018 bills in record time through regular order, and three Disaster Supplementals historic in scope and the expediency with which we acted to help our fellow citizens. In my remaining year as chairman, I am determined to finish the FY18 bills and pass our FY19 bills through regular order. Every member, Republican and Democrat, will continue to have ample opportunity to directly impact the Congressional power of the purse and decide the best and highest use of limited taxpayer money. This will require—and I will happily devote—all my energies to this task.

Throughout my service in this House, my deepest devotion has been to supporting our Armed Forces, all volunteers, and their families, here and abroad, and those warfighters who have returned home with injuries and who depend on a functioning veterans' health care system. To those of you I have met while you served us overseas and to those of you that I have sat by your bedside, I hope and trust I have served you well.

I have worked in a bipartisan manner, not just in times of crisis but always, because I believe it best serves my constituents, my state and our country. My father reminded me often that we are temporary stewards of the public trust. I have sincerely endeavored to earn that trust every day and I thank my constituents and my home state of New Jersey for the honor to serve and I will continue to do so to the best of my abilities through the end of my term.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, I was unable to vote on Roll Call votes 45 and

46. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call 45—Yes, and Roll Call 46—Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN GALLEG0

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and was not present for two roll call votes on Monday, January 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Vote No. 45—S. 534, Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, as amended—YES; and Roll Call Vote No. 46—H.R. 1457, To establish requirements for use of a driver's license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes, as amended—YES.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JAZZ
TRUMPETER HUGH MASEKELA

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of South African jazz trumpeter, composer and anti-apartheid activist Hugh Masekela, who died January 23 after a long fight with prostate cancer. Mr. Masekela, 78, was honored in October at the 26th annual National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Awards in Memphis although he was too sick to make the trip from Johannesburg and the award was accepted by his son, Salema Masekela, in his place.

Masekela was an integral part of the African jazz scene in the 1950s and '60s with his band the Jazz Epistles. In response to South Africa's oppressive apartheid, which prevented large gatherings of black people from legally attending his bands' concerts, he went into exile in 1964, at the age of 21, first in Britain and then in the United States. In 1968, he had an international No. 1 hit—"Grazing in the Grass." He was also known for "Bring Him Back Home," an anthem calling for the release of the future South African President Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for 27 years for his anti-apartheid activities, and "Soweto Blues."

Masekela collaborated with a variety of activists and entertainers including Harry Belafonte, Jimi Hendrix, Otis Redding, Janis Joplin and Paul Simon, with whom he toured on the "Graceland" album concerts with Ladysmith Black Mambazo. He released more than 40 albums in his career and toured internationally until last year.

"My biggest obsession is to show Africans and the world who the people of Africa really are," he said on his official website.

In 2012, he participated in UNESCO's International Jazz Day at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York City with Richard Bona of Cameroon, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Danilo Perez, Derek Trucks and Susan

Tedeschi, Jack DeJohnette, Herbie Hancock, Jimmy Heath, Zakir Hussain of India, Angelique Kidjo of Benin, Lang Lang of China, Romero Lubambo of Brazil, Shankar Mahadevan of India, Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, Dianne Reeves, Wayne Shorter, Esperanza Spalding, Hiromi Uehara of Japan.

Masekela returned to South Africa in 1990 when Mandela was freed and has been a vocal voice for freedom. I join fans and activists around the world in paying tribute to a giant of African culture and the arts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote today on S. 534, Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act (Roll Call No. 45), I would have voted aye. This bill would require authorization to interact with minor amateur athletes to report any suspected incidents of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the sport's governing body.

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 1457 (Roll Call No. 682), I would have voted aye. This bill would allow banks and other financial institutions nationwide to use an individual's state-issued driver's license or personal identification card to verify the individual's identity when using a mobile device to initiate mobile banking or other online service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal commitment, I was unable to vote on the following: Roll Call No. 35 and Roll Call No. 36. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING RONN OWENS ON
HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI as well as Representatives MARK DESAULNIER, ANNA ESHOO, JOHN GARAMENDI, JARED HUFFMAN, RO KHANNA, BARBARA LEE, ZOE LOFGREN, JERRY MCNERNEY, JACKIE SPEIER, MIKE THOMPSON, and I rise to recognize Ronn Owens for his lifetime of service to the San Francisco Bay Area as a radio journalist of the highest caliber.

Ronn, a resident of San Francisco, launched his daily radio talk show on KGO 810 in 1975. He has covered everything from politics to pop culture, and his show has been called the "ultimate town hall meeting." He became known as a voice of reason, balancing

issues so that listeners can make up their own minds. In an era of divisiveness and shock radio, Ronn gave listeners a space in which both sides could be heard and have productive discussions.

His thousands of guests have included Presidents Barack Obama and Jimmy Carter, Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and Barbara Boxer, Gov. Jerry Brown, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, Steve Martin, John Oliver, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Martin Short, Sam Donaldson, Bill Maher, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, Benjamin Netanyahu, JOHN MCCAIN, Joe Montana, Tony Bennett and Willie Mays.

Ronn has won numerous awards over the years and was inducted into the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame in December 2007 and the National Radio Hall of Fame in Chicago in 2015. The National Association of Broadcasters presented him with the prestigious Marconi Award for Major Market Personality of the Year Award in 2003 and again in 2010.

Talkers Magazine named Ronn one of the Top 25 Greatest Radio Talk Show Hosts of All Time, ranking him 13th and the top local personality in the country. His book, "Voice of Reason: Why the Left and Right are Wrong," was published in 2004.

By bringing newsmakers into his studio in a friendly but probing way, Ronn Owens has vastly enriched the Bay Area's knowledge and culture for more than four decades. His incisive analysis has helped generations of Californians and online listeners around the globe better understand and enjoy the world around them.

It was my great honor to be the guest during his last full show on Friday, January 12. He will continue on the air with a 10-minute "Ronn Owens Report" each weekday.

We congratulate Ronn on his fine work and many accomplishments, and we wish him the very best with his newest endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber on Monday, January 29, 2018, recovering from a medical procedure. Had I recorded my vote, I would have voted:

"Yea" on roll call no. 45, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, S. 534, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act;

"Yea" on roll call no. 46, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1457, to establish requirements for use of a drivers license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal conflict, I was unable to make votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 38; Pres on Roll Call No. 39; Yea on Roll Call No. 40; Yea on Roll Call No. 41; and Yea on Roll Call No. 42.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call votes on No. 45 and 46 the evening of January 29, 2018. I would have voted in favor of S. 534, sponsored by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN; I would have voted in favor for H.R. 1457, sponsored by Representative TIPTON.

CELEBRATING EDWIN AND SANDRA HAMILTON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. Edwin Richard Hamilton and Mrs. Sandra Elaine (Thompson) Hamilton.

Edwin and Sandra were married on February 3, 1968 in Cartersville, Georgia by the Reverend Charles McPherson.

Reaching the wonderful milestone of a golden anniversary shows such a great commitment to your spouse and family. This marriage stands as a blessing and an encouragement to me and all those who know this couple.

Please join me in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton a very happy and blessed anniversary. May God bless them with many more years of happiness and health.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOAN GILLAM MANDA

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joan Gillam Manda, who passed away on January 20, 2018.

Joan Gillam Manda was born on October 19, 1923, in Maryville, Missouri, where she was active in church and school during her youth. A proud Tiger, Joan graduated from the University of Missouri—Columbia with a degree in Journalism in 1945. Joan was a devoted wife to her husband, Ed Manda, whom she married in 1947. Joan and Ed moved to Pleasant Hill, Missouri, where they raised their four children. She enjoyed staying involved with her children's lives and was very supportive of their many activities growing up.

As an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, Joan was devoted to her faith and to her community, where she spent much of her time volunteering. She also proudly competed as a co-pilot for several years in the All Women's Transcontinental Air

Race, where she and her pilot once won the competition.

Joan truly knew how to live her life to the fullest. She was well known for her pursuit of adventure and traveled world-wide throughout her life. In recent years, she enjoyed listening to her grandchildren's stories of their own adventures across the globe. A proud grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of 15, Joan took delight in keeping up with her many family members through social media.

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Joan's family and friends, by whom she will be greatly missed. Joan's commitment to her family, her faith, and her community will be forever cherished in the hearts of the many people she touched throughout her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures due to family medical reasons. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted No for the following votes: Roll 35, January 19, 2018: On Motion to Table, H. Res. 705, Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, of high misdemeanors; Roll 36, January 19, 2018: On Passage, H.R. 4712, Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act; Roll 37, January 19, 2018: On Motion to Adjourn; Roll 38, January 20, 2018: On Ordering a Call of the House; Roll 40, January 20, 2018: On Tabling Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, H. Res. 708, Waiving a Requirement of Clause 6(A) of Rule XIII with Respect to Consideration of Certain Resolutions Reported from the Committee on Rules, and Providing for Consideration of Motions to Suspend the Rules; Roll 41, January 20, 2018: On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 708, Waiving a Requirement of Clause 6(A) of Rule XIII with Respect to Consideration of Certain Resolutions Reported from the Committee on Rules, and Providing for Consideration of Motions to Suspend the Rules; and Roll 42, January 20, 2018: on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 708, Waiving a Requirement of Clause 6(A) of Rule XIII with Respect to Consideration of Certain Resolutions Reported from the Committee on Rules, and Providing for Consideration of Motions to Suspend the Rules.

I would have voted Present for the following vote: Roll 39, January 20, 2018: On Call of the House.

I would have voted Aye for the following vote: Roll 43, January 20, 2018: On Motion to Fix the Convening Time.

HONORING PASTOR DR. WAYNE COFIELD AND WHITFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Wayne

Cofield who is celebrating 40 years as pastor of Whitfield Baptist Church.

Pastor Cofield grew up in Decatur, Georgia, and attended Georgia State University, graduating with a degree in Business Administration.

He was later ordained to preach at Wesley Hills Baptist Church in Decatur, where he was an active member for 22 years.

Then after serving for several years at Gospel Baptist Temple in Claxton, Georgia, he moved with his wife Connie and their four children to Dalton in 1978 to establish Whitfield Baptist Church.

Pastor Cofield's first service at Whitfield Baptist Church was held on February 4, 1978, with 42 attending the service and 29 children attending the Sunday school.

A few short months later, Whitfield Baptist had more than 200 people attending morning service and more than 170 attending Sunday school.

Since that time, under Pastor Cofield's steady leadership, Whitfield Baptist continues to grow and thrive.

I am proud today to recognize Pastor Cofield's service and contributions to our community and state.

I want to close by saying thank you to Wayne for his dedication and commitment to service.

IN HONOR OF THE CLAREMONT,
NEW HAMPSHIRE AD HOC AM-
TRAK PLATFORM COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Claremont, New Hampshire, Ad Hoc Amtrak Platform Committee. The people of the Upper Valley owe a tremendous debt to the public servants and civic-minded citizens who took up the important work of this committee. Those individuals are: Jeffrey Albright, State Representative Raymond Gagnon, Mayor Charlene Lovett, Scott Magnuson, former City Councilor James Reed, Walter Stapleton, and former City Councilor Carolyn Towle. Since its formation in 2014, the committee has worked extensively to promote and improve rail transportation and access in the region. Through new signage around Claremont and effective digital marketing, the committee did an outstanding job of raising awareness of the value and opportunity the Amtrak Vermonter line had for the Claremont community, and vice versa. They spearheaded a campaign to construct a passenger shelter at the Claremont station with all-volunteer funding and labor. As a direct result of their efforts, ridership numbers have notably increased each of the last three years, and the New England Intercity Rail Initiative has decided that Claremont should remain included in future high speed rail service.

It is also important to recognize the national and international impact of the committee. Its members worked closely with my office to provide input and help advance the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act, which I introduced in 2016. This legislation

paved the way for a bilateral border security agreement that allows the United States and Canada to expand preclearance customs facilities, including rail facilities for the first time. It improves travel and trade opportunities for our northern border communities while also strengthening our national security. The bill was signed into law by President Barack Obama, and in 2017 the agreement was approved by the Canadian House of Commons. I commend the committee members for all they have done to help bring this meaningful policy to fruition.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Jeffrey, Richard, Charlene, Scott, James, Walter, and Carolyn for their dedicated service and advocacy. Their achievements will continue to benefit Granite State transportation, tourism, and economic development for years to come. I am honored to recognize and congratulate them.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AT
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an important and longstanding part of the fabric of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois: Temple Beth Israel in suburban Skokie, north of Chicago. January 31, 2018 marks 100 years since the Temple's incorporation in the State of Illinois, and it is considered its official birthday.

Temple Beth Israel was the first Reform congregation in the Albany Park neighborhood of Chicago; and while its location may have changed over the last century, it has remained a stable presence in the lives of its congregants. For 100 years, Temple Beth Israel has allowed individuals and families to come together and express their Judaism—providing comfort in dire times, a place to celebrate in happier times, and an opportunity to reflect and pray.

This congregation has seen success because of the diligent work of its rabbis and staff over the years. Three different rabbis have spent more than 30 years apiece at this congregation, and each has left their mark on this institution.

Rabbi Michael A. Weinberg has served as the Temple's beloved rabbi since 1987 and is a past president of the Chicago Association of Reform Rabbis, in addition to serving in other roles of distinction. Rabbi Weinberg was preceded by Rabbi Ernest M. Lorge, who served from 1947 through 1984. Rabbi Lorge worked hard to expand the congregation, was very involved in the issues of the day, and met with President John F. Kennedy at the White House to discuss civil rights issues. Rabbi Felix S. Mendelsohn served as the first full time Rabbi for Temple Beth Israel. He began his service in 1919 and is credited with founding both the Temple Center, a Jewish social center for young adults, and National Jewish Book Week—today known as Jewish Book Month.

Today, the Temple Beth Israel congregation numbers approximately 400 families, and remains a vibrant part of the 9th Congressional

District's diverse community. I offer my sincere congratulations to Rabbi Weinberg, the congregation's past and present staff and the many congregants who are celebrating this important milestone. I wish them all the best in the years ahead and hope for another century of good work ahead for Temple Beth Israel.

HONORING MARVIN HILL OF
DIERKS, ARKANSAS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize a true American hero. Marvin Hill of Dierks, Arkansas, is a 103-year-old veteran of World War II. On Tuesday, January 30, the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System will recognize Mr. Hill with a commemorative coin in honor of his service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.

I ask the people of Arkansas to join the VA and myself in honoring Mr. Hill and thanking him for fighting in defense of freedom.

CHINA IMPOSES COMMUNIST CONTROL OVER LARUNG GAR MONASTERY IN TIBET

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage about the action by the Chinese authorities to impose Communist Party control over Larung Gar, the Tibetan Monastery and learning center of Tibetan Buddhism.

According to information published by Human Rights Watch on January 24, 2018, some 200 Communist Party cadres and lay officials are taking over all management, finances, security, admissions, and even the choice of textbooks at the Larung Gar center, following demolitions and expulsions carried out last year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the information released by Human Rights Watch. It is a significant blow to freedom of religion in Tibet and China, and a matter of great concern to all members of Congress.

[Human Rights Watch, Jan. 24, 2018]

CHINA: NEW CONTROLS ON TIBETAN MONASTERY

NEW YORK—The Chinese authorities have imposed new administrative controls on the Tibetan Buddhist monastic center of Larung Gar that infringe upon freedom of religion, Human Rights Watch said today.

According to an official document obtained by Human Rights Watch, some 200 Communist Party cadres and lay officials are taking over all management, finances, security, admissions, and even the choice of textbooks at the center, following demolitions and expulsions in 2017.

"The new government controls over Larung Gar fly in the face of Party claims that China respects constitutionally protected religious beliefs," said Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch. "The micromanagement of the Tibetan monastery encroaches on religious

freedom and is likely to fuel resentment against Beijing.”

The brochure emphasizes increased security and heightened control of the monks and nuns, calling for rigid limits on the numbers allowed to stay there, and for ongoing surveillance of the monastery population through the establishment of a “grid management” system throughout the settlement. It also states that all residents and visitors will be subjected to “real-name registration,” with monks required to have red tags or labels (Tibetan: byang bu), while nuns will have yellow labels, and lay devotees will have green ones.

Larung Gar was the largest center of Buddhist monasticism in Tibet, if not the world, until an eight-month program of expulsions and demolitions, which ended in April 2017 after reducing the number of residents to around 5,000. It had previously been run by Tibetan monks and nuns selected by senior members of the monastery. The government’s takeover of the administration—described in the official document as “standardization”—could have far more significant impact than the demolitions and expulsions. The actions led a group of experts from the United Nations in November 2016 to ask the Chinese government to provide information about the legal grounds for the expulsions.

The new document is an undated, four-page brochure printed in color in Chinese and Tibetan and apparently intended for public distribution. It ends with a quotation from Liu Chengming, Party secretary of Kandze prefecture, a supposedly autonomous area of Sichuan province that includes Larung Gar. The document appears to have been issued either by his office or by officials running Larung Gar.

The document, made available in or shortly before August 2017, calls for the monastic settlement (Tibetan: gar) to be divided into two sections with a wall between them, with one section designated as an “institute” or academy with a maximum of 1,500 residents, who would be mainly monks, and one as a monastery with a maximum of 3,500 residents, mainly nuns.

The original order for the demolitions, which Human Rights Watch obtained and published in June 2016, indicated that in the future three-fifths of the members of the main management committee at Larung Gar would be lay officials instead of monks. That plan was put into practice last August when local authorities announced the names of six top lay officials who had been given positions within Larung Gar’s two main management committees. All of them, including the deputy police chief of Kandze prefecture, are Communist Party cadres and are therefore required to be atheists.

The new document shows that scores of other cadres are to be installed not just in the management committee, but at every level and in each section of the monastic settlement. They will hold nearly half of the positions on most committees and in most offices, and in most cases will occupy the top positions. The prefectural deputy police chief will be party secretary and principal at the Larung Gar Institute, three of his seven deputy principals will be cadres, and the six “sub-area management units” (Chinese: guanli zu) that supervise the monks at the institute will each be headed by a cadre rather than a monk.

According to the brochure, new committees will also be set up to handle propaganda, “internal security,” finances, education, and students within the institute. Half of the people running these committees will be cadres, 97 of whom will be stationed in the institute. Monastery sources have confirmed to Human Rights Watch that at least the same number will be stationed within the other

section of the settlement, which is now officially designated as the “monastery.” These sources said that a large building has already been constructed to house the cadres.

“The administrative takeover of Larung Gar by Party officials shows that the government’s aim was not merely to reduce numbers at the settlement,” Richardson said. “Chinese authorities are also imposing pervasive control and surveillance over every level of activity within religious communities.”

According to the brochure, 40 percent of teaching at Larung Gar Buddhist Institute must now consist of classes in politics and other non-religious subjects. The primary criterion for accepting students will be whether they “have a firm political stand, accepting the Great Motherland, the Chinese [Chinese: Zhonghua] people, Chinese culture, the Chinese Communist Party and socialism with Chinese characteristics.” The objectives of study will include to “honor and support the Chinese Communist Party and the socialist system” and to train monks who “defend the unification of the Motherland, uphold nationality unity and patriotic religion and abide by their vows.”

Only residents of Sichuan province will be allowed to apply, other than in exceptional cases, eliminating monks and nuns from other Tibetan areas—which had been a distinguishing mark of Larung Gar. Since 2008, Chinese authorities have imposed similar limits on other major Tibetan monasteries, banning them from accepting monks and nuns from outside the local area. The document also indicates that steps will be taken to stop those who have been expelled from returning to the settlement.

The scale of the Communist Party’s intervention at Larung Gar is unprecedented, Human Rights Watch said. Since October 2011 permanent teams of cadres have been stationed in all monasteries in the Tibet Autonomous Region, the central Tibetan area far to the west of Larung Gar, where they have taken over the management committee of each monastery. There have been reports of similar takeovers of some monasteries in eastern Tibetan areas. But none are known to have consisted of such large teams of cadres, or to have included cadres even at the lowest levels of monastery management.

The changes at Larung Gar are in line with current religion policy, which emphasizes ensuring political stability in monasteries by intensifying official management. It also rewards political compliance by monks and nuns with public praise, titles such as “model patriotic monk,” and other material or social benefits. The document aims to make the study of Buddhism “standardized, law-abiding and modern,” a reference to a new, centralized system for managing religious training, textbooks, and curricular content maintained mainly through a network of higher studies institutes being constructed throughout China to retrain Buddhist monks.

The scheme appears designed to micro-manage religious institutions rather than close them down and to produce a new generation of Buddhist teachers trained equally in religious doctrine and state ideology in order to “adapt Tibetan Buddhism to socialist society.”

“The Chinese government’s latest inroads at Larung Gar show a pernicious intent to exercise extreme control over religious practice,” Richardson said. “This is an immediate threat to the religious freedom of all Tibetans, but a long-term threat to all Chinese.”

HONORING COLLEEN C. DiPIRRO ON HER RETIREMENT AS AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT AND CEO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colleen C. DiPirro, a visionary pioneer who began her career 35 years ago as a single staff person and is now retiring as the President and CEO of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce having overseen the explosive growth of membership from less than 200 members to more than 3,000, representing more than 1,300 businesses.

She grew its annual budget from \$24,000 when she started to more than \$1.9 million with a full-time professional staff offering 50 plus annual events, business services, advocacy, economic development strategies and an Emerging Business Leaders forum.

Colleen’s career is filled with firsts. She was the first President of the WNY Chamber Alliance, an organization for Chamber Executives spanning an eight county region; the first woman honored as the Executive of the Year by the Buffalo Sales and Marketing Executives, and in 2009, the first woman named the Buffalo Bills Citizen of the Year, the second recipient behind Ralph Wilson.

Colleen is a builder. Her tools were not brick and mortar, but a consummate ability to build a business advocacy organization with teamwork, tenacity, compromise and consensus and at times, leading with only the courage of her convictions. Recognized for her hard work, heart, humanity and humor, she was identified as one of the top 100 most influential people in Western New York by Business First several times. In 2016, she was listed in the Top Ten Most Influential Women and named Citizen of the Year by Daemen College.

A leader, a legend and a true friend, Ms. DiPirro’s legacy will be her tireless dedicated service to her community and beyond its borders. I can attest to that as my first interaction with Colleen as a Congressman was in 2005 when we took up the fight with the New York Power Authority (NYPA). As a first year minority member of Congress, we had few allies in this battle. And then a call came from Colleen DiPirro who in her role as President of the WNY Chamber Alliance invited me to speak to the Alliance Leaders about why I was fighting NYPA for the Buffalo waterfront. After our roundtable discussion, Colleen asked if I would be willing to debate a NYPA representative before the invited membership of the Alliance at WNED studios. That November afternoon debate made possible by Colleen’s outreach to provide a neutral forum to promote understanding of the issue helped further galvanize our community to stand up and fight for itself and contributed to our ultimate victory of a \$300 million settlement that continues to fuel the redevelopment of the Buffalo waterfront. I didn’t represent Amherst at that time but that didn’t matter to her as she understood what was good for Buffalo’s waterfront was good for all of Western New York.

Others have certainly shared my appreciation and respect for her abilities as she received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in

Business and served on the Board of Directors of New York State Chamber of Commerce Executives in 1999. Colleen serves as event and sponsorship coordinator and as a member of the Advisory Board for the Buffalo Bills Alumni and was selected by Ralph Wilson, the late owner of the Buffalo Bills, to serve on the Project 21 initiative. Her engagement in developing public policy positions was duly noted on both sides of the aisle as she served on the Transition Team for several Erie County Executives. Governor Pataki selected Colleen as a Commissioner on the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority and to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Governor Cuomo appointed Colleen to the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, a position she has held since it was created to develop a regional strategic plan and ensure its coordinated implementation. He also appointed her in 2016 to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Board of Directors. Colleen currently is a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Independent Health and was appointed to the Erie County Industrial Development Agency Policy Committee by County Executive Poloncarz.

Her extensive professional and community involvement extends beyond her duties as President and CEO as she served on a variety of committees, boards and associations in leadership and active roles including the WNY Autism Foundation, Hospice Playhouse Project, Executive Women International, Buffalo Prep, Unyts, Williamsville Sweet Home Junior Football Association and Shea's Performing Arts. Additionally, she served as the first Chairman of the University of Buffalo Leadership Development Program.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Colleen C. DiPirro as the Amherst Chamber of Commerce including staff, board members, family and friends gathers on Thursday, February 1st to celebrate the work and wisdom of this most influential woman. She is most deserving of these heartfelt acknowledgements that reflect her career of almost 40 years of helping businesses, countless individuals and a growing community reach their full potential. We extend all best wishes for continued good health and happiness to Colleen and her sons, Kevin and Keith, and her four grandchildren, Joey and Kaylee, Drew and Luke, as a new chapter begins for her and the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the trial of Larry Nassar and the testimonies of more than 150 brave women have illuminated many injustices. One of the most critical is that our institutions are fundamentally failing to protect

young women and men against predators. Officials at USA Gymnastics, Michigan State University, and the U.S. Olympics committee knew about multiple allegations against Nassar. They knew for years, and they did nothing to reprimand the perpetrator or prevent it from happening again to other young athletes.

This bill, however, does not go far enough. Changes to the governance of these bodies going forward is clearly insufficient to guard the rights of those victims who have already been harmed. The burden should not rest solely on those victims brave enough to advance their claim in a court of law.

The past several months in particular have brought to light the systemic problem of sexual harassment and assault. From Larry Nassar, to Harvey Weinstein, to powerful, elected officials, we've allowed sexual predators and harassers to escape scrutiny and consequences for their actions for far too long. This is unacceptable and it's our responsibility to act. We must continue to not only unmask these individuals and their enablers and bring them to justice, but also work tirelessly to prevent these assaults from happening in the first place.

And to the countless survivors of sexual assault and harassment who so boldly continue to share their stories—I hear you, I believe you, and I thank you for your courage.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CENSUS ACT OF 2018

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Full Participation in the Census Act of 2018, which would prohibit the Census Bureau ("Bureau") from including questions on the decennial census about citizenship, nationality, or immigration status.

This bill is essential because the Department of Justice recently wrote to the Bureau requesting that it "reinstate on the 2020 Census questionnaire a question regarding citizenship." From 1970 to 2000, this question was sent to only approximately 16 percent of the population during any decennial census through the so-called "long-form." However, the long-form system with that question was dropped from the census and replaced with the current American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is sent to approximately 3 million people annually on a rotational basis, instead of just with the decennial census, and allows the Bureau to get the necessary information on citizenship, without asking every respondent during the decennial census. Asking questions about citizenship status to every American through the decennial census has not been done in almost 70 years because it would only discourage people, largely in minority communities, which are already underrepresented in the census, from participating in the census. The ACS was created to make the decennial census simpler for American citizens to complete, thus encouraging a higher and more accurate participant rate, and to pre-

serve privacy. Adding questions back into the decennial census about citizenship would defeat this purpose of the ACS. The representative sampling provided by the ACS is more than sufficient to determine citizenship statistics within the United States. We must ensure that all individuals are counted in the decennial census, thereby providing accurate allocation of federal funds and representation in Congress, not reduce participation by already underrepresented minorities because they fear answering questions that are already addressed elsewhere.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

OPPOSING BEIJING'S UNILATERALLY MODIFIED USE OF CIVIL AVIATION FLIGHT ROUTES IN TAIWAN STRAIT AND SUPPORTING OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address two issues that are of great concern to the security and status of Taiwan, a long-time great friend and ally of the United States. First, I am deeply concerned about reports that Beijing has modified the use of civil aviation flight routes in the Taiwan Strait without consultation with Taiwan authorities. Such unilateral actions are unacceptable to all that desire stability and peace in the region. Issues related to civil aviation and safety in the Taiwan Strait should be decided through dialogue between both sides. I encourage authorities in Beijing to engage those in Taipei in constructive dialogue, on the basis of dignity and respect.

Second, I reiterate my support for Taiwan to regain its observer status in the World Health Organization (WHO). As you know, statehood is not a requirement for attendance at the World Health Assembly (WHA)—the decision-making body of the WHO—and so there is no legitimate reason to exclude Taiwan. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is but one nation in the community of many belonging to the WHO and WHA, and should not get to dictate participation to the rest of the body. It is simply not right to treat Taiwan in this way when they contribute so generously to the world, through its role in sectors such as healthcare and international humanitarian aid. Just this month, this House passed H.R. 3320, in support of Taiwan's observer status in the WHO, on suspension by voice vote. This vote is evidence of this body's strong support for Taiwan, which I share and endorse wholeheartedly.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to registering more votes to support and bolster Taiwan's security and status in the world. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our bilateral relationship, this dynamic partnership that we've built together will continue to thrive in the future, and liberty will increase worldwide.

HONORING MAGGIE MAINE

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maggie Maine of Bluffton, South Carolina. It is my privilege to recognize her and all that she has overcome and accomplished in just seven short years. On Saturday, February 3rd, 2018, the American Heart Association's Southern Coast Heart Ball will celebrate Maggie's life and the odds she has defied.

Albert Einstein once said that "there are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." Maggie lives every day as if it is a miracle and, in so doing, inspires all who know her to ask the larger question of how they might make the most of the miracle we have all been granted in life.

Before ever taking a breath, Maggie was diagnosed with Dandy-Walker Syndrome when Renae, her mother, was just 26 weeks pregnant. Since then, Maggie has defied the odds and shown true grit. She lives with multiple congenital heart defects, a malformation of the cerebellum, and is completely dependent on a pacemaker that was installed when she was just an infant.

What these things mean is that her ability to see, walk, jump, and dance are things the doctors told her parents she would never be capable of doing. Yet, she does. Maggie is indeed a miracle kid.

Even at such a young age, she is an inspiration to those around her. As said best by her parents, she is always smiling, even on the worst of days. With that, I would again ask that you join me in honoring Maggie Maine on this momentous occasion for the life she is living, her strength and calm, and for the way she stands as an inspiration that should make all of us smile.

REMEMBERING THE VOYAGE OF
THE "ORYOKU MARU"**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pause to remember the American POWs who arrived in Japan 73 years ago today. These heroes were survivors of the infamous "death cruise" of the *Oryoku Maru*. These men were prisoners since the American territory fell to the Japanese in the spring of 1942. Of the over 1,600 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and civilians who left Manila on December 13, 1944, barely 400 arrived at the port of Moji, Japan on January 30, 1945.

"Hell Ship" is simply the only way to describe the vessels and conditions the POWs endured. These men were packed in dark holds of freighters, usually with coal or animal waste. They were given little water, food, or fresh air. Sanitation was non-existent. Men driven insane were quickly and brutally quieted. I became familiar with this story by assisting my constituent, Ms. Jan Thompson, who is the daughter of a survivor of the *Oryoku Maru* journey and is the President of American De-

fenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society. Her father, Robert E. Thompson, was a Navy Pharmacist's Mate who had been assigned to a submarine tender in Manila Bay, the USS *Canopus*. He was surrendered on Corregidor. It has been my honor to help preserve the memory of the American POWs of Japan and of their experience aboard the Hell Ships to Japan. The 400-plus men who died during the stop at Takao Harbor, Formosa are currently buried in 20 graves marked simply as "Unknowns" at Hawaii's National Cemetery of the Pacific. Soon there will be a memorial plaque on the Memorial Walk at this Cemetery to these men who died aboard the *Enoura Maru* in Formosa on January 9, 1945, which was one of the Hell Ships that took part in the *Oryoku Maru* journey.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN L. SHAFER,
P.E.**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin L. Shafer, P.E. for being named as one of the Top 25 Global Water Leaders.

Kevin has served as the Executive Director at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) since March 2002. As Executive Director, Kevin manages approximately 230 MMSD employees and oversees a contract for the operation and maintenance of the sewerage system with a private contractor.

As Executive Director, Kevin developed and implemented an Overflow Reduction Plan; completed a watershed based regional water quality management plan update; initiated a Green Infrastructure Program for the Milwaukee region; helped to found a local non-profit organization, the Southeast Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, and focused on water quality improvements.

Prior to joining the District, Mr. Shafer spent 10 years in private industry and six years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Worth, Texas. He is a past president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. Currently, Kevin is the Chair of the Water Environment Research Foundation and of the U.S. Water Alliance's Urban Water Sustainability Leadership Council. Mr. Shafer received a bachelor's degree in science and civil engineering with a specialty in water resources from the University of Illinois and a master's in civil engineering from the University of Texas.

In December 2017 he was named as one of the Top 25 Global Water Leaders by *Water & Wastewater International Magazine*. This designation is known as a barometer of the industry's thought leaders. The selection was made concentrating on active leaders who are driving companies forward into the digital water age with a focus on innovation.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I rise to pay tribute and congratulate Kevin Shafer on his award; I am proud that he resides and works in the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY
PATROL OFFICER JOHN
QUINTERO ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to congratulate Officer John Quintero on his well-deserved retirement after 27 years with the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Our entire community is grateful for his dedication to keep our roads and highways safe. Today, I would like to recognize his outstanding career and years of service.

Day in and day out, we use our vehicles to go to various places such as work, school, or visit our loved ones, and we are able to mobilize safely because of the tireless efforts of individuals like Officer Quintero.

He is an esteemed member of our community and a resident of the City of Indio. He is a devoted husband and father of six children. He served as an inspiration for his daughter Jacqueline to follow in his footsteps and become a CHP Officer. His colleagues look up to him as an intelligent, hardworking man.

Officer Quintero began his career in traffic law enforcement in South Los Angeles, where he served for six years. During his early years, he demonstrated a passion to protect our citizens and keep our streets safe, which earned him the Governor's Employee Safety Award for his efforts in vehicle theft. Officer Quintero carries that passion in every task he undertakes, making him an exemplary leader.

Throughout his career, he has held numerous positions including Field Training Officer, Emergency Medical Technician, Shift Supervisor, Drug Recognition Expert, Child Safety Seat Technician, El Protector Hispanic Outreach Office, and Critical Incident Peer Supporter. Officer Quintero was also a member of a Special Response Team, where he served as protection for last year's Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

His commitment to keeping our citizens on the road safe is exemplified by his fast response in saving the lives of two residents who had been shot while driving in the freeway. With the strength they had left, they managed to park their vehicle in front of the Indio CHP Office. Officer Quintero and his daughter rapidly administered medical aid to the male driver and the female passenger, keeping them conscious until the paramedics took them to the hospital. In the process, they collected crucial information about the suspected shooter. After an investigation was conducted, the suspect was arrested. Officer Quintero's outstanding performance and courageous actions are truly commendable.

Officer Quintero has dedicated his life working to ensure our community is safe. Every day, he was willing to sacrifice his life in service of others. His valuable contributions and arduous work will be felt for years to come.

On behalf of the entire 36th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Officer John Quintero's achievements and years of service. His arduous work and contributions to our community will be felt for years to come. I commend his public service and extend my best wishes on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal conflict, I was unable to make votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 43, and YEA on Roll Call No. 44.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR
SLADE GORTON ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend and mentor, Senator Slade Gorton, on recently turning 90 years of age. On January 8th, Senator Gorton celebrated this special day, and I join him in this celebration of a rich life full of achievements and service.

Born on January 8, 1928, Senator Gorton has dedicated his life to serving my home state of Washington and our country. He start-

ed his lifetime of service to this country in the United States military, serving in the Army, as a Lieutenant in the Air Force, and as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Senator Gorton began his career in politics in 1959 when he was first elected to the Washington State House of Representatives. He served in the State House for ten years and was chosen by his peers as majority leader from 1967 to 1969.

He left that role to serve Washingtonians in a different capacity as State Attorney General for twelve years until 1981. Never willing to give up a fight for what he believed to be right, Senator Gorton argued 14 cases before the United States Supreme Court. During his term as Attorney General, on October 17, 1975, I had the great honor of receiving the Law Enforcement Award of Commendation from Attorney General Gorton as a young Sheriff's Deputy.

But he wasn't through fighting for the interests of Washingtonians. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1981, dedicating eighteen years to representing Washington on some of the most impactful committees in the chamber including Appropriations; Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Energy and Natural Resources. Well respected by his colleagues, Senator Gorton served in Republican leadership as counsel to the majority leader.

Following his service in elected office, Senator Gorton has continued to serve the people of Washington and the United States. In 2002, he was asked to be on the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) established by Congress and President George W. Bush. This commission published a report on the circumstances of the September 11th terrorist attacks on our country and included recommendations for how to guard against future attacks.

After an exceptional career in public service, Senator Gorton continues to mentor and educate the rising leaders of the next generation through the Slade Gorton International Policy Center.

I am privileged to consider Senator Gorton a close friend and am honored to celebrate his accomplishments and distinguished career. As I started my own career in politics, Senator Gorton took the time to share with me his experiences and expertise. I am better for his support and encouragement. He was a wonderful example and influence to me, as I took office, on how to best serve the people from our home state of Washington. I am forever grateful.

I join with his family, friends, and Washington's Eighth District in congratulating him on this special occasion and wishing him a wonderful 90th.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in Joint Session to receive a State of the Union Address from the President of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S557–S592

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2354–2365, and S. Res. 386–390. **Page S581**

Measures Reported:

S. 1847, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security, trafficking, and disaster recovery planning, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–201) **Page S580**

Measures Passed:

Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 4708, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign. **Page S591**

USS Omaha: Senate agreed to S. Res. 389, commemorating the commissioning of the USS *Omaha*. **Page S591**

National Stalking Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 390, raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2018 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”. **Page S591**

House Messages:

Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act: Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 534, to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities. **Pages S589–91**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on January 30, 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–25) **Pages S576–80**

Iancu Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, February 5, 2018, Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Andrei Iancu, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office; that there be 30 minutes 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; and that no further motions be in order. **Page S587**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 27), David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. **Pages S558–67, S567–68**

Matthew Bassett, of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

7 Army nominations in the rank of general.

3 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S587–89, S591–92**

Messages from the House: **Page S580**

Measures Referred: **Page S580**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S580–81**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S581–82**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**Pages S582–87****Additional Statements:****Pages S575–76****Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S587****Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—27) **Page S568**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:38 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Friday, February 2, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S591.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the situation on the Korean Peninsula and United States strategy in the Indo-Pacific region, after receiving testimony from Admiral Dennis C. Blair, USN (Ret.), Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Michael J. Green, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Kelly E. Magsamen, Center for American Progress.

FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council Annual Report to Congress, including S. 2098, to modernize and strengthen the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to more effectively guard against the risk to the national security of the United States posed by certain types of foreign investment, S. 2155, to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, S. 2147, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and S. 1591, to impose sanctions with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, after receiving testimony from Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury.

DOMESTIC SEAFOOD AND AQUACULTURE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities to support domestic seafood through aquaculture, after receiving testimony from Mark Luecke, Prairie AquaTech, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Kelly Lucas, University of Southern Mississippi Thad

Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center, Ocean Springs; Barton Seaver, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, South Freeport, Maine; and Donald B. Kent, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, San Diego, California.

AMERICAN INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act one year later, after receiving testimony from France Cordova, Director, National Science Foundation; and Walter Copan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, and Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology.

NATURAL HAZARD EVENTS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the role of the Geological Survey and the Forest Service in preparing for and responding to natural hazard events, as well as the current status of mapping and monitoring systems, after receiving testimony from David Applegate, Associate Director for Natural Hazards, Geological Survey; Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; David K. Norman, Washington Department of Natural Resources Geological Survey State Geologist, Olympia; Karen Berry, Colorado State Geologist and Colorado School of Mines Geological Survey Director, Golden, on behalf of the Association of American State Geologists; Michael West, Alaska Earthquake Center State Seismologist and University of Alaska Geophysical Institute, Fairbanks; and Mayor Pat Branson, Kodiak, Alaska.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Melissa F. Burnison, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Anne Marie White, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Energy: Senators Gardner (Chair), Risch, Flake, Daines, Alexander, Hoeven, Cassidy, Portman, Capito, Manchin, Wyden, Sanders, Heinrich, King, Duckworth, and Smith.

Subcommittee on National Parks: Senators Daines (Chair), Barrasso, Lee, Gardner, Alexander, Hoeven,

Portman, King, Sanders, Stabenow, Heinrich, Hirono, and Duckworth.

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining: Senators Lee (Chair), Barrasso, Risch, Flake, Daines, Gardner, Alexander, Hoeven, Cassidy, Capito, Wyden, Stabenow, Manchin, Heinrich, Hirono, Cortez Masto, and Smith.

Subcommittee on Water and Power: Senators Flake (Chair), Barrasso, Risch, Lee, Cassidy, Portman, Capito, Cortez Masto, Wyden, Sanders, Manchin, Duckworth, and Smith.

Senators Murkowski and Cantwell are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

EPA OVERSIGHT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine testimony from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Scott Pruitt, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S., CANADA, AND MEXICO

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the economic relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, after receiving testimony from Brian Mulroney, former Prime Minister of Canada, Montreal, Quebec; Earl Anthony Wayne, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C.; and Jaime Serra, former Secretary of Commerce and Industry of Mexico, Mexico City.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on accountability and risk to taxpayers, after receiving testimony from Anthony P. Carnevale, Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center on Education and Workforce, Ben Miller, Center for American Progress, Jason D. Delisle, American Enterprise Institute, and Mamie Voight, Institute for Higher Education Policy, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jose Luis Cruz, City University of New York Lehman College, New York, New York.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH PLANS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security concluded a hearing to examine small business health plans, after receiving testimony from Brad E. Johnson, Covenant Insurance Group, Inc., Casper, Wyoming; Mike Sturm, Milliman, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Christopher E. Condeluci, CC Law and Policy PLLC, Washington, D.C.; Jen Kimmich, The Alchemist, Stowe, Vermont; and Tess Kuenning, Bi-State Primary Care Association, Montpelier, Vermont.

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: 16 public bills, H.R. 4896–4911; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 719–720 were introduced. **Pages H731–32**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H733**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3299, to amend the Revised Statutes, the Home Owners' Loan Act, the Federal Credit Union Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require the rate of interest on certain loans remain unchanged after transfer of the loan, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–538); and

H.R. 620, to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to promote compliance through education, to clarify the requirements for demand

letters, to provide for a notice and cure period before the commencement of a private civil action, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–539). **Page H731**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Simpson to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H683**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H687**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 719, electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H690**

Child Protection Improvements Act: The House agreed to the motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 695, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal

history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–56, by a yea-and-nay vote of 250 yeas to 166 nays, Roll No. 49. **Pages H698–H725**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.” **Page H725**

H. Res. 714, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 695) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 236 yeas to 183 noes, Roll No. 48, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 232 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 47. **Pages H690–98**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, January 29th.

Financial Institution Living Will Improvement Act: H.R. 4292, amended, to reform the living will process under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 50. **Page H725**

Investigative Subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 115th Congress in light of the elections of Representatives Mimi Walters (CA) and Ratcliffe to the Committee on Ethics: Representatives Herrera Beutler and Thomas J. Rooney (FL). **Page H725**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 2nd and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourns to meet at 12 noon on Monday, February 5th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H725**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:24 p.m. and reconvened at 8:33 p.m. **Page H726**

State of the Union Address: President Donald Trump delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 101. Hed was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives McCarthy, Scalise, McMorris Rodgers, Stivers, Messer, Collins (GA), Smith (MO),

Pelosi, Hoyer, Clyburn, Crowley, Sanchez, Bustos, and Yarmuth, and Senators McConnell, Cornyn, Hatch, Thune, Barrasso, Blunt, Gardner, Schumer, Murray, Stabenow, Klobuchar, Manchin, and Baldwin. The President’s message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–86).

Pages H726–31

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H731.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H697–698, H698, H724 and H725. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

READYING THE U.S. MILITARY FOR FUTURE WARFARE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Readying the U.S. Military for Future Warfare”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CBO OVERSIGHT: ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “CBO Oversight: Organizational and Operational Structure”. Testimony was heard from Keith Hall, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

PROTECTING PRIVACY, PROMOTING POLICY: EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Protecting Privacy, Promoting Policy: Evidence-Based Policymaking and the Future of Education”. Testimony was heard from Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPOUNDING QUALITY ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining Implementation of the Compounding Quality Act”. Testimony was heard from Scott Gottlieb, M.D., Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration; and public witnesses.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Closing the Digital Divide: Broadband Infrastructure Solutions”. Testimony was heard from Elin Swanson Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a markup on H.R. 3477, the “Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act”. H.R. 3477 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

EXAMINING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY (“FINTECH”) MARKETPLACE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Examining Opportunities and Challenges in the Financial Technology (“Fintech”) Marketplace”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FOLLOWING THE MONEY: HOW HUMAN TRAFFICKERS EXPLOIT U.S. FINANCIAL MARKETS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Following the Money: How Human Traffickers Exploit U.S. Financial Markets”. Testimony was heard from Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., District Attorney, New York County District Attorney’s Office; and public witnesses.

SECURING OUR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS: EXAMINING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY’S ROLE IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security; and Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a joint hearing entitled “Securing Our Surface Transportation Systems: Examining the Department of Homeland Security’s Role in Surface Transportation Technologies”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Homeland Security officials: Sonya Proctor, Director, Surface Division, Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement, Transportation Security Administration; Robert Pryor, Director, Intermodal Division, Office of Requirements and Capabilities Analysis,

Transportation Security Administration; Donald E. Roberts, Program Manager, Explosive Threat Detection, Explosives Division, Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency, Science and Technology Directorate; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3808, the “Infrastructure Expansion Act of 2017”. H.R. 3808 was ordered reported, as amended.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 4532, the “Shash Jáa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act”. Testimony was heard from Jason Chaffetz, former Member of Congress; Rebecca Benally, Vice Chair, San Juan County Commissioners, Utah; Sean D. Reyes, Attorney General, Utah; John Tahsuda III, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY: MANAGEMENT AND PRIORITIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Department of Energy: Management and Priorities”. Testimony was heard from Paul Dabbar, Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy; and Mark Menezes, Under Secretary of Energy, Department of Energy.

SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION SHARING: COMBATING FOREIGN CYBER THREATS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Small Business Information Sharing: Combating Foreign Cyber Threats”. Testimony was heard from Howard Marshall, Deputy Assistant Director, Cyber Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Richard Driggers, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

EXAMINATION OF REPORTS ON THE EL FARO MARINE CASUALTY AND COAST GUARD’S ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Examination of Reports on the El Faro Marine Casualty and Coast Guard’s Electronic Health Records”. Testimony was heard from Earl Weener, Board Member, National Transportation Safety Board; David Powner, Director

of Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; and the following U.S. Coast Guard officials: Rear Admiral John Nadeau, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy; Rear Admiral Erica Schwartz, Director of Health, Safety and Work-life; and Rear Admiral Michael Haycock, Assistant Commandant for Acquisition and Chief Acquisition Officer.

APPEALS REFORM: WILL VA'S IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTIVELY SERVE VETERANS?

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Appeals Reform: Will VA's Implementation Effectively Serve Veterans?". Testimony was heard from Thomas G. Bowman, Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs; Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY HEARING ON LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE TAX ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled "Member Day Hearing on Legislation to Improve Tax Administration". Testimony was heard from Representatives

Smith of Missouri, Roskam, Renacci, Rice of South Carolina, Chabot, Gohmert, and Posey.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D87)

H.R. 984, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe. Signed on January 29, 2018. (Public Law 115–121)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Friday, February 2

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

4:30 p.m., Friday, February 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 4:30 p.m.

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