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No. 172

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 25, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT PERRY 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 3, 2017, 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.

### HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago, President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed October as Head Start Awareness Month, and, proudly, we continue to raise awareness about Head Start and the benefits it brings to America's children.

Since its inception 50 years ago, Head Start has improved the lives of more

than 32 million children and their families. Head Start gives every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, a chance to succeed in school and in life.

When Head Start was first launched in 1965, the idea of providing comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services to children in poverty was groundbreaking. The Head Start model, developed over the decades, has become one that has been built now on evidence-based practices and is constantly evolving, using the best available science and teaching techniques to meet the needs of local communities.

Head Start takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of young children across four major areas of development, including education. Head Start provides a variety of learning experiences to help children grow intellectually, socially, developmentally, and emotionally.

Health: Head Start offers health services such as immunizations, dental, medical, and mental health and nutritional services and early identification of health problems.

Parent involvement: Head Start involves parents in the planning and implementation of activities. Parents serve on policy councils and committees that make administrative decisions, participate in classes and workshops and child development, and volunteer in the program.

Social services: Head Start also provides outreach to families to determine what services they need.

Mr. Speaker, Head Start focuses on the whole child and the whole family. Research has suggested that educating children in their earliest years plays an important role in inspiring lifelong learning, school readiness, and preparing students before they begin kindergarten as an essential part of Head Start, and it is especially important for some of the most vulnerable among us to ensure access to quality education and the outcomes that can be derived from it.

Head Start and the Early Head Start programs are in small towns and big cities alike. They bring together parents, teachers, volunteers, and community leaders to create a quality program that truly does give lower income children a head start in life.

Studies have shown that students who have had access to Head Start were more likely to graduate from high school and attend college. They are less likely to commit a crime or become a teen parent. Head Start gives children equal footing from the start and allows them every opportunity to be successful, thanks to an early education.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Head Start programs in the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and throughout the Nation for helping to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. So many Americans from all walks of life were offered a fair start in life thanks to Head Start.

### EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise, yet again, because Americans are dying each and every day. The epidemic of gun violence has ended too many futures before they have begun, left too many empty seats at the dinner table, torn too many families apart, and left too many communities asking: How many more before Congress acts?

Mr. Speaker, I can't blame them. With 90 Americans dying from guns every day, this House and this Speaker continue to turn a blind eye to this epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, one man carried out this Nation's worst mass shooting in history in just 11 minutes, leaving 58 Americans dead. These are mothers and friends, sons

☐ 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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and brothers, people just trying to enjoy some country music.

Instead of going home to their loving families, instead of going home and being greeted at the door by their toddler, they were carried away in bags. They are now another tragic statistic, another empty seat at Christmas dinner—lives taken, not lost—lives with such potential, lives that were doing amazing things, lives that were raising families and serving their community—lives taken, not lost—lives surrounded by hundreds of other lives that will never, never be the same.

Each life taken is a tragedy, but the hundreds of other lives impacted forever in those 11 minutes are, equally, now made tragic.

489 people were injured. Mr. Speaker, let me say that again, because we often focus on those killed but forget about the hundreds fighting for their lives in the intensive care unit. We forget about those who will need to learn to walk again or will never walk again. We forget about the mom who will never hold her baby again because her arms are paralyzed, the other grandfather who will never see his grandchildren again because he has been blinded.

Mr. Speaker, while Las Vegas marked that largest mass shooting in U.S. history, just 477 days earlier, the largest mass shooting was a preventable tragedy at Pulse nightclub in Orlando that took 49 lives and wounded 58.

How can you say there isn't a problem with gun violence when it takes less than 500 days for one horrific mass shooting to eclipse another as the deadliest in American history?

How can you say there is nothing we can do, as Americans die, as kids get shot and are never the same?

How is one man able to be so destructive in such a short amount of time?

The answer is in an after-market modification called the bump stock that turns an assault weapon into a machine gun, something outlawed by this House during the days of Al Capone. Yet it is still possible to walk into a gun store, purchase this device, and, within minutes, have a gun of war in your hands.

Mr. Speaker, how did we let this happen? More importantly, how are we still letting this happen? Why haven't we acted to outlaw these devices that allow people to make machines in their backyard?

There is a commonsense bipartisan bill awaiting action. Why haven't you called it to the floor? Is it because the NRA changed its mind and now opposes the bill?

Crickets—that is what I thought.

How can we keep our families safe when this House and this majority is beholden to the gun lobby dedicated to profits over people?

#### REFORM AND REAUTHORIZE FAA

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning because the House must continue its work to reform and reauthorize the FAA. We have got to pass H.R. 2997, the 21st Century AIRR Act.

Thirty years ago—30 years ago—the FAA identified the need to modernize or upgrade the Nation's antiquated World War II era air traffic control system. This is a system, at the time, that used radar technology and paper strips for communications between controllers. They literally would take these paper slips and hand them from one controller to the next controller to the next controller as aircraft not only moved through the airwaves, but were moving through the airport systems.

Now, over the last 30 years, Canada, Australia, and many in the EU have changed to this GPS system. We have got countries all across the globe going to GPS, or decades ago have already switched. It is when they go through our airspace, we still use this old radar technology.

Now, during this time, we have upgraded GPS systems. We all carry around handheld devices that use GPS: the Wave app, Google app. There are many different mapping platforms that allow you to get through cities, towns, the countryside. If there is an accident, there is a delay, it allows you to get around it and move through so that we can actually have greater efficiencies on the road.

But 30 years have gone by, and today, after spending \$7 billion, the FAA still uses this outdated radar technology, moving from beacon to beacon, getting passed along as you travel across the United States. And, yes, our air traffic control system still passes these little pieces of paper from one to the next to the next. Oftentimes, if you travel around, you will go through areas where you are not captured by the radar at all, while other countries continue with this GPS system.

This outdated air traffic control system negatively impacts the entire flying public. An outdated ATC means route inefficiencies, which means higher costs, which yields more congestion in our skies and sitting on our tarmacs.

I would like to see a system where you don't leave the gate to go sit on the runway until you know that you actually have a slot and are moving into the air and have a direct flight to your point. But today, you will see many airlines that will sit you out on the tarmac waiting for a slot.

More congestion is a direct factor of flight delays and canceled flights. The reforms in this bill will provide more on-time departures and arrivals and less canceled flights.

This bill is for the average flier. It doesn't matter which airline you take, we ought to have an air traffic control system that serves them all with a GPS system that allows you to get from point A to point B without the time delays.

This also has the Air Improvement Program fully funded, which actually

increases the Airport Improvement Program from \$3.3 billion to \$4 billion. It has the ability to upgrade our airports.

Mr. Speaker, I also served my country in the Air Force for 16 years. As a veteran, I know that national security comes first. The 21st Century AIRR Act does not jeopardize the interaction between the Department of Defense and air traffic control; in fact, it strengthens it. The Federal Government retains exclusive sovereignty and control of the airspace, and the President maintains critical authority to assume control of the airspace during emergencies in times of war.

The time to bring up the bill, H.R. 3997, the 21st Century AIRR Act, is now. The public has waited way too long. We have been bypassed by other countries. If we can identify it 30 years ago that we had World War II technology, we ought to recognize it today and stop passing these little pieces of paper back and forth through our air traffic control systems.

Let's upgrade our systems, let's create efficiencies, and let's get people moving across this country in an efficient manner where they are not sitting on tarmacs waiting for flight delays.

#### DEMAND ACTION FOR VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise, once again, to honor, mourn, and demand action for victims of gun violence.

On October 1, a gunman armed with semiautomatic weapons equipped with bump stocks fired hundreds of rounds in a matter of minutes at concert goers in my Las Vegas congressional district, killing 58 and injuring 489 others in attendance.

During my tenure in Congress, I have stood for too many moments of silence on this House floor to remember lives lost to senseless gun violence.

Many of my colleagues and I know all too well about the senseless loss of life in our streets, movie theaters, schools, and, now, concert venues. We have pleaded, we have watched, we have mourned as more and more victims suffer, and we have seen nothing from congressional Republicans.

This just can't go on. We can't ignore the lives lost due to gun violence in my district or in any other for any longer, and if we don't act soon, we will just be here doing it again.

So I want to call the names, say the names, remember the names of the 58 casualties who lost their lives in my district. Let us honor their memory, and let these 58 names give the Republicans 58 more reasons why we must take action now.

Hannah Ahlers; Heather Alvarado; Dorene Anderson; Carrie Barnette; Jack Beaton; Steve Berger; Candice Bowers; Denise Burditus; Sandy Casey;

Andrea Castilla; Denise Cohen; Austin Davis; Thomas Day, Jr.; Christiana Duarte; Stacey Etcheber; Brian Fraser; Kerri Galvan; Dana Gardner; Angela Gomez; Rocio Guillen Rocha; Charleston Hartfield, a police officer off duty; Chris Hazencomb; Jennifer Topaz Irvine; Teresa Nicol Kimura; Jessica Klymchuk; Carly Kreibaum; Rhonda LeRocque; Victor Link; Jordan McIlldoon; Kelsey Meadows; Calla-Marie Medig; James "Sonny" Melton; Patricia Mestas; Austin Meyer; Adrian Murfitt; Rachael Parker; Jenny Parks; Carrie Parsons; Lisa Patterson; John Chippen; Melissa Ramirez; Jordyn Rivera; Quinton Robbins; Cameron Robinson; Tara Roe; Lisa Romero-Muniz; Chris Roybal; Brett Schwanbeck; Bailey Schweitzer; Laura Shipp; Erick Silva; Susan Smith; Brennan Stewart; Derrick "Bo" Taylor; Neysa Tonks; Michelle Vo; Kurt von Tillow; and Bill Wolfe.

These are the 58 people who lost their lives from gun violence in my district in Nevada; 58 more reasons why we shouldn't stand silent, but we need to take action now.

□ 1015

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION'S AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS CENTER

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the critical and lifesaving work being done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Aircraft Operations Center.

On September 23, I had a front row seat flying into the eye of Hurricane Maria as it headed toward Puerto Rico and the coastal United States. I rode through the hurricane aboard a NOAA P-3 Orion operated by the highly specialized workforce of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, civilian technicians, meteorologists from NOAA, and others, who have safely navigated these hurricanes for decades.

The P-3's instruments collect and transmit realtime weather data from storms far out to the sea back to the mainland. This data is critical for hurricane forecasters used by the American public and emergency managers.

Providing the most accurate forecasts of hurricane track and intensity, as early as possible, is the focus of these flights. Whether a strong hurricane directly hits a major U.S. city or weakens and spins out to sea with minimal impacts is a question that can impact billions of dollars and thousands of lives. These flights are vital to protect our Nation's lives and property.

In addition to the P-3 hurricane hunter I flew in, NOAA also has a G-IV jet that goes high above the storm. The

specialized instrumentation on NOAA hurricane aircraft provides critical storm data. The dual-channel tail doppler radars provide three-dimensional views of the storm.

These advanced technology tools make NOAA's fleet a critical resource to safeguard lives and property when hurricanes threaten our shores. There is no doubt that this has been a challenging hurricane season for the country, with Hurricane Harvey's flooding in Louisiana and Texas, Hurricane Irma impacting Florida, and Hurricane Maria devastating Puerto Rico. NOAA's aircraft have performed tirelessly throughout these events. Over a 4-week period, two NOAA hurricane aircraft flew over 300 hours and dropped over 500 weather probes into these storms.

After the hurricanes pass, NOAA's work is not done. NOAA's fleet of light aircraft perform poststorm damage assessments, taking high resolution images that enable limited emergency response resources to be delivered to the most critical areas.

NOAA's King Air aircraft emergency response efforts to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria have resulted in more than 1.7 billion requests for damage assessment images. In total, more than 65,000 images were collected, covering more than 24,000 square kilometers of impacted areas. Think about that. These images allow emergency managers and the general public to be able to flee quickly, to react quickly, and to assess quickly in these impacted areas.

NOAA's light survey aircraft also perform a diverse set of missions, including river and snow pack surveys essential for flood forecasts and water management; coastal mapping required for safe maritime navigation by commercial, military, and recreational sectors; and fisheries assessments.

NOAA's aircraft are responsive and flexible, able to deploy at a moment's notice in support of national disaster response. NOAA aircraft provided critical data and support on scene following the Deepwater Horizon event and over the skies of New York after Hurricane Sandy. NOAA aircraft provide data critical for public safety, economic, and national security.

The NOAA aircraft fleet, the NOAA Commissioned Corps, and NOAA civilians are an invaluable natural resource, and it is one that we have a duty to maintain. These crews and aircraft require regular updates, readiness training, and technology enhancements that directly benefit us and our country.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the President to ensure that NOAA aircraft fleet has all of the resources they need to safeguard lives and property for decades to come.

#### PUERTO RICO NEEDS HELP

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, imagine waking up with no lights, imagine waking up with no running water, you cannot bathe yourself, you cannot feed your children, you get so desperate that you break into chemically contaminated water, into untreated sewage water, you are on dialysis, Mr. Speaker, and there is still no electricity, or you are running out of medication and supplies in hospitals that are very low.

What I am describing to you, Mr. Speaker, is not a dream. It is a living nightmare, and it has been a living nightmare in Puerto Rico for over a month. For over 4 weeks, while we now begin to focus and speak about tax reform and how this Congress attempts to assist the 1 percent—the wealthiest, the well-heeled—with a handsome tax break, with the elimination of the estate tax, when we attempt to shelve, to forget, to turn our head on this nightmare unfolded in Puerto Rico, it continues to be a living nightmare.

That doesn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. Puerto Rico could lose funding also for thousands of low-income housing units if power to the island isn't restored soon. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, which subsidizes 203 housing projects on the island, is prohibited by law from providing Section 8 assistance to buildings that are not decent, safe, and sanitary.

Every day that Puerto Rico goes without resources, potable water, medication, and electricity, the situation becomes more dangerous and the death tolls continue to go up. This has now become, Mr. Speaker, our Caribbean Katrina.

The official death toll reported by the government increased today to 49 deaths, but many folks fear that it is much higher than that, after confirming a death due to leptospirosis. According to the CDC, leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals. Without treatment, this disease can lead to kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory distress, and even death. To date, the island has reported 76 possible cases of the disease. Investigative reporting from various sources have tallied up deaths to potentially north of 450 people. As of Friday, October 6, at least 14 people have committed suicide in Puerto Rico. They are traumatized and in distress. This is our Caribbean Katrina. A list of 113 people remain missing after Maria's passage.

I was just in Puerto Rico for the second time this past week with Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ. The Congressman and I helped distribute supplies and necessities to Comerio, a small town in a remote part of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico continues to need help. It needs to be woken up from this living nightmare. S.O.S. S.O.S. Get resources to them now. It is our Caribbean Katrina. Let's own it. Let's resolve it.

## OPIOID EPIDEMIC

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, the world is an ugly place right now. It seems that at every turn there is another crisis—another barrier to peace and prosperity, another obstacle to fight, or another cross to bear. More of our citizens, women, children, and grandkids are turning to something—anything—to mute the pain and create a false sense of peace. Society has been infected by drug addiction, a disease fueled by a loss of hope.

We see it on the news, we watch it online, we feel loss in our communities. This disease is killing our friends and neighbors. Last year alone, over 64,000 lives were lost. That is more casualties in a year than we saw during the height of the Vietnam war.

And this is a war, too—a war being fought in the streets and in our homes. And we are losing. Mothers, sons, daughters, and fathers are dying—from the cold streets of major cities to the quiet fields of rural America—we are all feeling the effects of the opioid crisis.

What can be done? That is a question I have asked countless law enforcement officials, doctors, nurses, addiction treatment professionals, and community leaders. There is no one solution to stopping the opioid epidemic in this country.

This is a man-made disaster. We must face it head on with education and awareness, addiction and recovery services, funding, prescription drug monitoring programs, and prevention. We need to prevent our loved ones from being dragged into the abyss of addiction and hopelessness.

According to the CDC, three out of four new heroin users report abusing prescription opioids before using heroin. There is an easy step each of us can take to help with prevention. We can get rid of our old opioid prescriptions at home. Why chance someone taking them? Why chance your loved one being a statistic?

This year alone, 153 individuals in St. Louis County have already died of an overdose. How many of them started with prescribed opioids? How many started by taking prescriptions from a parent or a family member? If we could have saved just one of these lives by throwing away old prescriptions, then isn't it worth it?

This Saturday, October 28, local law enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Agency will be set up all around the country and in our neighborhoods for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. They are providing safe and easy locations for you to throw away unused prescription drugs.

I have no idea how many people can, and will, be saved by this one simple act. But multiply this one act times thousands, and now we are getting something done. Mr. Speaker, this is an epidemic this Nation has never seen. This is a disease of our own making.

This week, there is something we all can do. Think about your household. Go into your hidden cupboards and see if you have old prescriptions. I bet you do. Take them. Find your nearest drug take back location and throw them away.

We need to restore hope in this fight, and it won't happen overnight. It will take work, prayer, patience, and vigilance. Hope can be restored. If and when we band together to fight this epidemic, it will happen.

So let's restore a little hope this week. Let's all join the fight to end the opioid epidemic.

□ 1030

## THE WHITEFISH ENERGY DEAL

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, there is something fishy about the Whitefish Energy deal that was reported in *The Washington Post*.

Whitefish Energy, based in Whitefish, Montana, was awarded a \$300 million contract to repair and replace the electrical grid in Puerto Rico. We learned that the company is 2 years old and, as of about 6 weeks ago, had just two employees. It does not have a track record of working on massive projects, certainly not one as massive as rebuilding the power grid in Puerto Rico after a once-in-a-century storm like Hurricane Maria.

The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority did not solicit bids for this contract. They did not do what most power utilities do under these circumstances, which is rely on mutual assistant relationships with other power companies.

In Florida and in Texas—and in Illinois, for that matter—after a big storm, power companies from around the country send linemen and other workers to assist the local company. But that is not happening here. The Florida Power and Light Company brought in 20,000 workers after Irma and, apparently, was willing to send workers to Puerto Rico and help, but the request for help never came.

So what is going on here?

A tiny company that does not have a track record gets one of the biggest contracts to help rebuild Puerto Rico in a no-bid, out-of-the-ordinary contracting procedure.

That is why I wrote yesterday to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and FBI Director Christopher Wray, because I want them to investigate this deal, how it was awarded, why this company got the contract, and whether there is any evidence of it being a sweetheart, corrupt deal to boost business allies and political allies of the President and members of his Cabinet.

I also plan to bring this issue up to the Oversight Committees in this body.

On the surface, the Whitefish Energy deal looks fishy, but when you look a little deeper, the Whitefish Energy deal looks corrupt.

Whitefish Energy is based in Whitefish, Montana. Guess what. That is the hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who used to represent Montana in this body. His son even worked for the company. The chief executive of Whitefish Energy, Andy Techmanski, knows Secretary Zinke; but as a spokesperson for the Interior Department said yesterday, in Whitefish, "everybody knows everybody."

Guess what. That doesn't make me feel any better about the deal.

Go a little deeper and you find out that Whitefish Energy is financed by HBC Investments, which is a private equity firm founded by Joe Colonnetta, who holds the title of general partner.

The *Daily Beast* reported that Colonnetta gave \$20,000 to the Trump Victory PAC, maxed out on contributions to Trump for his Presidential campaign in the primaries and general elections, about \$32,000, then another \$30,000 that he gave to the Republican National Committee. Kimberly Colonnetta, his wife, was also a maximum donor, meaning she gave the maximum allowed by law during the 2016 election to Trump and his various committees.

Now, please look here, and the pictures are right off the Internet. They certainly add additional evidence to the idea that Whitefish and the Colonnettas are pretty chummy with our President and his Cabinet. Right here is Mr. Colonnetta with the President of the United States, the two Colonnettas at the inauguration, and a picture of Mrs. Colonnetta with Ben Carson, one of the President's Cabinet members.

Don't forget, all you kids out there watching at home on C-SPAN, what you post on Facebook stays there forever.

Now, I know that not everything that looks corruption is in fact corruption. Sometimes what looks fishy on the surface turns out to be legit, but most of the time, you know what, it turns out to be corruption.

The reason this matters so much is that, without electricity, we can't get water restored to the people of Puerto Rico. Water doesn't flow uphill without pumps, and those pumps need power. You cannot live without water; you die. Dialysis machines, electrical wheelchairs, refrigeration for baby formula, insulin for diabetics, chemotherapy for those with cancer all require electricity. It is a matter of life and death.

I was just there and saw the suffering of the people in the villages and towns across the island of Puerto Rico. Without electricity, we cannot get Puerto Ricans back to work rebuilding their island and beginning to end the suffering.

Look, the last thing we and the people of Puerto Rico need right now is a fat cat lining his pockets with money because they are well connected.

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. That money should be saving lives, not ending them.

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. That is why I demand the FBI and the Attorney General investigate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

#### INNOVATIVE APPRENTICESHIPS

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the PARTNERS Act, legislation I am introducing this morning with my friend, Representative BONAMICI from Oregon.

Our bill would establish a grant program to support the creation and expansion of innovative apprenticeships that prepare our workers for 21st century careers.

In the Third District of Georgia, the CEC in Newnan has led Georgia by implementing an apprenticeship model, and since then, we have seen apprenticeships continue to expand across our great State.

I, along with Ms. BONAMICI, are introducing the PARTNERS Act today to bring more programs like this to students and workers across the Nation.

By funding this grant with already existing H1-B visa fees, which are collected from foreign visa applicants, we are ensuring that workers can receive immediate work-based training at no cost to the American taxpayer.

#### APPRENTICESHIPS AND WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be on the floor this morning to introduce bipartisan legislation with my colleague on the Education and Workforce Committee, Congressman DREW FERGUSON from Georgia.

Our bill, Promoting Apprenticeships Through Regional Training Networks for Employers' Required Skills Act, or PARTNERS Act, will help close the skills gap by increasing opportunities for small- and medium-sized businesses to establish apprenticeships and work-based learning programs.

When I visit communities in northwest Oregon, I hear from many Oregonians who still feel left behind because they don't have the skills they need to compete in today's economy. They are not alone. Many jobs today do not require a 4-year degree, but do require more than a high school diploma. In fact, those jobs make up about 53 percent of today's labor market, but only 43 percent of today's workers are trained at this level.

This creates a skills gap, leaving businesses struggling to find workers

with appropriate skills, and workers without meaningful pathways to better paying jobs.

I hear from employers and workforce organizations about the importance of a qualified workforce. They want to identify new opportunities to strengthen skills training.

Apprenticeships and work-based learning programs are a win-win. They provide individuals with paid, on-the-job training and classroom instruction. Employers can align training with the skills they need at their workplaces, and workers can learn while they earn.

Unfortunately, small- and medium-sized businesses often lack the infrastructure and resources to establish apprenticeships or work-based learning programs on their own. So the PARTNERS Act addresses this by establishing a grant program to support the creation and expansion of industry and sector partnerships that will help small- and medium-sized businesses develop work-based learning programs and provide support programs for workers.

Industry and sector partnerships will bring together employers, education, training, labor, and community-based organizations to develop work-based learning programs that benefit workers and the economy as a whole.

In Oregon, these partnerships could address, for example, workforce development needs in rapidly growing sectors like healthcare and technology.

Under the PARTNERS Act, the partnerships would use grant funds to recruit workers, develop training curriculum, and provide workers with access to tools, work attire, transportation, childcare services, and mentorship support. These support services help businesses retain employees and help workers balance caring for and providing for their families.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, this bill results in no additional cost to taxpayers because it authorizes the use of 50 percent of the funds deposited in the H1-B nonimmigrant petition account, and these will be used by the Department of Labor for the partnership grants. This funding source was suggested by the administration in a June 2017 executive order on apprenticeships.

Through stronger investments and work-based learning programs, we can build pathways to get more people back to work, to provide our Nation's businesses with the workforce that will improve productivity and efficiency.

I thank Mr. FERGUSON for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan legislation that will help people in our districts across the country access good jobs.

#### TAX REFORM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today we will begin a journey that has

been represented to be a lifeline for the American people in long awaited tax reform.

Sad to say that this is not a bipartisan bill. In addition, it is a bill that will cause a great deal of challenge to the American people.

For example, in moving firms across the ocean, overseas, the American people should know that those companies, in the construct of this bill, will cause them to be exempt from taxes forever.

In a discussion this morning, I heard that it will not boost the economy. The American people should know that it will destroy, undermine, crush the economy.

The representation of the level of growth is a misnomer. Take, for example, in 1986, in the tax reform, there was no surge in job creation after the Reagan tax cuts. There was no high numbers of blossoming jobs. Many in my congressional district need jobs.

It will be borrowing from the future and it will be a burden on our children, our children's children, and their children. But the most devastating part is the bill that we will be paying, the actual dollars to pay down the deficit.

Of course, it should be known that we have examples that no jobs will be created. In 2004, for example, when there was a repatriation from companies regarding their taxes, there was no creation of jobs that we can even recognize. Most of the money went for stock buybacks.

Now, I know that sounds completely technical, but let me be very clear. The question has to be: What will the middle class working families get?

I can assure you, it will be close to zero.

There are 2 million households, for example, in the State of Texas that will be impacted by not allowing the exemption of State and local taxes. We don't know whether mortgage deductions will be allowed, charitable tax credits. So if you have in some way been deducting, for example, those State and local taxes, you will not be able to do them anymore. That will be a great burden on the working families of America.

So my caution to the business community as well as the small businesses, families: Be very careful what you buy into. We will have discussions to provide you with that detailed analysis. The key is a distribution table. What and whom will get the most money.

As the bill is presently written, middle class working families, don't look for relief in the Ryan-McConnell tax bill. It will all go to the top 1 percent. They will relish while, you might not be jealous, but you will certainly be poorer for it.

#### OPIOID CRISIS

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to also entertain the questions about the pending opioid announcement of this White House. I want to bring to the attention the article in The New Yorker on the empire of pain.

I am working on these issues, but I realize that this has to be a comprehensive approach to opioid abuse.

The Purdue company launched OxyContin with a marketing campaign that attempted to counter this attitude and change the prescribing habits of doctors.

□ 1045

Many people know OxyContin. The company funded research and paid doctors to make the case that concerns about opioid addiction were overblown and that OxyContin would safely treat an ever-wider range of maladies. Sales representatives marketed OxyContin as a product to start with and to stay with. Remember that. A product to start with and to stay with.

Millions of patients found the drug to be a vital salve for excruciating pain, but many others grew so hooked on it, that between doses they experienced debilitating withdrawal.

If we are going to do real opioid reform, this must be a standup of the pharmaceutical companies, and they cannot be defended.

In addition, we have to understand that those languishing in jail that have suffered from criminal penalties for crack cocaine—crack—there now should be a compromise for their release. Opioid reform must include all of the neighborhoods of America, not just some.

#### JENNIFER KEPNER WAS MOST COURAGEOUS AND INSPIRING

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of a wonderful person, an incredible wife, loving mother, exceptional citizen, and one of our Nation's finest servicemembers, Jennifer Kepner.

Jennifer passed away on October 18, 2017, at the young age of 39. She lived in my congressional district in Cathedral City, California. My heart breaks for her family and loved ones. She is, by far, one of the most courageous and inspiring people I have ever met. She put family, country, and community before self.

At 23, Jennifer answered the call to serve our Nation as a medic and a staff sergeant in the United States Air Force. She served for 6 years, from 2001 to 2007, and helped save countless lives on the battlefield.

After being honorably discharged at the rank of staff sergeant, Jenn continued her life of service, helping patients in our local communities as a radiology technician at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

She led a healthy and full life in so many ways. Her many hobbies included CrossFit, hiking, camping with her family, quilting, and even painting.

All who met her remember her love of country, her determined spirit, her passion for serving others, and her devotion to family.

Despite her healthy lifestyle and no other risks, in 2016, Jennifer was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, a terrifying diagnosis for anyone, let alone a young mother.

After exhaustive work to investigate the potential causes of her cancer, her oncologist linked Jennifer's exposure to burn pits in Iraq as the only identifiable and plausible risk for her cancer.

Burn pits are commonly used by the military to eliminate waste in Iraq and Afghanistan. The large burn pit at Balad Air Base in Iraq, where Jennifer was stationed for 6 months in 2006, covered 10 acres and burned over 240 tons of trash each day, including everything from computer parts, medical waste, plastics, and chemicals; some items we wouldn't allow to be burned in open air in our neighborhoods here in the United States. Yet, in a crowded camp of thousands, our men and women in uniform are exposed to giant plumes of black smoke.

After learning of the potential link between her exposure while she served our great Nation and her cancer, she went to the VA seeking answers and help. After being denied medical assistance and benefits from the VA initially, Jennifer reached out to the advocacy group Burn Pits 360 and my office.

Along with others, and as a team, we helped her navigate the complicated VA process, cut through the red tape, and get her the benefits that she had earned.

I visited Jennifer at her home. During our kitchen table talk, she told me about her daily struggle raising two small children while battling pancreatic cancer. She was brave and had an optimistic attitude.

She told me what it was like living every day in Iraq right next to the burn pits—the smoke, the smell, the irritated cough, and the sickness that followed.

Her main concern was to ensure her husband and children were going to be okay after she passed. Her second concern was for her fellow veterans who, like her, were exposed to burn pits. She wanted to bring awareness to what she called “the Agent Orange of our generation.” Imagine that. During the toughest battle of her life against an aggressive cancer, she elevated her family and fellow veterans above herself. Her advocacy was for us to prevent future exposure to burn pits and serve veterans who have already been exposed.

That is why we are here, to honor Jennifer and fight for her, her family, and fellow veterans. We must find a solution. Unfortunately, it is too late for Jennifer, but we can fight in her honor.

I was there with Jenn; her husband, Ben; children, Aida and Wyatt, at her bedside hours before she passed away, and I am honored to call Ben my friend.

On behalf of my wife, Monica, the 36th Congressional District, and our entire Nation, we join together as a

community to grieve with you, Ben, little Aida and Wyatt, and to honor your wife, your mother, and the life of Jennifer Kepner. We are awed and humbled by Jennifer's life of patriotism and service, and her life and her love of family.

Jennifer, we thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer's memory will never be forgotten.

#### A CIRCUIT BREAKER IS NEEDED FOR PROPOSED TAX CUTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the exercise my Republican friends are going through with their budget and tax cut proposal would be amusing if the consequences were not so serious.

Coming to Congress, I worked hard to earn a position on the House Ways and Means Committee, which has been the focal point for critical decisions in the past dealing with tax reform, with Social Security. I respected its historic role and the way that its members worked together in a thoughtful and bipartisan basis.

Unfortunately, unlike what has happened for other major tax reform efforts, currently there has been no effort for laying the groundwork, working with people in both parties, dealing with the hard decisions that are necessary for tax reform that will move our country forward. My Republican friends refuse to deal with the heavy legislative lifting necessary for true reform.

In fact, my Republican friends now have given up on tax reform. They are rushing through, in a matter of days, not reform but as big a tax cut as they can possibly get, predicated on strong-arming their Members with narrow control in Congress and disregarding the fundamentals of responsible budgeting.

The budget resolution that the House will soon be considering by the Republicans to enact their tax cut via the process known as reconciliation is a fantasy. Read it carefully. It is predicated on increasing our national debt \$1.5 trillion, when previously they promised that their tax reform would be budget neutral.

It is predicated on \$4 trillion of unspecified budget cuts that will be concentrated on Medicare, Medicaid, and the other programs that Americans care the most deeply about.

The proof for this fantasy is the fact that even though Republicans have an ironclad grip on the appropriations process in both the House and the Senate and they don't have to worry about filibusters, they don't need any Democratic votes at all, but they still cannot summon the courage of their convictions to implement the beginning of this strategy.

It doesn't have to wait for 2 or 4 or 10 years. They could start now with the

budget cutting that they are relying upon for this fantasy budget, but they know that the American people won't stand for it and their own Members wouldn't vote for those cuts now even though there is nothing stopping them.

That is why it is absolutely essential that, even if they are modestly successful with this reckless agenda, that we take steps to prevent the resulting fiscal train wreck, because we have seen deficits explode in the past where rosy projections about economic growth and stern budget cuts fail to materialize.

The landmark 1986 tax reform legislation, the last time we had real tax reform, by the way, predicated on bipartisan cooperation and a lot of hard work, had no discernible impact on economic growth, even though it was, in fact, worth it.

As a result, I will be offering stand-alone legislation and amendments in the Ways and Means Committee to establish a circuit breaker that will suspend the tax cuts if the rosy projections fail to materialize. If deficits explode and budgets are not cut according to their plan, then the American people should be spared the economic chaos by calling a timeout and rolling back these reckless proposals, allowing us to catch our breath and hopefully develop better policy based on bipartisanship and facts, not fantasy.

America deserves a far-better vision than the Republican budget fantasy and the reckless tax cuts that they are pushing so hard to enact. At a minimum, we should have a circuit breaker to stop it if they can't follow through on their promises.

#### AMRO FABRICATING CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of AMRO Fabricating Corporation, whose Riverside manufacturing facility is adjacent to the March Air Reserve Base in my district.

AMRO is a small business manufacturer that plays an important role in supporting NASA, the Department of Defense, and our community.

Under the guidance of CEO Michael E. Riley, the grandson of founders Michael K. and Thora A. Riley, this family company is helping to develop a strong and skilled workforce in southern California.

AMRO is partnering with the State and Federal Government on projects that place high school and college students in internships and apprenticeships, which prepare them for a successful future and support our local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the AMRO team on this milestone, and I am proud to represent this terrific small business that is doing such great work for our community and for our Nation.

#### THE BIG BANKS ARE MAKING BIG BUCKS

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am honored to stand in the well of the Congress of the United States of America, although I am sad to bring the news that I shall share with you.

I am saddened by something that has happened in this Congress. The big banks are making big bucks. They are doing very well, and they just received a big bonus from Congress.

The big bonus is this: if you do business with them, you will have to participate in arbitration, and you won't be allowed to sue them to resolve your dispute by way of litigation. Congress has decided that the big banks making the big bucks can force you to go to arbitration, and you will have to pay a fee to negotiate your way through the arbitration process. I think that there is something wrong with this picture.

There is something wrong with this picture when we realize that one bank—and I will just single one out, I won't go through all of the entirety of the industry, but one bank, Wells Fargo, one bank, opened 3.5 million accounts in the names of persons without their consent. In the names of customers, 3.5 million accounts without the consent of customers.

□ 1100

This one bank, Wells Fargo, paid \$185 million as a part of the resolution. This one bank, Wells Fargo, paid \$80 million for enrolling customers into auto insurance that they didn't need. One bank, Wells Fargo, paid \$2.8 million in refunds to customers. One bank, Wells Fargo, in 2012, illegally foreclosed on servicemembers' homes and autos—one bank, Wells Fargo—and for this, they paid \$311 million. This was about \$125,000 per servicemember.

So we find ourselves in a circumstance where banks that do these ugly things to customers won't have to go to court. They won't have to face a jury. They will simply require the customer to negotiate with them. I find this quite shocking, to be quite frank with you, and I am very saddened by it, because I know that, if you take from the bank, you will go to court. But, apparently, Congress has concluded that, if the bank takes from you, you go to the bank and negotiate.

It is a sad state of affairs.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Christopher Girata, Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of this life and ask Your blessing upon the world You have made. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance that we may use our liberty in accordance with Your gracious will. Guide all who govern and hold authority in this Nation, and kindle in every heart that true love of peace.

Make our lives a sign of Your love to this broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness, heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all Your children are united one to another, may be so transformed by Your grace that Your will may be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

All this, we ask in the name of God, our creator, redeemer, and sustainer.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PITTEMBER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING REVEREND DR.  
CHRISTOPHER D. GIRATA

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my true honor to introduce and recognize our guest chaplain today, Father Chris Girata. I am honored because he is my rector, the rector of Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas, where my family and I have worshipped for over 20 years.

Although he has been our rector for only a little over a year, Father Girata has brought a renewed spirituality and passion to our parish. His enthusiasm for God's Word and will is infectious to us all. His sense of humor always brightens our day, and he leads by example.

As one parishioner put it, Mr. Speaker: "He is a true voice for the powerless and poor and is constantly challenging us to even better walk as Christ did." And whether it is through our service at the Jubilee Park and Community Center in South Dallas, the millions in charity provided through the St. Michael's Woman's Exchange, or any of the other ministries or outreach projects of our parish, under Father Chris Girata, Saint Michael is more humbly and effectively serving God's children.

And as we do, Father Girata leads us not to just serve our neighbors' physical needs, but to serve their spiritual needs as well. I am grateful that his prayer and his example could be shared with the House today.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2017.

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 October 25, 2017, at 9:07 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 226.

That the Senate passed S. 1766.

That the Senate concur in the House of Representatives amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2266.

That the Senate agree to without amendment H.J. Res. 111.

Appointments:

United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

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

#### LIBERATION OF MARAWI, PHILIPPINES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, radical Islamic terrorists continue their assault on innocent victims across the world.

This month, there were ISIS-inspired knife attacks in France and Canada, as well as the surprise attack in Niger, with mass murders of worshippers at mosques in Kabul.

Gratefully, there are victories over the terrorists, such as the recent liberation of Raqqa, Syria, and now in the Philippines.

Congratulations to the people of the Philippines, successfully led by President Rodrigo Duterte and their courageous military, on the recent liberation of Marawi from ISIS militants.

Marawi is the capital city of over 200,000 citizens in the province of Lanao del Sur on the island of Mindanao, which has been under ISIS control since the end of May. Innocent families were persecuted in this murderous occupation.

While liberating Marawi from ISIS control is a milestone in combatting global terrorism, this fight is far from finished. We must be successful to defeat the terrorists overseas to protect American families at home.

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

#### URGE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF THE DREAM ACT

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the immediate passage of the Dream Act to bring certainty to the more than 10,000 DREAMers in Oregon and DREAMers across the country.

I have met with DREAMers in my State of Oregon, and tearing them away from their lives would be a tremendous loss for our communities. DREAMers like Daniel, a dedicated second grade teacher, DACA allowed him to come out of the shadows and give back to his community.

But with President Trump ending DACA, Daniel is rightly anxious about his future. He worries about the effect on his students if he is forced to leave abruptly in the middle of the school year.

When we threaten DREAMers, we put their futures at risk, but we also risk

harming the many people who rely on them, like Daniel's students.

Mr. Speaker, we must work together and pass the Dream Act immediately. We just pledged, "with liberty and justice for all." Let's bring justice to the DREAMers and pass the Dream Act.

#### PREVENTING TAX-FREE BONDS FROM GOING TO ABORTION PRO- VIDERS

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the No Abortion Bonds Act, to end Federal tax-exempt bonds that support abortion providers.

Under a loophole in the current law, cities, counties, and States can issue Federal tax-free bonds to finance construction of abortion clinics.

In 2012, the New York City government issued a tax-free \$15 million bond for a \$30 million renovation of Planned Parenthood's national headquarters, which was subsequently sold 3 years later for \$60 million. In 2007, Sarasota County, Florida, floated an \$8 million tax-free bond to pay for a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.

These tax-free bonds are intended to finance schools, hospitals, infrastructure—not abortion clinics.

The No Abortion Bonds Act has over 30 bipartisan cosponsors and is endorsed by Americans United for Life, Susan B. Anthony List, National Right to Life, March for Life, the Family Policy Alliance, and the Eagle Forum.

Please join me today in applying the spirit of the Hyde amendment to the Tax Code by preventing tax-free bonds from going to abortion providers.

#### MEDICARE BUY-IN OPTION

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is the best public option that already exists to improve the Affordable Care Act and to provide immediate relief to Americans on the individual market.

Next week, the Nation's State insurance commissioners will make public insurers' price gouging increases for next year, including a 60 percent increase in Georgia, a 50 percent increase in Florida, and the remaining States up to a 50 percent 1-year increase.

A Medicare buy-in option for younger Americans is the only hedge against these price spikes that every American will look to Congress for relief from. Congress has been negligent in their 7-year near obsession with repeal and replace. You can no longer blame ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of Congress to support the Medicare Buy-in and Healthcare Stabilization Act and Medicare X legislation. It is time to unleash the market power of Medicare to lower costs, improve quality,



and push back on private insurers' aggressive pricing.

#### HONORING DONALD GILLEN, CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of one of my constituents, Donald Gillen, who is in Washington, D.C., today to receive the Congressional Gold Medal for his service to our Nation during World War II.

Donald joined the Army on July 26, 1945. He was stationed at Camp O'Donnell in the Philippines from November 1946 through June 1947. As part of the 12th Philippine Scout Division, he became a company commander in the 57th Infantry Regiment.

Donald moved to Belleville, Illinois, with his college sweetheart, Marilyn, to be close to his family, including four grandchildren. Now he is a guest staffer for the Belleville News-Democrat and supports his wife's singing in their church choir.

I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Donald to our Nation's Capitol and thanking him for his service. We are forever grateful.

#### RECOGNITION OF LOS BANOS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and the women of the Los Banos Police Department as Heroes and Heroines of the Month for California's 16th Congressional District, part of the people whom I have the honor and pride to represent.

These men and women tirelessly serve our community and truly are remarkable in embodying their motto: Pride in Service, Integrity in Action—Pride in Service, Integrity in Action.

But the pursuit of excellence is not without cost. We know that they risk their lives every day on a 24/7 basis.

Earlier this summer, two Los Banos police officers, Kristifer Hew and Aaron Pinon, were shot in the line of duty. I am happy to report that both officers are making spirited recoveries, but the risk police officers face every day to keep us safe cannot be overstated. So we salute them and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Los Banos Police Department Heroes and Heroines of the Month for California's 16th Congressional District, as well as recognizing all of America's law enforcement officers. We can never ever thank them enough for their dedicated service as they protect all of America throughout our Nation.

#### NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join 1.3 million fellow Mainers in celebrating National Forest Products Week.

Mr. Speaker, our great State is 90 percent covered by healthy, sustainable forests which support more than 30,000 good-paying jobs. Now, nationally, our working forests support 930,000 hardworking Americans who manage the forests, who harvest the trees, and who transport the wood to paper mills and energy plants across our great Nation.

Every day, products like paper and lumber and pet food bags and toothpicks and pencils make our lives better. And the best part, Mr. Speaker, is that these trees grow back after we cut them, so this entire green, sustainable industry creates good-paying jobs generation after generation.

Now, Democrats and Republicans must do everything humanly possible to help make sure our forest products industry is healthy and thrives. And to that end, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everybody in this Chamber to make sure that we continue to treat biomass fairly in our regulations, make sure biomass is carbon neutral. This will avoid unnecessary and costly regulations being imposed on our mills, factories, and energy plants.

□ 1215

#### HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are one week away from the open enrollment period—an opportunity for Americans to purchase health insurance for 2018.

President Trump ended the cost sharing reduction—the CSR—payments, which reduce out-of-pocket costs for low-income working families.

A Congressional Budget Office analysis says ending these payments would likely increase premiums by 20 percent next year and by 25 percent by 2020.

In the Senate, there is a bipartisan agreement, led by Senators ALEXANDER and MURRAY, to stabilize the marketplaces by funding the CSR payments and increase resources for open enrollment outreach.

Last night, unfortunately, a couple of the Members in the majority added partisan objectives to the bill, cutting mandates, which will keep costs low, and adding anti-abortion restrictions to CSR payments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the majority to drop the poison pills and work with Democrats to bring the Alexander-Murray bill to the floor as soon as possible

to stabilize markets and lower costs for American families. The failure to fix the health reform will cause millions of Americans to lose healthcare, and, that is, “No Care TrumpCare.”

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUNBELT AG EXPO

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition.

Last week, I had the pleasure in attending the expo with a few of my colleagues. Known as North America's Premier Farm Show, this annual event in Moultrie, Georgia, attracts visitors from across the Nation to showcase farming technology, research, and equipment. More than 1,200 exhibitors participated to display the latest and greatest agricultural technology and innovation.

Agriculture is the largest and oldest industry in the State of Georgia, and it is only fitting that an event that celebrates and encourages the success of agriculture be held in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District.

American agriculture depends on strong and tireless advocates, and I commend the participants for creating an opportunity to educate the public on the importance of strengthening our farmers.

As the world's agricultural leader, the expo recognizes the tireless work of American farmers and their role in providing a safe and affordable food supply. I could not be more delighted to stand here today and honor a truly spectacular event and look forward to its continued success.

#### CONGRATULATING REVEREND DR. JONATHAN L. WEAVER

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Reverend Dr. Jonathan L. Weaver on his 30th pastoral anniversary.

As the pastor of the Greater Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was founded 140 years ago, Reverend Weaver provides outstanding spiritual leadership in Maryland's Fourth Congressional District and the entire region.

Pastor Weaver has a deep and active faith, and lives that faith not just with words, but with deeds. He has committed his life to lifting up people—to feeding the hungry and caring for the poor, comforting the afflicted and making peace—where there is strife. He has overseen not only the church's growth, but the charitable works of more than 50 ministries that serve its members and the wider community.

Pastor Weaver has led missions to Africa, serves as national president of a 500-church ecumenical association, and board chairman of the oldest and largest African-American community bank in the national capital region.

Mr. Speaker, as Reverend Weaver continues his service to our community, I am confident that he will continue “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.”

#### SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Forbes magazine recently discovered something many of us have known for a long time, which is that Sparta, North Carolina, is a wonderful place to live and work.

Sparta, located in Alleghany County, is a wonderful community made up of people with vision, strong work ethic, big hearts, and dreams.

Forbes encouraged young entrepreneurs to move to seven locations around the country—and, in particular, to Sparta—for the high-speed fiber internet and relatively low cost of living. This would allow innovators and job creators to live affordably and work globally.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great reason to move to Sparta, but it is not the only reason. I urge entrepreneurs and families to live in Sparta for the wonderful quality of life, sense of community, and incredible heart that makes this town a wonderful place to call home.

#### BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with millions of middle class Americans, to oppose the Republican budget resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support tax reform. Unfortunately, this budget resolution is a partisan tax reform package. I support tax reform, which will help lower taxes for low-income Americans, I support tax reform that will rebuild our middle class, and I support tax reform that simplifies the Tax Code for small businesses. I will not support a tax plan that disproportionately gives advantages to the rich.

But, Mr. Speaker, this tax plan will raise our deficit by \$2.4 trillion over the next decade. Mr. Speaker, this tax plan will take away critical dollars from an infrastructure bill that our Nation so desperately needs.

We still have time. Let's work together to do what is right for all Americans. Let's work together and do what is right for our country.

#### RECOGNIZING ANTHONY SMITH

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, I had the privilege of presenting a Purple Heart to Mr. Anthony Smith of Warsaw, Illinois, in my congressional district.

During the Vietnam war, Anthony served in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. In 1968, on a particular bad day for our troops, Anthony was able to single-handedly take out several enemy machine gun units, protecting his fellow soldiers from harm and death.

Anthony's bravery on that day was rewarded with a Bronze Star with Valor, and with a Purple Heart, although he was not given a physical Purple Heart medal at the time. Almost 50 years later, our office worked to help correct this, and it was one of the highest honors of my time in office to present Anthony Smith with this well-deserved medal in front of a crowd of his friends and family in Warsaw last Tuesday, October 17.

I want to thank Anthony Smith for his bravery and service to our country, his dedication and commitment to our military, and to the entire Warsaw community for coming out to support this true American hero. We are indebted to his service, and we honor him today.

#### TRIBUTE TO GAIL KEMLER

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring woman in my district, Mrs. Gail Kemler. Gail is celebrating her 100th birthday this month on October 28.

Gail has lived in Rochester, Michigan, since 1931, and has been an integral part of the city—through her steadfast volunteerism with the Rochester Board of Education; Daughters of the American Revolution, Stoney Creek Chapter; Rochester-Avon Historical Society; Rochester Lions Club; and Questers Organization.

Gail's longest tenure as a volunteer was with the Rochester Area Neighborhood House, an organization that she has helped from its inception. She remained a dedicated volunteer with the organization for over 50 years.

An active supporter of the Rochester Community Schools, Gail also served as a room mother and scout leader, and was one of the original PTA founders. She has been a member of the First Congregational Church in Rochester for over 85 years, and has served on the building committee, pastoral search committee, and board of trustees.

Gail and her late husband, Donald Kemler, have four children, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have such a selfless, giving, and inspira-

tional woman in my district. Thank you, Mrs. Gail Kemler, for your service to the entire Rochester community, and happy 100th birthday.

#### RECOGNIZING BRUCE HARBACH

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the head coach of the Lancaster Catholic High School football team, Bruce Harbach, who has recently announced his retirement.

Coach Harbach has been coaching for a remarkable 41 years and has spent the last 16 years of that career leading the Crusaders. His accomplishments at Lancaster Catholic are too many to mention, but let me provide just a few highlights: two State championships, eight section championships, nine district playoff appearances, six district championship appearances, and a perfect 16-0 season in 2011.

In fact, I was glad to host Coach Harbach and the team at the Pennsylvania State Capitol following their State championships in 2009, and then again in 2011. Our coaches for our youth, it is not only about the scores and about their winning, but they are responsible as a role model—their players look up to them—and the most successful coaches also practice what they preach. We want our coaches to instill integrity in our kids and to show them the value of teamwork, commitment, and perseverance.

That is exactly what Coach Harbach has done for these many years. I know the Crusader community joins me in thanking Coach Harbach for his 16 years leading their team from the sidelines.

#### WILDFIRES IN THE WEST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the wildfires in the West have been very devastating for a lot of people, a lot of property, and a lot of habitat.

One of the subjects this week in the Natural Resources Committee was a sage-grouse habitat that has affected so many western States, including my own district in northern California, and my friend in Nevada as well. We worked very hard to have a good sage-grouse plan, except what is the common bond in all this and the inability to have a successful recovery of this species as well as use of the land? The Federal Government.

In the past, its involvement has been to merely slow down a process or say no to wise management practices. Cattle graze is a very effective tool, when prescribed correctly, to help make this habitat better and more sustainable long-term.

We need more cooperation, we need the Federal Government to be more

bold in putting out the type of policy that will help the grazing be an effective tool in that and not cover every time an environmental organization may come along and wish to threaten the entanglement of lawsuits that are stopping good management like that. It is hurting the habitat, it is hurting the sage-grouse population, it is hurting western lands, and western economy.

Mr. Speaker, we need solutions coming from Washington, D.C., not impediments.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 71, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 580 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Budget or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1230

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, it is budget day. I don't know if you were as excited about that when you got out of bed this morning as I was, but, to be fair, I sit on the Budget Committee.

I have the great honor of serving on the Rules Committee, and that is why I have the great honor of bringing this

rule to the floor today. But I serve on the Rules Committee by night. By day, I serve on the Budget Committee with my friend Mr. PASCRELL and others, and we have been working since January to produce a budget for the United States of America.

I have got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, we produced a whale of a budget coming out of the House Rules Committee. You remember that budget, you supported that budget. We did a fantastic collaborative job bringing that budget to the floor, and then it went to the United States Senate.

Now, you know how this happens, Mr. Speaker. We all grew up watching, "I am just a bill sitting here on Capitol Hill. Well, it is a long, long journey to the capital city, it is a long, long wait while I am sitting in committee." We all know the song from our childhood.

It is a long process to move a bill through, and nine times out of ten, it comes back differently from the United States Senate than the way we sent it over there.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity today by concurring with the Senate amendment, and if we pass this rule, that is what we will have an opportunity to do. If we pass this rule, we will have an opportunity to have the debate, concur in the Senate amendment, and bring a unified budget to the floor.

Now, what does that mean, Mr. Speaker?

We have already been working on appropriations bills this cycle, and for the uninitiated, that is the bulk of the Federal spending that goes on. All of the mandatory spending that you and I both know about, Mr. Speaker, Medicare, Social Security, those important income support programs on which so many Americans depend, that money is already going out the door.

So today what we have an opportunity to do in passing this budget is to create what they call reconciliation instructions, because contained inside this unified budget of which the House and the Senate agree are reconciliation instructions that allow us to bring what I believe will be the most comprehensive, fundamental reform of our Tax Code since Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan did it in 1986.

Since 1986, 4 decades ago, Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity today to do something that no other Congress has been able to do since I have been an adult, and I am excited about that opportunity.

Now, to be fair, we are going to have a lot of disagreement about how to get that done. That is not the debate we are having today. For any of my colleagues or anybody back home, Mr. Speaker, who is worried that right here in this debate on a Wednesday, we are going to sort out our entire Tax Code, fear not, fear not. That is not the debate we are having today.

The debate we are having today, Mr. Speaker, is will we or will we not take on the challenge of reforming our Tax Code. I believe that we will.

The debate that we are going to have today is will we or will we not confront the fact that America has one of the least competitive tax codes in the world, but Americans deserve one of the most competitive tax codes in the world.

The debate we are going to have today, Mr. Speaker, is not about the details of tax reform, but about the premise of can we do better for the American people or can we not.

I have the great benefit, Mr. Speaker, of not having to learn what I know about this Chamber from watching it on TV or reading it in the headlines. I consider myself very blessed to have the opportunity to serve among these men and women. If I just had to read about them in the headlines, I would have a very low opinion of them. I confess, I would have a low opinion. But because I get to work with these men and women, Mr. Speaker, I get to see the real commitment to their constituencies, the real commitment to their home States, the real desire to deliver on behalf of their constituencies and on behalf of the United States of America.

We may have a divisive debate today. We sometimes do. But my prediction here in hour one, Mr. Speaker, is that by the time we leave this floor, we are going to have an agreement to take on one of the challenges that no party has been able to take on since Democrats and Republicans came together in 1986 to get it done.

It is my great hope that we will use that model, that we will repeat that model, that we will improve upon that model, and that we will produce something that all of our constituency can be proud of. I know that America is hungry for tax reform, and I believe we can deliver it for them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this rule, support the underlying concurrence in the Senate amendment.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong opposition to this rule. Today, House Republicans are pushing a job-killing budget so they can use fast-track reconciliation procedures to steamroll through their billionaires-first tax plan.

Mr. Speaker, we are supposed to be the people's House. We ought to have the people's budget, a budget that helps the millions of Americans who sent us here to Congress, not a budget that helps only a few, the well-connected and the well-off.

I disagree with Mr. WOODALL. This is not a time to celebrate. This is a terrible budget. This budget will devastate America's investments in good

paying jobs, it threatens growing wages and the bedrock promise of a secure and healthy retirement. It makes cuts across the board that would hurt seniors, children, veterans, and the hardworking people across this country who are already struggling to get by.

Why are Republicans doing this?

Well, it is all in the name of fast-tracking the Ryan-McConnell tax plan, which explodes the deficit by \$1.5 trillion, and then provides multitrillion-dollar tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. We Democrats think this is a horrible idea.

What is particularly astonishing is the blatant hypocrisy of Republican leaders pushing this deficit-busting budget. Republicans are always telling us how much they care about the deficit, but when it comes to giving their beloved tax cuts to their billionaire friends, they suddenly develop a convenient case of amnesia. They say: What deficit? Don't worry. These tax breaks will pay for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, this is absurd. In this Republican-controlled Congress, we can now say with certainty that the deficit and debt no longer matter. All of the talk by Republicans, well, they didn't really mean it.

If Republicans really cared about the deficit, they would in no way imaginable bring up a bill, a budget that is as reckless as this to the floor. This kind of shows what they truly believe, where their values are, where their priorities are.

How many times have Republicans talked about the importance of a balanced budget?

The Speaker called for a deficit-neutral tax plan in his Better Way agenda. Well, I guess this debt-creating budget is the "Somewhat Less Better Way" plan.

Your budget chair took to Twitter just 2 weeks ago to chastise Senate Republicans for not pursuing a balanced budget, yet now she is fully in support of their budget, which adds \$1.5 trillion to the deficit with no way to pay for it.

Now, let me spell this out for my Republican friends. This is not a balanced budget. Clearly, Republicans desperately need a refresher on basic arithmetic.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely nothing balanced about hitting middle class families and millions of hardworking Americans with cuts while giving billionaires and corporations tax cuts they simply do not need. Billionaires aren't knocking down our door asking for more tax breaks. This is disgusting. This is shameful.

The Republican budget destroys middle class jobs by stealing hundreds of billions of dollars from investments in infrastructure, job training, advanced energy, and research and development. It devastates Medicare and Medicaid. It demands deep cuts to safety net programs like SNAP. I am talking about food for hungry children and hardworking families. It goes after college affordability. It makes college more

expensive for working families. It undercuts key supports for veterans and their families.

What is particularly offensive is that Republicans are using this terrible budget as a means of passing tax cuts for the wealthy as quickly as possible regardless of the consequences and without bipartisan support.

The tax reform framework supported by Republicans in Congress will raise taxes on the middle class and cut taxes for the wealthy. Under the Republican plan, the top 1 percent would receive 80 percent of all tax benefits. Let me repeat that. The top 1 percent would receive 80 percent of all tax benefits. Give me a break.

Those making more than \$900,000 a year would receive an average tax cut of more than \$200,000. Think about that. A person working full time in minimum wage makes \$290 a week before taxes. And under this plan, people who make over \$432 an hour, \$900,000 a year, would get a massive tax break. Corporations will receive a tax cut totaling \$2 trillion.

Who loses in this plan, Mr. Speaker?

According to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, one in three middle class taxpayers earning between \$50,000 and \$150,000 would actually receive a tax increase, and nearly half of middle class families with kids will see their taxes go up.

Can you believe that: raising taxes on the middle class to pay for tax cuts for billionaires and corporations?

This is insane.

To make matters worse, Republicans are planning to steamroll their tax plan through Congress. We are reading in the press that we might see actual text of their plan next week and maybe a markup and floor consideration a week or two after that.

Really? Don't you think we owe it to our constituents to have thoughtful, open debate on this legislation which will impact every single one of them?

I guess not.

Democrats agree that our tax system needs to be updated, to be more fair, and especially to be more fair to the middle class and to working families. We have always been willing to engage in real bipartisan tax reform, but the Republican tax framework is not tax reform. It is just one more GOP multi-trillion-dollar giveaway to the wealthiest at the expense of the middle class and working Americans.

In all my time in Congress, I have never seen a budget and a tax plan that harms so many just to benefit so few. I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule, to vote against this cruel Republican budget, and to oppose a tax plan that puts wealthy corporations and the top 1 percent ahead of hardworking middle class families.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to mention at the beginning that we

might be debating the details of the tax reform plan that does not exist today. I see that we are, in fact, going to do that.

There are a lot of studies out there on this tax reform plan that does not yet exist, but let me tell you that we can all agree that we have the single least-competitive Tax Code on the planet today. We can all agree that with the click of a mouse, a company can transfer its assets overseas and grow jobs there instead of growing jobs here.

Let us have the debate that we want to have about who should bear the burden of American taxation. That is a legitimate debate and we should have it. But let us not have the debate about whether foreign workers should benefit or American workers should benefit from American capital, because that answer should be clear in the hearts and minds of every single Member of this Chamber.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to go from worst to first. Now, I confess that I don't actually expect to get all the way to first. I will settle for getting up in the top five and getting out of the bottom five when it comes to being able to lead in this country. But I want to mention, Mr. Speaker, what I think is a source of frustration of constituencies on both sides of the aisle, and that is the us-against-them conversation that goes on day in and day out.

I looked at the chart my friend from Massachusetts brought down to the House floor. It happened to be in university colors of Georgia's red and black, but I can see that as a representative of all the hardworking families in my district, that chart didn't do anything to inspire me about the impact of tax reform going forward.

My friend quoted the Tax Policy Center. Now, The Wall Street Journal called the Tax Policy Center a shill for those groups that don't want to see any tax reform of any kind, but that is currently. The Tax Policy Center has been doing research for a long time. The research my friend from Massachusetts quoted was a study of a bill that does not yet exist. The research I am going to quote is of historical tax rates in this country.

What my friends at the Tax Policy Center said is that about 30 percent of Americans—one-third of Americans—pay no income taxes today; that the Tax Code, as it exists today, protects them from any tax liability at all.

Now, what we are proposing when we get into fundamental tax reform, Mr. Speaker, is to double the standard deduction. For those families that are already claiming the standard deduction, we are talking about doubling it. Now, the brackets are still in question, the details are still in question, but we are talking about doubling the number of folks who don't have to deal with the IRS at all.

Today, about 30 percent of American families don't pay any income taxes,

and that same 30 percent gets a refundable tax credit that rebates to them their entire Social Security and Medicare contribution that they make and the entire Social Security and welfare contribution that their employer makes on their behalf.

Now, these are not my numbers; these are the Tax Policy Center's numbers, that a full third of Americans aren't paying one penny in Federal income tax or Federal payroll tax of any kind.

□ 1245

Now, I am not here to debate the wisdom of that, Mr. Speaker. I am here to tell you that I don't know how much lower I can cut taxes in that group. I don't know how in the world I can lower the tax burden on folks who are not only paying no income taxes, but are having all of their payroll taxes rebated to them also.

Is this a group we should talk about, Mr. Speaker? Should we talk about folks who are grabbing onto the bottom rung of the economic ladder and struggling to climb to the top?

We should, and we do.

Should we talk about how it is that the entitlement system, the benefit system in this country, is trapping people at the bottom of the ladder and not allowing them to climb to the top?

We should.

I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that it would be misleading to the American public to suggest that this tax bill is focusing its attention in one direction instead of another direction. The fact simply is that I can't lower taxes any more at the bottom of the spectrum.

We are talking about lowering taxes on corporations. That doesn't inspire many people. I have that conversation regularly: ROB, what in the world are you doing lowering taxes on corporations?

I support the FairTax, and in the spirit of folks who are not particularly enthusiastic about tax reform, I am not in that camp. I am enthusiastic about tax reform. I just thought there was a better way. I couldn't get the votes to have my better way done.

My better way is the FairTax, and what I would say to you is corporations don't pay taxes. Corporations do not pay taxes. They collect taxes from their consumers in the form of higher prices, from their employees in the form of lower wages, or from their shareholders in the form of lower capital—lower capital returns.

Now, lest you think: ROB, you are just a conservative Republican from the Deep South. What do you know about this?

I will again quote the Tax Policy Center, which says that a full 20 percent of the corporate income tax burden falls on workers. Fair enough. If we want to argue about where the tax rates are going to end up and how the cuts are going to look and what the policies are going to be, let's have that debate.

Let us not mislead the American people into believing there is a free lunch anywhere in this Tax Code. We have an opportunity to move from worst to first, and every single American, regardless of their region, regardless of their politics, is going to benefit from that change. They benefited from it when Democrats and Republicans came together to do it in 1986, and they will benefit from it when we come together and get it done today, as I believe that we will. We must.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, boy, I don't even know where to begin after that.

My good friend, the gentleman from Georgia, made reference to the Tax Policy Center, and I have the report from the Tax Policy Center here. In fact, it is their analysis that was the basis for that chart that I held during my opening remarks, which said that the top 1 percent would receive 80 percent of the tax breaks based on the Republican framework.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD excerpts from the Tax Policy Center report.

[From the Urban Institute & Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center Staff, Sept. 29, 2017]

A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE UNIFIED FRAMEWORK ABSTRACT

The Tax Policy Center has produced preliminary estimates of the potential impact of proposals included in the "Unified Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code." We find they would reduce federal revenue by \$2.4 trillion over ten years and \$3.2 trillion over the second decade (not including any dynamic feedback). In 2018, all income groups would see their average taxes fall, but some taxpayers in each group would face tax increases. Those with the very highest incomes would receive the biggest tax cuts. The tax cuts are smaller as a percentage of income in 2027, and taxpayers in the 80th to 95th income percentiles would, on average, experience a tax increase.

The findings and conclusions contained within are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect positions or policies of the Urban Institute, the Brookings Institution or their funders.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF PRESENTING CHANGE IN DISTRIBUTION OF TAX BURDENS BY EXPANDED CASH INCOME PERCENTILE

Expanded cash income percentile, Percent change in after-tax income, Share of total federal tax change (%), Average federal tax change, Dollars, Percent, Share of federal taxes, Change (% points), Under the proposal (%)

Panel A: 2018.  
Lowest quintile, 0.5, 1.1, -60, -10.4, 0.0, 0.9; Second quintile, 0.9, 4.1, -290, -9.3, 0.0, 3.8; Middle quintile, 1.2, 8.2, -660, -7.2, 0.2, 10.1; Fourth quintile, 1.2, 11.6, -1,110, -5.5, 0.6, 18.7; Top quintile, 3.3, 74.5, -8,470, -9.6, -0.7, 66.5; All, 2.1, 100.0, -1,570, -8.6, 0.0, 100.0.

Addendum.  
80-90, 0.8, 5.1, -1,140, -3.1, 0.9, 15.1; 90-95, 0.7, 3.3, -1,500, -2.6, 0.7, 11.4; 95-99, 2.3, 12.8, -7,620, -6.9, 0.3, 16.4; Top 1 percent, 8.5, 53.3, -129,030, -17.6, -2.6, 23.5; Top 0.1 percent, 10.2, 30.3, -722,510, -20.4, -1.7, 11.1.

Panel B: 2027.

Lowest quintile, 0.2, 0.8, -50, -5.4, 0.0, 1.0; Second quintile, 0.5, 3.0, -230, -5.0, 0.1, 4.1; Middle quintile, 0.5, 4.9, -420, -3.4, 0.4, 10.2; Fourth quintile, 0.4, 4.3, -450, -1.7, 0.9, 17.3; Top quintile, 3.0, 86.6, -10,610, -8.5, -1.3, 67.4; All, 1.7, 100.0, -1,690, -6.7, 0.0, 100.0.

Addendum.  
80-90, -0.4, -3.5, 820, 1.8, 1.2, 14.4; 90-95, -0.3, -1.5, 760, 1.1, 0.8, 10.3; 95-99, 1.8, 11.9, -7,640, -5.3, 0.2, 15.4; Top 1 percent, 8.7, 79.7, -207,060, -17.4, -3.5, 27.2; Top 0.1 percent, 9.7, 39.6, -1,022,120, -19.0, -1.8, 12.2.

Source: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0217-1)

The full report can be found at: [http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/sites/default/files/publication/144971/a\\_preliminary\\_analysis\\_of\\_the\\_unified\\_framework\\_0.pdf](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/sites/default/files/publication/144971/a_preliminary_analysis_of_the_unified_framework_0.pdf)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, where did I get this figure about adding to the deficit by \$1.5 trillion? Did I just make that up?

I will tell the gentleman where I got it from. It is basically the Republican report in the Senate on the budget. Let me read from their report here.

It says: "This title includes two reconciliation instructions to the Senate committees. The first would allow the Finance Committee to reduce revenues and change outlays to increase the deficit by not more than \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years."

These are the words of Republicans in the Senate.

The gentleman wants to know why we are talking about the tax plan. It is because we are presented here with a budget that essentially fast tracks a tax plan. He is right, we don't have all the details yet because it is being negotiated and written in some back room somewhere in this building. I wish I knew where it was so we could maybe try to find out some more details. But what we do know is the framework that the Republicans have put forward, and that is the basis for the analysis that economist after economist have stated that this budget basically is a giveaway to the wealthiest individuals in this country, and it is not somehow a break for the middle class. It is the exact opposite.

This is a gift for billionaires and millionaires, and it does nothing for working families. That is why this is all relevant. This budget puts in place procedures for the Republicans to fast track a tax bill that they are now writing in some back room somewhere that nobody will see probably until the last minute, and basically it will be rushed through here, and it is a big giveaway to the wealthiest individuals in this country. I just wanted to clarify that for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that Republican plans for tax reform would also eliminate the State and local tax deduction, called SALT. This deduction prevents millions of middle class families from being taxed twice on the same income by deducting already-paid State and local taxes from their Federal income tax.

Half the people hit by this tax hike would be middle class families earning a household income of less than \$100,000, and local communities will also feel that pain.

Repealing the SALT deduction, which would effectively make State and local taxes more costly for taxpayers, would put pressure on local governments to lower taxes.

The bipartisan National Governors Association said in a September 22 letter that the SALT deduction, "has contributed to the stability of State revenues that are essential for providing public services." These services include healthcare, police and fire departments, and schools.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the letter from the National Governors Association.

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, September 22, 2017.  
Re Tax Reform (State and Local Tax Deduction and Municipal Bonds).

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. RON WYDEN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S.  
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means, House  
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SPEAKER RYAN, MINORITY LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN HATCH, RANKING MEMBER WYDEN, CHAIRMAN BRADY, AND RANKING MEMBER NEAL: The nation's governors appreciate congressional efforts to reform and improve federal tax policy. Federal and state tax systems are complex and often interconnected. Therefore, as Congress considers reforms, we urge you to maintain the balance between state and federal tax systems by preserving the income exclusion for municipal bond interest and the deductibility for state and local taxes.

The financing engine that drives U.S. infrastructure is the \$3.8 trillion municipal bond market. Changes to federal laws and regulations should not increase issuance costs to states for municipal bonds or diminish investor demand for them. If federal changes make issuing municipal bonds cost-prohibitive for states and local governments, then fewer projects could be funded, taxes could rise, fewer jobs created, and economic growth will suffer.

Governors also believe that no federal law or regulation should preempt, limit, or interfere with the sovereign rights of states. A mark of sovereignty includes the ability to develop and operate revenue and tax systems. Deductibility of state and local taxes has contributed to the stability of state revenues that are essential for providing public services. We encourage you to avoid changes to the tax code that would undermine the ability of state and local governments to meet the needs of the citizens whom we all serve.

Eliminating state and local tax deductibility, moreover, exposes a higher share of an itemizing taxpayer's income to federal

taxation because it adds back mandatory payments of state and local taxes already paid, as taxable income.

Federal tax reform requires an intergovernmental partnership because decisions at the federal level will affect state and local governments profoundly. We look forward to working with Congress on bipartisan tax reform to maintain balance between our systems and modernize the federal tax system to meet the needs of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Gov. BRIAN SANDOVAL,  
NGA Chair.

Gov. STEVE BULLOCK,  
NGA Vice Chair.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask Members to vote to defeat the previous question; and if we do, I will offer an amendment proposed by Representative SCHNEIDER that would prohibit any legislation from limiting or repealing the State and local tax deduction.

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, to discuss this proposal and to discuss the importance of the State and local tax deduction, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), who has been outspoken on this issue on behalf of States and communities and middle class taxpayers.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, there are some real terrible parts to this budget, but this, to me, is the worst.

This deduction has been part of our tax system before there was an income tax, going back to the Civil War, for the very reasons that my friend from Massachusetts just talked about. It wasn't just picked off the shelf. People count on it. People count on this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule, the previous question, the budget, the weather, whatever.

We know that this budget resolution paves the way for a tax reform bill done through reconciliation. I am sure that is interesting. Reconciliation on Governor Street in Paterson, New Jersey. I am sure they want to know reconciliation when we are talking about their pocketbooks; a dubious maneuver that blocks us Democrats completely out of the process and allows Republicans to pass a purely partisan, juiced-up bill.

Comprehensive tax reform is a goal we should all share, and lasting tax reform should be bipartisan. My friend from Georgia, I think, believes that, but this ain't it.

While they are cutting deals behind closed doors, what we are pushing is eliminating the State and local tax deduction, and that is in the Senate budget. They wrote it right out, the Capito amendment.

Republicans are so adamant about eliminating this middle class benefit

that they added an amendment to that budget before us today, the so-called Capito amendment.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. A vote for this rule is a vote for the budget, is a vote to repeal the State and local deduction.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues representing New Jersey, New York, Illinois, California, Minnesota, and so many other States, including Georgia, including Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, better think long and hard about their vote today.

The American people are watching to see if they vote to raise their taxes. This amendment, the Capito amendment, in the budget falsely claims that the SALT only benefits high-income taxpayers. Let's take a look at that.

The fact is that repealing it would hurt the middle class and working families. At the same time, how do you justify—through the Speaker, how do you justify keeping the deduction still viable for corporations? They can deduct the State and local taxes, but the families of America can't? How can you justify that?

I want to hear your justification of that. That is going to be a good one.

Forty percent of taxpayers with incomes between \$50,000 and \$75,000, more than 70 percent of those making \$100,000 to \$200,000, claim the State and local tax deduction.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I will make it short, but I could stay here all afternoon on this because I feel it in my bone marrow.

We are talking about tax cuts. We are increasing the tax burden on the middle class, and you cannot deny it. There is no place in that budget that you can deny it. None whatsoever. You could say: Well, we are going to do this over here and this.

Look, I am tired of that walnut trick. Okay? Have you figured out which it is under?

Groups representing realtors, mayors, teachers, firefighters, sheriffs, et cetera, all support retaining the State and local tax deduction. It is bad policy, plain and simple.

Mr. Speaker, I appeal to you, we have enough ammunition. We don't need this ammunition for next year. Let's think about the budget of the American people in a nonpartisan way.

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

Mr. Speaker, if you have wondered what kind of passion we have on the Budget Committee, I will just once again recognize how much I enjoy serving with my friend from New Jersey on

the Budget Committee. Everything you just heard from him was from the heart. I get to hear it in committee day in and day out, and I will tell you, we end up with a better product as a result of that. It is a legitimate debate to have about the State and local tax deduction. It is perfectly legitimate.

There are those from low-tax jurisdictions that ask: Why would the Federal Government and the Federal taxpayer want to subsidize those States that are higher-tax jurisdictions? There are those jurisdictions that are low-tax jurisdictions.

Because the gentleman's constituency in New Jersey makes so much money, they pay so much more in Federal income taxes. And States like mine in Georgia, States like Alabama, States like Mississippi are the beneficiary of those dollars as the Federal Government distributes them. Undeniably, there is a case to be made on both sides of this issue.

The falsehood, Mr. Speaker, is to suggest that we are deciding that issue today. We are not. We are not.

I don't blame any of my colleagues for fighting for their constituency at the height of their ability, at the highest vocal point of their capability, because issues are, at their core, local and personal to each and every one of us.

We are going to have to have this conversation and we are going to have to sort it out, and I believe it is not going to be a partisan conversation. In fact, I know it is not going to be a partisan conversation.

I know Republicans who share my friend from New Jersey's opinion, and I know Democrats who share SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO's opinion on the Senate side. We know this to be true. We are going to sort this issue out, Mr. Speaker.

What I fear, though, is that emotions are going to run so high that we are going to miss an opportunity to figure these things out. For example, to conflate personal deductions with business deductions is to create confusion where there needn't be any.

Every business in America can deduct the meals that they serve throughout their day as a business expense. I will share with the gentleman that my family cannot deduct our meals from our income taxes.

Every business out there that has rented an apartment somewhere in order to conduct business, they can deduct that rent from their income taxes as a business expense. I will share with my friend, in the great State of Georgia, I am unable to deduct my rent as a business expense from my income tax.

There is just a fundamental difference between families and businesses, and that fundamental difference goes back to what I said at the very beginning, and that is there is only one taxpayer in this country. It is not Walmart, it is not Apple, it is not Microsoft. It is the American con-

sumer. We are the only ones. At the end of the day, the buck stops with each and every American family.

The debate over how to structure a corporate income Tax Code, Mr. Speaker, is perfectly legitimate. To suggest that the fact that the personal code and the business code look different and that is somehow nefarious is to deny what is just now over 100 years of income tax policy in this country.

□ 1300

Mr. PASCARELL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOODALL. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCARELL. So, now that you have agreed to the fact the families are going to get shafted but corporations will continue to be able to deduct their local and State taxes, this is pertinent to the budget, my friend, through the Speaker.

Right in the bill, the budget bill we are talking about right now, the rule, previous question, related to changes in Federal tax laws, which may include reducing the Federal deduction such as this—this is right from the budget. Why do you say we are not discussing this?

Mr. WOODALL. Reclaiming my time from my friend, Mr. Speaker, what you hear is absolutely right. I want to make that clear. Everybody is entitled to their own opinion; they are not entitled to their own facts. The words my friend is reading are absolutely accurate. What they are not are absolutely binding. That is what they are not.

What this is is such a personal and important issue to folks on both sides of it that it got its own personal line out of the United States Senate.

I can't even get nominations out of the United States Senate, Mr. Speaker. I am sitting here trying to staff out region four down in the great State of Georgia. Folks are delaying debate. Folks won't let me get my people in place.

This is so important to the United States Senate that it came with its own line.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to diminish the importance of this issue on either side. What I do want to insist upon, though, is that it will not be decided during this hour today; and I want to insist, Mr. Speaker, that it will not be decided on partisan lines.

I would just ask of you, Mr. Speaker, and of my friends here on the floor, we have two things we can do with our voices: we can either sow consensus, or we can sow discontent.

I know that we are passionate about these things in which we believe, but to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we are not going to come together and sort it out and do the very best we can for Americans is to sell this institution short and is to further the misunderstanding, the misimpression, the misinformation that the media sends out about us every day. I know we are better than that, and I am proud to be a voice say-

ing that here on the floor today, Mr. Speaker.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL) to respond.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, families in my friend's State, the great State of Georgia, will lose a tax deduction of \$9,000, those families, on average. I think you are concerned about that. You cannot fib that you are not.

And the fact of the matter is you used the words—through the Speaker, you used the words that your States are subsidizing the donor States? Well, let me give you an idea of New Jersey.

States like West Virginia, the average SALT deduction claim is \$9,463 per household; in Ohio, it is \$10,445; in Wisconsin, it is \$11,653.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds, and this will probably have to be it because, unfortunately, we have so many speakers over here. I wish I could enjoy the loneliness that my colleague from Georgia enjoys that nobody wants to speak to defend this budget.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, 48th, 49th State, that is where New Jersey is in getting back the money we send down to Washington. Who subsidizes whom?

And Mnuchin, go back and tell the Secretary of the Treasury he doesn't know what he is talking about. He says New Jersey is being subsidized? Not these numbers; the numbers don't show that.

You can't defend this. You can't defend it under any circumstances whatsoever, and you have admitted that we are talking facts here today.

I rest my case.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the underlying rule that would allow for consideration of the Senate-passed Republican Budget. If passed, this budget would allow Republicans to fast-track their tax plan through Congress without Democratic support.

Now, I stand in support of a tax plan to help the middle class, but that is not the tax plan we are seeing proposed by Republicans. Instead, we see that 80 percent of the benefits will go to the richest 1 percent in this country. The problem? Somebody has to pay for it, and it looks like it could be the middle class.

I have heard from workers worried that cuts of contributions to their 401(k) plans will ruin their retirement. I have heard from seniors worried that losing homeowners' incentives will make it harder for them to stay in their homes. And I have heard from families worried that a repeal of the State and local tax deduction will increase their tax burden.

In fact, we know that one-third of the middle class will see their taxes increase under this plan. And the numbers show that, as our constituents begin to learn more, they are realizing that this plan only cuts taxes for the wealthy and corporate interests and leaves middle class families behind. That is why a Reuters poll released yesterday found that fewer than a third of Americans support the Republican tax plan at all.

This tax plan for the rich will increase the deficit by \$2.2 trillion. And who will pay for it? Your children and their grandchildren. They will have to suffer from the cuts made down along the line to education, to Medicaid, to Medicare.

And for what? To make the rich richer? To line the pockets of Washington special interests? That is not right.

Reject this budget. Most importantly, reject this tax plan.

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

We have heard a lot about the distributional analysis of tax reform, and, as I have suggested, it is hard to do. Folks who make a whole lot of money, like my friend from New Jersey's constituency, they pay a whole lot more in taxes. I hope that one day my constituency makes as much money as my friend from New Jersey's constituency, and if we can stimulate the economy the way that I believe that this tax proposal will, we are going to have a shot at getting that done.

But we have to have these conversations about limiting tax deductions for the wealthiest Americans if we are going to solve the issues that my friends have raised. And reading right out of that Senate budget report, the whole purpose of considering the State and local tax deduction and considering modifying it, capping it, eliminating it, whatever you want to insert there, Mr. Speaker, is designed around limiting those tax deductions that only benefit the wealthiest among us—that only benefit the wealthiest among us. That is the conversation that folks are trying to have.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there is so much more that we agree on than that we disagree on in this Chamber. But it appears, time and time again, we come to the House floor and focus, in the most shrill voices, on the 20 percent of those things that divide us instead of the 80 percent of those things that we could come together and deliver on for our constituency.

Tax reform doesn't have to pass with 51 votes in the Senate. We move reconciliation bills through the Senate with 60 votes. We have moved them through the Senate with 70 votes. We have moved them through the Senate with 80 votes.

Growing the American economy, Mr. Speaker, is a commonsense goal that is shared in every single region and in every single political quarter. Let's not make this about us here. Let's make this about our bosses back home. We

can, and we should, and I believe that we will.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), the ranking member on the Tax Policy Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this bill is truly about one thing and one thing only. It is about lavishing tax breaks on Donald Trump personally, his family, and all of his billionaire buddies. It is about lavishing tax breaks and incentives on the very same giant multinational corporations that have shipped away so many American jobs, that have refused to pay their fair share of our national security by hiding their profits in offshore island tax havens.

It is about doing all that and hoping that, at this time of the year, here at Halloween, that they can trick American middle-class families into believing that a little of those tax benefits will trickle down to them. Because if they can do that, if they can pass this bill, they will treat themselves, the billionaires, and the job exporters, to tax benefits of almost astronomical proportions.

To suggest that there is anything bipartisan about this bill or anything bipartisan about the tax proposal that Republicans will unveil next week is truly a farce. There is no bipartisanship here.

They learned nothing from their failed healthcare repeal efforts. No, they plan to use surprise, jack-in-the-box tactics to pop out a bill at the last minute, force it through this House, through our Ways and Means Committee, and foist it off on the American people.

With Halloween coming, there is a simple "trick or treat" test that you, as an American family, can use. If you are in the top 1 percent, you get 80 percent of the individual benefits out of this bill.

So just look at your income. If you are not up there in the \$700,000 or \$900,000 range, don't count on getting much benefit out of this bill. In fact, a number of studies show your taxes may actually go up while others see a significant decline in the revenue the richest few are asked to pay to finance our country.

And what about the idea of growing jobs? After all, growing our economy is what we should all be about and what is claimed for this bill. Well, I turned to that objective source, Goldman Sachs, the home of the Treasury Secretary and top economic advisers. Goldman Sachs, within the last month, has advised its own investors: Don't expect much out of this tax bill because any momentary growth at the beginning will be offset by the trillions of dollars of additional debt from the same people who have been telling us for years we can't afford another dollar for abused children, and we can't afford dollars for children's healthcare be-

cause we are so very worried about the national debt.

Well, there is reason to be worried about the national debt and not to explode it by trillions of dollars with this giant unpaid tax bill.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. A zombie of supply-side economics is returning from the dead. We know it didn't work for President Bush. We know it didn't work in the Reagan era. They are bringing it back again, saying, if you just give a little more to those who have so much already, it will benefit everyone else. The data does not show that.

This is a tax bill that needs to be rejected because it is so unfair and inequitable to the American people. This is much worse than the healthcare repeal because its ramifications in leading to cutting Medicare and Social Security will be far-reaching. There will not be a family in America that goes untouched.

Reject this budget. Reject this awful tax bill.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to agree with some of what my friend had to say.

There will be absolutely no family that goes untouched. If you would like to go to the Council of Economic Advisers web page, Mr. Speaker, you can see their most recent report, which suggests, on average, \$4,000 in additional wages for every wage earner in this country, every family in this country, making a difference for economic growth.

We all know that economic growth matters. More jobs mean more pressure on labor. More pressure on labor means higher wages. Higher wages mean more income for the Federal Government in taxes and more income for families to put into their pocket.

We are hearing about zombies and surprises and tricks. You can tell that Halloween is right around the corner, and scaring folks is kind of the tagline of Halloween, Mr. Speaker; and, sadly, that is what we see going on here today.

I promise you, you have not heard a single bipartisan word about this tax plan from my friends on the other side, so I am going to provide those words for my friends. I will read from yesterday's Wall Street Journal, Mr. Speaker: "In 2012, President Obama and his advisers proposed lowering the corporate tax rate because it 'creates good jobs and good wages for the middle class folks who work at those businesses.'"

□ 1315

We can argue about what the tax reform ought to look like. What we can't argue about is the benefit for American families of tax reform.

In 2013, Lawrence Summers, President Clinton's Treasury Secretary and



Chairman of President Obama's Economic Council, argued that the tax on corporate profit creates a burden without commensurate revenues for the government, and that changing it is as close to a free lunch for the American taxpayer as reformers will ever get. That was President Obama's Treasury Secretary.

Again, we can argue about what it looks like. What we can't argue about is what it is intended to do and what leading experts believe it will do. In 2015, Democrat CHUCK SCHUMER and Republican ROB PORTMAN cosponsored a Senate bill to reduce the top corporate tax rate, which is the highest of the 35 countries in the OECD today.

As CHUCK SCHUMER says: "Our international tax system creates incentives to send jobs and stash profits overseas, rather than creating jobs and economic growth here in the United States." We can fix that together, and we will fix that together.

Bill Clinton, in 2016, said he regretted raising the corporate tax rate to its current level for exactly those reasons.

Who is advantaged by trying to persuade the American people that something nefarious is going on here? Who is advantaged by that? I don't know about my friend's constituencies, Mr. Speaker, but my constituency wants to believe we are making things work together. My constituency wants to believe in rolling up our sleeves and sorting things out together. My constituency wants to believe that we are united in making a difference for them together.

We have this opportunity. If we pass this rule and we concur in the underlying Senate amendment, we will move forward on tax reform that will leave no American family behind.

The best government program we have in this country is the program that allows jobs to develop so folks can have one. The best program we have in this country, Mr. Speaker, is one that allows wages to rise so that folks can earn more. My constituency is not looking for anything from the other side of the aisle except cooperation on freeing up the marketplace so that my constituency can go to work, so that folks can go and make their own pathway and future forward. We can do it in ways we haven't done together since 1986, Mr. Speaker.

Who is advantaged by convincing folks that cooperation, consensus, making a difference together is dead? I don't believe anyone. In fact, I would tell you that not just the debate but the body politic is damaged by those concerns, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will join together and refute those. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would just say to the gentleman from Georgia, we don't need lectures on cooperation and bipartisanship. We have offered to work with Republicans on tax reform. We have offered to work

with Republicans on improving the Affordable Care Act. Every time the Republicans talk about rolling up their sleeves, we are not there. We are not invited.

So if you want bipartisanship, open up this process. Go back to regular order. Hold hearings. Listen to our ideas. Don't write bills in the back room and rush them to the floor and force the Members up here to vote up or down on them. Yes, we want cooperation. We want bipartisanship, but we don't need any lectures from anybody on the other side of the aisle.

This has been the most closed Congress in history. We don't need any lectures on the importance of cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Massachusetts for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule because I rise in opposition to the underlying budget—a budget which is really a budget buster that could be before the full House for consideration tomorrow.

It calls for an additional \$1.5 trillion worth of debt accumulated over the next 10 years. They call for that, I fear, in order to clear the path for unpaid-for tax cuts. There is a bipartisan path to move forward on tax reform. It has been 31 years since we have taken a serious run at the Federal code. It is long overdue. It is one that would simplify the code, that would broaden the base and lower the rates and make us more competitive at home, but especially abroad, in light of what the rest of the world has done.

That can also help promote economic growth, but I fear that that is not the direction that the opposing party is taking with their tax reform proposal. I say fear because we haven't seen the details yet. So we can't say with certainty just what exactly will be offered over the next couple of weeks. But if history is any guide, there is a proclivity to pass large tax cuts that are not paid for.

If history is a guide, we have been down this road before, in the 1981 tax cuts, the 2001, the 2003, that promised to bring a boon of economic growth that would offset and pay for the lost revenue. It didn't materialize. Instead, we had huge budget deficits. Unfortunately, today, we don't have the luxury of time to help us recover from a huge fiscal mistake. Because today, 70 million baby boomers are beginning their massive retirement and joining Social Security and Medicare—10,000 a day.

If we go down this route of going with massive tax breaks that aren't paid for, we are going to jeopardize the long-term solvency of Social Security and Medicare at exactly the wrong moment in our Nation's history. The folks back home tell me they would like to see tax reform along the lines that I just described, but they are not telling me that they are more interested in

trickle-down economics where the predominant relief goes to the most wealthy, hoping that it somehow benefits everyone else.

Now, they would like to see it a little fairer for working families, for small businesses, for family farmers so that they can share in the economic growth and the prosperity that could be offered if we do this the correct way in a bipartisan fashion.

But instead, I fear that we are going to be witnessing history repeat itself. But unlike the time of the past, we don't have the luxury of time going forward without jeopardizing Social Security and Medicare, and without leaving a legacy of debt once again for our children and grandchildren to inherit.

So let's regroup. Let's do a budget that makes sense for the long-term fiscal solvency of important programs, but especially our children's future. This budget doesn't get us there.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to reject the rule and reject the budget if it comes up tomorrow.

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

I actually want to associate myself to my friend from Wisconsin's comments. I can't disagree with a word he said right up until it got to the end where he said to vote against the budget. Right up until there, we were on the same page.

There is so much that we could do together. My friend spoke out on behalf of small businesses and family farmers. As the Tax Code exists today, when you see my friends put up charts about tax benefits going to the top 1 percent, they are talking about those small business and family farmers. They are talking about that small business in my district that has plowed every single penny back into the business—back into the business for new technology to make their employees more productive, back into the business to open up a new facility, back into the business to add more distribution, because they have got 350 families who depend on them to make that business successful so that those 350 families can put food on their table.

But when the Tax Code is analyzed, Mr. Speaker, when the IRS sends back the statistics, that small business in my district that sends every single penny back into the business, they look rich. They look like they are the wealthiest, and they are not. They are those small family farmers. They are those small family businesses that are trying to make a difference.

I want to say, because my friend from Wisconsin had a very significant concern about blowing holes in deficits, Mr. Speaker, as you know from your experience, one cannot pass tax reform that is permanent through reconciliation if it adds to deficits in the out years. That is what is so wonderful about this process, Mr. Speaker. I support what my friend from Wisconsin said about keeping an eye on deficits. I

support what my friend said about making sure Medicare and Social Security are growing, which they do when people go back to work and when folks earn more money.

I don't want to be in the business of lecturing my colleagues, Mr. Speaker. I want to be in the business of working with my colleagues. But folks have a choice when they show up to work every day. Are we going to make this a day about arguing with one another? Are we going to tear something down today? Are we going to build something up today? I stand for building something today, Mr. Speaker. Unabashedly, let's build something together today.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), the distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax Policy.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, certainly, my constituents in Texas would like to see the same spirit of togetherness that we have just heard about. How has that been handled in our Ways and Means Committee, and why do I call the claims of bipartisanship here a farce?

Well, people in Texas would like to know: What is the effect of being taxed on our payment of property taxes? People in Michigan want to know: What is the effect of putting a cap on how much we can contribute to our retirement savings? Other people were concerned about adding \$0.20 and a border adjustment tax to every purchase made from Mexico, or Canada, or elsewhere.

Since May, I have been asking for hearings on these matters. I have been asking for one single Trump administration official to have the courage to come in front of our committee and answer questions about their proposal and the great gap between what President Trump says one day, and what they do the next.

They have refused every day. We have been here all of September. We have been here all of October. They have refused to have a single hearing with a single Trump official because they plan to jam through—while they yell “kumbaya,” they plan to jam through a gift to the superrich and the multinationals that keep shipping these jobs offshore. And they don't want any accountability for it.

They don't want any public involvement either. They want the public to know as little about the details of their sham as possible. That is why they will have it introduced next week, passed in committee the following week, forced onto this floor and into the Senate, and the American people have to understand and speak up and say “no.”

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds to say I don't want to sneak anything past anybody. I want to claim full and total credit for what we are about to do together. I don't want anybody to be confused about whose fault it is. It is my fault.

When we get tax reform and get this economy growing again, blame me. When we can see wages rising in this country again, blame me. When we have an opportunity to go from worst to first in the international business community, blame me.

I don't want anybody to believe there is anybody hiding here, Mr. Speaker.

I share with my friend from Massachusetts that I do not have any speakers remaining, and I am prepared to close when he is. Truth needs no defense, I would say to my friend.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering a budget that will basically pave the way so we can bring up a massive tax cut for billionaires. Again, the gentleman from Georgia mentioned the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center in his opening remarks, and this chart is based on their analysis. Basically, let me repeat, the top 1 percent get 80 percent of all the benefits.

If you think that that is fair, if you think that that is representing your constituents, then go ahead and vote for this budget, because it is paving the way for a tax cut that will do just this.

I don't think it is fair. I don't think anybody on the Democratic side of the aisle thinks it is fair, and I am hoping that there are some on the Republican side of the aisle who think that that is not fair as well.

The gentleman from Georgia talks about cooperation and about we need to get along. I mean, who disagrees with that? But actions speak louder than words. You can't talk about open, transparent processes and then, as we just heard from the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), have the Ways and Means Committee which is writing this tax bill behind closed doors without any help from the Democrats, but having no hearings—not allowing any administration official to come up and testify.

How is that an open and transparent process? How does that encourage the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship? I mean, I thought my friends would have learned from their terrible experience with their repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act what happens when you write bills behind closed doors without bipartisan input, without even the committees of jurisdiction, by the way, in that case, deliberating on what the final product should be.

I thought you would have learned from that process, and you ended up failing at the end of the day. I hope that this effort that my Republican friends are now undertaking for tax cuts for wealthy people in this country, I hope that that fails as well.

A lousy process usually leads to a lousy product. My friends on the other side of the aisle have mastered the art of lousy processes. In the Rules Committee, almost virtually everything is

closed. Everything is shut down. Germane amendments routinely deny the ability for Members to offer them on the House floor because the Republicans don't want to deal with them. They are afraid they might lose. They don't want to have the debate.

If you want cooperation, if you want a bipartisan tax reform bill, then you just can't say it; you have to do something. In 1986, the last time Congress did a comprehensive tax reform, we had 30 days of full committee hearings spanning over a year. There were 26 days of markup between September and December. This time, the timelines being reported in the press are maybe just a week, or a little bit more, if that.

□ 1330

Again, if recent history is any indication, we might not even get that. A bill might just miraculously appear one day and be rushed to the floor so that no one has time to read it or analyze it and so that none of our constituents have time to understand what is really happening here.

So I go back to that chart. One percent—1 percent—of the wealthiest interests in this country get 80 percent of the tax breaks.

If you think that that is fair, then vote for this budget, because this budget paves the way for that tax bill to move forward.

If you care about a balanced budget and if you care about deficits and debt, please vote “no” on this budget, because this allows us to increase the deficit by \$1.5 trillion.

Whatever happened to deficits matter? I guess it is inconvenient because tax cuts for billionaires matter more than deficits and passing on that debt to our kids.

So I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question, to vote “no” on the rule, to vote “no” on this budget, and to fight like hell against this horrendous tax cut plan that my friends on the Republican side are pushing. This is bad policy. This is bad for our country. This is bad for middle class families. This is bad for not only my constituents, I would argue it is bad for your constituents.

It is about time that the people's House starts enacting legislation that benefits the people of this country, not just a few who are well off and well connected.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, sometimes I wish I could bring school groups down here onto the House floor just to help the next generation understand why we face some of the challenges that we face. We are down here today confronted with a tax bill that folks are certain is going to give away everything to everybody whom they don't want it to go to, and we are down here confronted with the fact that there is

no tax bill whatsoever to look at and it is going to get sprung on folks with absolutely no notice and no ability to read it.

Now, either one of those things could be true. It happens to be that neither of those things is true. But how in the world do folks listening to this debate think that we are advancing the cause of reform?

Deficits do matter, to my friend's point. They do matter, and the strangest hold that the Obama regulatory economy created here in America on economic growth reduced economic GDP growth by a full one-third—by a full one-third.

For every 0.1 percent of GDP growth, we talk about 200 billion additional dollars coming in to the Treasury over the 10-year window. So a full percentage point that we have lost is \$2 trillion coming in to the Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, if we had Bush-era growth instead of Obama-era growth over these last 5 years, the budget would be balanced today. But we are where we are, and the question is: Can we do better tomorrow? We can.

Now, before I talk about that, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize some of the folks who helped to get us here. My friend from Massachusetts and I come down here and carry the debate, but the work goes on behind every single one of these doors and in every single one of these committee rooms.

I serve on the Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker, and our staff director over there, Rick May, has done an amazing job shepherding this process, standing up for the House's work product.

Jenna Spealman, Andy Morton, Tim Flynn, Robert Cogan, Patrick Louis Knudsen, Jim Bates, Mary Popadiuk, Jonathan Romito, and Elise Anderson are all working day and night—and weekends, many times—to get this product to the floor.

Steve Gonzalez, Eric Davis, Robert Yeakel, Ellen Johnson, Emily Goff, Brad Watson, Brittany Madni, and Steve Waskiewicz are folks, Mr. Speaker, who don't come here because they have political passion; they come here because they have policy passion. They want to do those things that matter. They could go anywhere they want to in town and make more money, but they stay here working for the American people because they believe they can make a difference, and they are right.

Mr. Speaker, they are right. They can make a difference. We can make a difference. This rule—this rule—if we pass it today, Mr. Speaker, will allow us to concur in the Senate amendment. Concurring in the Senate amendment does not bind us to the Senate process, but it enables us to move a bill that direction that they can process.

We have seen the holdups in the Senate, Mr. Speaker. I am not happy about that. That is just the way Senate process is. We can do better. Reconciliation allows us to do better, and passing this rule enables us to do better.

Vote “yes,” Mr. Speaker. Vote “yes” on this rule, and vote “yes” on the underlying budget and open yourself up to doing together what has not been done together in 31 years. I don't just believe we can, I believe that we will. I am excited about it, I am proud of it, and I am ready to get to it, Mr. Speaker.

Vote “yes.”

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Budget Committee, I rise in strong opposition to Rule governing debate on the Senate Amendment to H. Con. Res. 71, the Congressional Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2018, and the underlying resolution.

Let us be very clear and direct: the resolution before us is not intended to reconcile tax and spending priorities to reflect the priorities of the American people or to reduce the deficit and national debt or to put our fiscal house on a sustainable path to economic growth.

Rather the sole purpose of Republicans bringing this job-killing budget to the floor today is to fast-track their “Billionaires First” tax plan, which will cause significant harm to working and middle class families, especially to my constituents in the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

The McConnell-Ryan tax plan, which this budget resolution is designed to grease the skids for, would raise taxes on about 1.5 million Texas households, or 12.4 percent of households next year.

On average, families earning up to \$86,000 annually would see a \$794 increase in their tax liability, a significant burden on families struggling to afford child care and balance their checkbook.

An estimated 2.8 million Texas households deduct state and local taxes with an average deduction of \$7,823 in 2015.

The McConnell-Ryan plan eliminates this deduction, which would lower home values and put pressure on states and towns to collect revenues they depend on to fund schools, roads, and vital public resources.

The proposed elimination of the personal exemption will harm millions of Texans by taking away the \$4,050 deduction for each taxpayer and claimed dependent; in 2015, roughly 9.3 million dependent exemptions were claimed in the Lone Star State.

Equally terrible is that the McConnell-Ryan tax plan drastically reduces the Earned Income Tax Credit, which encourages work for 2.7 million low-income individuals in Texas, helping them make ends meet with an average credit of \$2,689.

The EITC and the Child Tax Credit lift about 1.2 million Texans, including 663,000 children, out of poverty each year.

This reckless and irresponsible GOP tax plan is made all the more obscene by the fact that 80 percent of the GOP's tax cuts go to the wealthiest 1 percent.

To achieve this goal of giving more and more to the haves and the “have mores,” the GOP budget betrays seniors, children, the most vulnerable, and needy, and working and middle-class families.

For example, the Republican budget steals hundreds of billions of dollars from critical job-creating investments in infrastructure, job training, clean energy and research and development.

It devastates Medicare and Medicaid by cutting \$500 billion from Medicare and \$1.3 tril-

lion from Medicaid, hurting veterans, seniors with long-term care needs, children and rural communities.

The GOP budget's steep cuts in program investments fall most heavily on low-income families, students struggling to afford college, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

This Republican budget adopts Trumpcare but does even more damage because in addition to depriving more than 20 million Americans of healthcare, denying protection to persons with preexisting conditions, and raising costs for older and low-income adults, cuts more than \$1.8 trillion from Medicaid and Medicare.

This Republican budget ends the Medicare guarantee and calls for replacing Medicare's guaranteed benefits with fixed payments for the purchase of health insurance, shifting costs and financial risks onto seniors and disabled workers; this represents a \$500 billion cut to Medicare over ten years.

Mr. Speaker, the federal budget is more than a financial document; it is an expression of our values and priorities as a nation.

The values expressed by this Republican budget are not the values of my constituents, the people of Texas, or the American people as a whole.

For these reasons, I oppose the Rule and the underlying budget resolution.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 580 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Budget or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with the amendment specified in section 2 of this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

SEC. 2. The amendment referred to in section 1 is as follows: At the end of the Senate amendment, add the following new section:

“SEC. \_\_\_\_ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ANY TAX BILL THAT RAISES TAXES ON MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES BY ELIMINATING OR LIMITING THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that repeals or limits the State and Local Tax Deduction (26 U.S.C. 164).

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

(c) WAIVER IN THE HOUSE.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives to consider a rule or order that waives the application of subsection (a). As disposition of a point of order under this subsection, the Chair shall put the question of consideration with respect to the rule or order, as applicable. The question of consideration shall be debatable for 10 minutes by the Member initiating the point of order and for 10 minutes by an opponent, but shall otherwise be decided without intervening motion except one that the House adjourn.”

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

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

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

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

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

or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting the resolution, if ordered; and agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 188, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 582]

YEAS—229

Abraham	Duncan (SC)	Kelly (PA)
Aderholt	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Allen	Dunn	King (NY)
Amash	Emmer	Kinzinger
Arrington	Estes (KS)	Knight
Babin	Farenthold	Kustoff (TN)
Bacon	Faso	Labrador
Banks (IN)	Ferguson	LaHood
Barletta	Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa
Barr	Fleischmann	Lamborn
Barton	Flores	Lance
Bergman	Fortenberry	Latta
Biggs	Fox	Lewis (MN)
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo
Bishop (MI)	Frelinghuysen	Loudermilk
Black	Gaetz	Love
Blackburn	Gallagher	Lucas
Blum	Gianforte	Luetkemeyer
Bost	Gibbs	MacArthur
Brady (TX)	Gohmert	Marchant
Brat	Goodlatte	Marino
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	Marshall
Brooks (IN)	Gowdy	Masie
Buchanan	Granger	Mast
Buck	Graves (GA)	McCarthy
Bucshon	Graves (LA)	McCaul
Budd	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Burgess	Griffith	McHenry
Byrne	Grothman	McKinley
Calvert	Guthrie	McMorris
Carter (GA)	Handel	Rodgers
Carter (TX)	Harper	McSally
Chabot	Harris	Meadows
Cheney	Hartzler	Meehan
Coffman	Hensarling	Messer
Cole	Herrera Beutler	Mitchell
Collins (GA)	Hice, Jody B.	Mooleenaar
Collins (NY)	Higgins (LA)	Mooney (WV)
Comer	Hill	Mullin
Comstock	Holding	Newhouse
Conaway	Hollingsworth	Noem
Cook	Hudson	Norman
Costello (PA)	Huizenga	Nunes
Cramer	Hultgren	Olson
Crawford	Hunter	Palazzo
Culberson	Hurd	Palmer
Curbelo (FL)	Issa	Paulsen
Davidson	Jenkins (KS)	Pearce
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins (WV)	Perry
Denham	Johnson (LA)	Pittenger
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Poliquin
DesJarlais	Jordan	Posey
Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)	Ratcliffe
Donovan	Katko	Reed
Duffy	Kelly (MS)	Reichert

Renacci	Scott, Austin	Upton
Rice (SC)	Sensenbrenner	Valadao
Roby	Sessions	Wagner
Roe (TN)	Shimkus	Walberg
Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Walden
Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Walker
Rohrabacher	Smith (MO)	Walorski
Rokita	Smith (NJ)	Walters, Mimi
Rooney, Thomas J.	Smith (TX)	Weber (TX)
Ros-Lehtinen	Smucker	Weststrup
Roskam	Stefanik	Westerman
Ross	Stewart	Williams
Rothfus	Stivers	Wilson (SC)
Rouzer	Taylor	Wittman
Royce (CA)	Tenney	Womack
Russell	Thompson (PA)	Woodall
Rutherford	Thornberry	Yoder
Sanford	Tiberi	Yoho
Scalise	Tipton	Young (AK)
Schweikert	Trott	Young (IA)
	Turner	Zeldin

NAYS—188

Adams	Gabbard	Nolan
Aguilar	Gallego	Norcross
Barragán	Garamendi	O’Halloran
Bass	Gomez	O’Rourke
Beatty	Gonzalez (TX)	Pallone
Bera	Gottheimer	Panetta
Beyer	Green, Al	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Payne
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Pelosi
Blunt Rochester	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Hastings	Peters
Boyle, Brendan F.	Heck	Peterson
Brady (PA)	Higgins (NY)	Pingree
Brown (MD)	Himes	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Polis
Bustos	Huffman	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Capuano	Jayapal	Raskin
Carbajal	Jeffries	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Rosen
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Jones	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Keating	Rush
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Cicilline	Kennedy	Sánchez
Clark (MA)	Khanna	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kihuen	Schakowsky
Clay	Kildee	Schiff
Cleaver	Kilmer	Schneider
Clyburn	Kind	Schrader
Cohen	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Kuster (NH)	Scott, David
Conyers	Langevin	Serrano
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Correa	Lawrence	Shea-Porter
Costa	Lawson (FL)	Sherman
Courtney	Lee	Levin
Crist	Lewis (GA)	Sinema
Crowley	Lieu, Ted	Sires
Cuellar	Lipinski	Slaughter
Cummings	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Loeb sack	Soto
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Speier
DeFazio	Lowey	Suo zzi
DeGette	Lujan Grisham, M.	Swalwell (CA)
Delaney	Lujan, Ben Ray	Takano
DeLauro	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
DelBene	Maloney	Titus
Demings	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
DeSaulnier	Caroly n B.	Torres
Deutch	Maloney, Sean	Tsongas
Dingell	Matsui	Vargas
Doggett	McCollum	Veasey
Doyle, Michael F.	McEachin	Vela
Ellison	McGovern	Velázquez
Engel	McNerney	Visclosky
Eshoo	Meeks	Walz
Esty (CT)	Meng	Wasserman
Evans	Moore	Schultz
Foster	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
Fudge	Nadler	Welch
	Napolitano	Yarmuth
	Neal	

NOT VOTING—15

Amodei	Gutiérrez	Rooney, Francis
Bishop (UT)	Larson (CT)	Smith (NE)
Bridenstine	Long	Thompson (CA)
Espallat	Lowenthal	Webster (FL)
Garrett	Richmond	Wilson (FL)

□ 1357

Mr. MESSER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). 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 233, noes 188, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 583]

AYES—233

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

Walker  
 Walorski  
 Walters, Mimi  
 Weber (TX)  
 Wenstrup  
 Westerman

Williams  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Woodall  
 Yoder

Yoho  
 Young (AK)  
 Young (IA)  
 Zeldin

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 180, answered "present" 2, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 584]

YEAS—230

Adams Fudge Neal  
 Aguilar Gabbard Nolan  
 Barragán Gallego Norcross  
 Bass Garamendi O'Halloran  
 Beatty Gomez O'Rourke  
 Bera Gonzalez (TX) Pallone  
 Beyer Gottheimer Panetta  
 Bishop (GA) Green, Al Pascarell  
 Blumenauer Green, Gene Payne  
 Blunt Rochester Grijalva  
 Bonamici Gutiérrez  
 Boyle, Brendan Hanabusa  
 F. Hastings  
 Brady (PA) Heck  
 Brown (MD) Higgins (NY)  
 Brownley (CA) Himes  
 Bustos Hoyer  
 Butterfield Huffman  
 Capuano Jackson Lee  
 Carballo Jayapal  
 Cárdenas Jeffries  
 Carson (IN) Johnson (GA)  
 Cartwright Johnson, E.B.  
 Castor (FL) Jones  
 Castro (TX) Kaptur  
 Chu, Judy Keating  
 Ciilline Kelly (IL)  
 Clark (MA) Kennedy  
 Clarke (NY) Khanna  
 Clay Kihuen  
 Cleaver Kildee  
 Clyburn Kilmer  
 Cohen Kind  
 Connolly Krishnamoorthi  
 Conyers Kuster (NH)  
 Cooper Langevin  
 Correa Larsen (WA)  
 Costa Lawrence  
 Courtney Lee  
 Crist Levin  
 Crowley Lewis (GA)  
 Cuellar Lieu, Ted  
 Cummings Lipinski  
 Davis (CA) Loeb sack  
 Davis, Danny Lofgren  
 DeFazio Lowey  
 DeGette Lujan Grisham,  
 Delaney M.  
 DeLauro Luján, Ben Ray  
 DelBene Lynch  
 Demings Maloney,  
 DeSaulnier Carolyn B.  
 Deutch Maloney, Sean  
 Dingell Matsui  
 Doggett McCollum  
 Doyle, Michael McEachin  
 F. McGovern  
 Ellison McNerney  
 Engel Meeks  
 Eshoo Meng  
 Espallat Moore  
 Esty (CT) Moulton  
 Evans Murphy (FL)  
 Foster Nadler  
 Frankel (FL) Napolitano

Peters  
 Peterson  
 Heck  
 Pingree  
 Pocan  
 Polis  
 Price (NC)  
 Quigley  
 Raskin  
 Rice (NY)  
 Rosen  
 Roybal-Allard  
 Ruiz  
 Ruppertsberger  
 Rush  
 Ryan (OH)  
 Sanchez  
 Sarbanes  
 Schakowsky  
 Schiff  
 Schneider  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, David  
 Serrano  
 Sewell (AL)  
 Shea-Porter  
 Sherman  
 Sinema  
 Sires  
 Slaughter  
 Smith (WA)  
 Soto  
 Speier  
 Suozzi  
 Swallow (CA)  
 Takano  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Titus  
 Tonko  
 Torres  
 Tsongas  
 Vargas  
 Veasey  
 Vela  
 Velázquez  
 Visclosky  
 Walz  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters, Maxine  
 Watson Coleman  
 Welch  
 Yarmuth

Abraham Gibbs Newhouse  
 Adams Goodlatte Noem  
 Aderholt Gowdy Norman  
 Allen Granger Nunes  
 Amodei Griffith O'Rourke  
 Arrington Grothman Olson  
 Bacon Guthrie Palazzo  
 Banks (IN) Hanabusa Palmer  
 Barletta Handel Pascarell  
 Barr Harper Pearce  
 Beatty Harris Pelosi  
 Bilirakis Hastings  
 Bishop (UT) Heck Perlmutter  
 Black Hensarling Pingree  
 Blackburn Herrera Beutler Pocan  
 Blumenauer Higgins (LA) Polis  
 Bonamici Hill Ratcliffe  
 Brady (TX) Himes Reichert  
 Brat Hollingsworth Roby  
 Brooks (AL) Huffman Roe (TN)  
 Brooks (IN) Huizenga Rogers (KY)  
 Brown (MD) Hultgren Rokita  
 Buchanan Hunter Rooney, Thomas  
 Budd Issa J.  
 Butterfield Johnson (GA) Roskam  
 Byrne Johnson (LA) Ross  
 Calvert Johnson, Sam Rothfus  
 Carson (IN) Kaptur Royce (CA)  
 Carter (TX) Katko Russell  
 Cartwright Keating Sanford  
 Castro (TX) Kelly (MS) Scalise  
 Chabot Kelly (PA) Schiff  
 Chu, Judy Kennedy Schneider  
 Cicilline Kildee Schweikert  
 Clay King (IA) Scott (VA)  
 Cleaver King (NY) Scott, Austin  
 Cohen Krishnamoorthi Scott, David  
 Cole Kuster (NH) Sensenbrenner  
 Collins (NY) Kustoff (TN) Sessions  
 Comstock Labrador Shea-Porter  
 Conaway LaMalfa Sherman  
 Conyers Lamborn Shimkus  
 Cook Larsen (WA) Shuster  
 Cooper Latta Simpson  
 Cramer Lawson (FL) Smith (MO)  
 Crawford Lewis (MN) Smith (NJ)  
 Cuellar Lipinski Smith (TX)  
 Culberson Loudermilk Smith (WA)  
 Davidson Love Speier  
 Davis (CA) Lucas Stefanik  
 Davis, Danny Luetkemeyer Stewart  
 DeGette Lujan Grisham, Takano  
 DelBene M.  
 Demings Maloney, Tenney  
 Dent Carolyn B. Thornberry  
 DeSaulnier Marchant Tiberi  
 DesJarlais Marino Titus  
 Deutch Marshall Trott  
 Dingell Massie Tsongas  
 Doggett McCarthy Vela  
 Donovan McCaul Wagner  
 Duncan (SC) McClintock Walden  
 Duncan (TN) McCollum Walker  
 Dunn McEachin Walorski  
 Emmer McHenry Walters, Mimi  
 Engel McMorris Walz  
 Eshoo Rodgers Wasserman  
 Espallat McNerney Schultz  
 Estes (KS) Meadows Waters, Maxine  
 Evans Meehan Welch  
 Ferguson Meeks Westerman  
 Fleischmann Messer Williams  
 Fortenberry Moolenaar Wilson (SC)  
 Foster Mooney (WV) Womack  
 Frankel (FL) Moulton Yarmuth  
 Gabbard Mullin Yoho  
 Gallego Murphy (FL) Young (IA)  
 Garamendi Nadler Zeldin  
 Gianforte Napolitano

NOT VOTING—11

Bridenstine Lowenthal Thompson (CA)  
 Larson (CT) Richmond Webster (FL)  
 Lawson (FL) Schrader Wilson (FL)  
 Long Smith (NE)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1405

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

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.

NAYS—180

Aguilar	Gallagher	Norcross
Amash	Garrett	O'Halleran
Babin	Gomez	Pallone
Barragan	Gonzalez (TX)	Panetta
Barton	Gutierrez	Paulsen
Bass	Gottheimer	Payne
Bera	Graves (GA)	Perry
Bergman	Graves (LA)	Peters
Beyer	Graves (MO)	Peterson
Biggs	Green, Al	Pittenger
Bishop (MI)	Green, Gene	Poe (TX)
Blum	Gutierrez	Poliquin
Blunt Rochester	Hartzler	Posey
Bost	Hice, Jody B.	Price (NC)
Boyle, Brendan	Higgins (NY)	Raskin
F.	Holding	Reed
Brady (PA)	Hoyer	Renacci
Brownley (CA)	Hudson	Rice (NY)
Buck	Hurd	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Jackson Lee	Rohrabacher
Burgess	Jayapal	Rosen
Bustos	Jeffries	Rouzer
Capuano	Jenkins (KS)	Roybal-Allard
Carbajal	Jenkins (WV)	Ruiz
Cardenas	Johnson (OH)	Rush
Carter (GA)	Johnson, E. B.	Rutherford
Castor (FL)	Jones	Ryan (OH)
Cheney	Jordan	Sanchez
Clark (MA)	Joyce (OH)	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Shakowsky
Clyburn	Khanna	Schrader
Coffman	Kihuen	Serrano
Collins (GA)	Kilmer	Sewell (AL)
Comer	Kind	Sinema
Connolly	Kinzinger	Sires
Correa	Knight	Slaughter
Costa	LaHood	Smucker
Costello (PA)	Lance	Soto
Courtney	Langevin	Stivers
Crist	Lawrence	Suozzi
Crowley	Lee	Swalwell (CA)
Cummings	Levin	Thompson (MS)
Curbelo (FL)	Lewis (GA)	Thompson (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Lieu, Ted	Tipton
DeFazio	LoBiondo	Torres
Delaney	Loeb sack	Turner
Denham	Lofgren	Upton
DeSantis	Lowe	Valadao
Diaz-Balart	Lujan, Ben Ray	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	Lynch	Veasey
F.	MacArthur	Velázquez
Duffy	Maloney, Sean	Visclosky
Ellison	Mast	Walberg
Esty (CT)	Matsui	Watson Coleman
Faso	McGovern	Weber (TX)
Fitzpatrick	McKinley	Wenstrup
Flores	McSally	Wittman
Foxx	Mitchell	Woodall
Franks (AZ)	Moore	Yoder
Fudge	Neal	Young (AK)
Gaetz	Nolan	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Rice (SC) Tonko

NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (GA)	Larson (CT)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bridenstine	Long	Ruppersberger
DeLauro	Lowenthal	Smith (NE)
Farenthold	Meng	Thompson (CA)
Frelinghuysen	Quigley	Webster (FL)
Gohmert	Richmond	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Rooney, Francis	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1410

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

**AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION CHAIR OF HONOR**

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolu-

tion (S. Con. Res. 26) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of the American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Chair of Honor, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 26

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

**SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION (POW/MIA) CHAIR OF HONOR.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on November 8, 2017, to unveil the American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Chair of Honor.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2017.

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 October 25, 2017, at 11:47 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 304.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 85.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

**HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW**

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

**IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILES AND INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS ENFORCEMENT ACT**

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1698) to expand sanctions against Iran with respect to the ballistic missile program of Iran, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1698

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act".

**SEC. 2. SANCTIONS RELATING TO EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WITH RESPECT TO BALLISTIC MISSILE-RELATED GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)—

(A) calls upon Iran "not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology"; and

(B) requires member states to "take the necessary measures to prevent, except as decided otherwise by the UN Security Council in advance on a case-by-case basis, the supply, sale, or transfer of arms or related materiel from Iran".

(2) The United States maintains bilateral sanctions against Iran for its efforts to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technology, and its acquisition of destabilizing types and amounts of conventional weapons.

(3) According to the 2016 Worldwide Threat Assessment, the United States intelligence community judges "that Tehran would choose ballistic missiles as its preferred method of delivering nuclear weapons, if it builds them. Iran's ballistic missiles are inherently capable of delivering [weapons of mass destruction], and Tehran already has the largest inventory of ballistic missiles in the Middle East. Iran's progress on space launch vehicles—along with its desire to deter the United States and its allies—provides Tehran with the means and motivation to develop longer-range missiles, including ICBMs."

(4) Since the passage of United Nations Security Council 2231, Iran has conducted numerous tests of ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and has acquired destabilizing types of conventional weapons.

(5) Iran has pursued the ability to indigenously produce ballistic missile and cruise missile goods, services, and technologies.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to prevent Iran from undertaking any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.

(c) REPORT ON SUPPLY CHAIN OF IRAN'S BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the following:

(A) An analysis of the foreign supply chain and domestic supply chain in Iran that directly or indirectly significantly facilitates, supports, or otherwise aids the Government of Iran's ballistic missile program.

(B) A description of the geographic distribution of the foreign and domestic supply chain described in subparagraph (A).

(C) An assessment of the Government of Iran's ability to indigenously manufacture or otherwise produce the goods, services, or technology necessary to support its ballistic missile program.

(D) An identification of foreign persons that have, based on credible information, directly or indirectly facilitated or supported the development of the Government of Iran's ballistic missile program, including the foreign and domestic supply chain described in subparagraph (A).

(E) A determination with respect to each foreign person identified under subparagraph (D) as to whether the foreign person meets the criteria for designation under—

(i) paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by this section;

(ii) section 104 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44); or

(iii) Executive Order 13382 (2005).

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “EXPORTS, TRANSFERS, AND TRANSHIPMENTS” and inserting “WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION; BALLISTIC MISSILES; CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS”;

(2) by striking “Except as” and inserting the following:

“(A) WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—Except as”;

(3) by striking “(A) on or after the date of the enactment of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012” and inserting the following:

“(i)(I) on or after the date of the enactment of the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act”;

(4) by striking “(B) knew” and inserting the following:

“(II) knew”;

(5) by striking “(i) the export” and inserting the following:

“(aa) the export”;

(6) by striking “would likely” and inserting “may”;

(7) by striking “(ii) the export” and inserting the following:

“(bb) the export”;

(8) by striking “(I) acquire” and inserting the following:

“(AA) acquire”;

(9) by striking “; or” at the end of subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)(bb)(AA) (as so redesignated);

(10) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)(bb)(AA) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(BB) acquire or develop ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technologies; or”;

(11) by striking “(II) acquire” and inserting the following:

“(CC) acquire”;

(12) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)(bb)(CC) (as so redesignated) and inserting “; or”; and

(13) by adding at the end of subparagraph (A) the following:

“(ii) knowingly exports or transfers, or permits or otherwise facilitates the transshipment or re-export of, goods, services, technology, or other items to Iran that materially supports Iran's efforts to—

“(I) acquire or develop ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technologies; or

“(II) acquire or develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons (as such term is defined in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1608 of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992).”.

(e) SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO BALLISTIC MISSILES.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by subsection (e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ADDITIONAL BALLISTIC MISSILE-RELATED GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGY.—

“(i) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in paragraph (8), (10), or (12) of section 6(a), as the case may be, with respect to—

“(I) an agency or instrumentality of the Government of Iran if the President determines that the agency or instrumentality, on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, knowingly seeks to develop, procure, or acquire goods, services, or technology that materially supports efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies as described in clause (iii);

“(II) a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if the President determines that the person or agency or instrumentality knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, provides significant material support to the Government of Iran that supports efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies as described in clause (iii); and

“(III) a foreign person that the President determines knowingly engages in a significant transaction or transactions with, or provides significant financial services for, a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in subclause (I) or (II) with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies as described in clause (iii).

“(ii) DETERMINATION AND REPORT ON BALLISTIC MISSILE TESTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President determines that the Government of Iran has conducted a test of a ballistic missile that fails to comply with, violates, or is in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that identifies each senior official of the Government of Iran that the President determines is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing the missile test.

“(II) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subclause (I) should include available information on the ballistic missile or the generic class of ballistic missile or space rocket that was launched; the trajectory, duration, range, and altitude of the missile flight; the duration, range, and altitude of the flight of each stage of the missile; the location of the launch point and impact point; the payload; and other technical information that is available.

“(III) FORM.—The report required by subclause (I) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

“(iii) EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WITH RESPECT TO BALLISTIC MISSILE-RELATED GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES DESCRIBED.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subclauses (I), (II), and (III) of clause (i), and except as provided in subclause (II) of this

clause, efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies described in this subsection are efforts by the Government of Iran to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, test or use ballistic missiles or associated goods, services, or technology by the Government of Iran, including efforts by the Government of Iran to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, purchase—

“(aa) goods, services, or technology listed on the Missile Technology Control Regime Equipment and Technology Annex of October 8, 2015, and subsequent revisions that have been acquired outside of the Procurement Working Group or not otherwise approved by the United Nations Security Council; or

“(bb) goods, services, or technology not described in the matter preceding item (aa) or item (aa) but which nevertheless the President determines would be, if such goods, services, or technology were United States goods, services, or technology, prohibited for export to Iran because of their potential to materially support the development of ballistic missile systems or ballistic missile launch technologies.

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply with respect to efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies that have been approved under paragraph 4 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

“(iv) PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP DEFINED.—In clause (iii)(I), the term ‘procurement working group’ means the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission established under Annex IV of the applicable provisions in Annex A of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

“(v) ADDITIONAL REPORT ON BALLISTIC MISSILE TESTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the President should submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that specifies the number and generic class of ballistic missiles and space rockets launched by Iran during the preceding calendar year and the dates of each missile launch and the type of missile launched on each relevant date. The report should include definitions used for classifying the generic classes of missiles.

“(II) FORM.—The report required by subclause (I) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.”.

(f) SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by subsections (e) and (f), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in paragraph (8) or (12) of section 6(a), as the case may be, with respect to a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if the President determines that the person or agency or instrumentality knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, imports, exports, or re-exports to, into, or from Iran, whether directly or indirectly, any significant arms or related materiel prohibited under paragraph (5) or (6) of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).”.

(g) EXCEPTION AND DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by subsections (e), (f), and (g), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) EXCEPTION.—The President may not impose sanctions under subparagraph (B) or (C) with respect to a foreign person or a United States person if the President determines that the person has exercised due diligence in establishing and enforcing official policies, procedures, and controls to ensure that the person does not sell, supply, or transfer to or from Iran materials the sale, supply, or transfer of which would subject a person to the imposition of sanctions under subparagraph (B) or (C), as the case may be, or conduct or facilitate a financial transaction for such a sale, supply, or transfer.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—In subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph:

“(i) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY.—The term ‘agency or instrumentality’ has the meaning given such term in section 1603(b) of title 28, United States Code.

“(ii) FOREIGN STATE.—The term ‘foreign state’ has the meaning given such term in section 1603(a) of title 28, United States Code.

“(iii) GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.—The term ‘Government of Iran’ has the meaning given such term in section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on January 1, 2016.

“(iv) SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION OR TRANSACTIONS; SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SERVICES.—The terms ‘significant transaction or transactions’ and ‘significant financial services’ shall be determined in accordance with section 561.404 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section 561.404 was in effect on January 1, 2016.”

(h) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—Section 6(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (10) and inserting the following:

“(10) INADMISSIBILITY TO UNITED STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may direct the Secretary of State to deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude from the United States and, if the individual has been issued a visa or other documentation, revoke, in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) the visa or other documentation of any alien that—

“(i) is designated pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 5(b)(1); or

“(ii) the President determines is a corporate officer or principal of, or a shareholder with a controlling interest in, a sanctioned person.

“(B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (13); and

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

“(12) EXPORT SANCTION.—In the case of an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, no item on the United States Munitions List or Commerce Munitions List may be exported to that foreign state for a period of two years.”.

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sanctions that are required to be imposed under this section and the amendments made by this section are in addition to other similar or related sanctions that are required to be imposed under any other provision of law.

(j) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sec-

tions 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out any amendments made by this section.

(k) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan to implement—

(1) paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by this section; and

(2) section 104 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44).

(l) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall—

(A) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) apply with respect to an activity described in subsection (b) of section 5 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as amended by this section, that is commenced on or after such date of enactment.

(2) APPLICABILITY TO ONGOING ACTIVITIES RELATING TO CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—A person that, before the date of the enactment of this Act, commenced an activity described in section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, and continues the activity on or after such date of enactment, shall be subject to the provisions of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as amended by this Act.

### SEC. 3. REPORT ON SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed three years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the following information:

(1) Any credible information regarding Iran's attempts to develop, procure, or acquire goods, services, or technology with respect to which sanctions may be imposed pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 5(b)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as added by section 2 of this Act.

(2) Any credible information regarding Iran's acquisition or attempted acquisition of significant arms and related material in violation of paragraph 5 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(3) Any credible information regarding Iran's export or attempted export of significant arms and related material in violation of paragraph 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(4) Any approval granted by the United Nations Security Council for the export of significant arms and related material identified under paragraphs 5 or 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(5) Any credible information regarding violations of travel restrictions described in paragraph 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(6) Any approval granted by the United Nations Security Council for exemptions to the travel restrictions described in paragraph 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

### SEC. 4. DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS FOR THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF DESTABILIZING TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) NOTIFICATION OF SALES AND TRANSFERS.—Not later than 90 days after the date

on which the President receives credible information that destabilizing numbers and types of conventional weapons have been sold or transferred to Iran, the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the sale or transfer.

(b) DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the President notifies the appropriate congressional committees of a sale or transfer under subsection (a), the President shall—

(A) determine whether such sale or transfer meets the requirements to impose sanctions under each provision of law specified in subsection (c); and

(B)(i) if the determination is that the sale or transfer is subject to any such sanctions, the President shall—

(I) make a determination whether to impose or waive such sanctions with respect to such sale or transfer; and

(II) submit that determination to the appropriate congressional committees; or

(ii) if the determination is that the sale or transfer is not subject to any such sanctions, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on the determination and the specific reasons for the determination.

(2) FORM.—The determination in paragraph (1) shall be provided in an unclassified form, and may contain a classified annex.

(c) PROVISIONS OF LAW SPECIFIED.—The provisions of law specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) Section 5(b)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by section 2 of this Act.

(2) The Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(3) The Iran, North Korea, and Syria Non-proliferation Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons”—

(1) has the meaning given the terms “advanced conventional weapons” and “cruise missile” as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 1608 of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); and

(2) includes the S-300 and S-400 missile defense systems and air superiority fighters.

### SEC. 5. DETERMINATION ON USE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OF COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND RELATED SERVICES FOR ILLICIT MILITARY OR OTHER ACTIVITIES.

(a) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for three years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a determination on use by the Government of Iran of commercial passenger aircraft and related services for illicit military or other activities on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ELEMENTS OF DETERMINATION.—The determination required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the extent to which—

(1) commercial passenger aircraft in Iran are being used to transport—

(A) arms or related materiel, including defense articles, defense services, or technical data that are controlled on the United States Munitions List established under section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778);

(B) any item that is, or would be, if located in the United States, controlled by Export Control Classification Number 600 series listed on the Commerce Control List maintained under Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations;



(C) items used to facilitate the development or production of a chemical or biological weapon or other weapon of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including ballistic missiles and cruise missiles; or

(D) any foreign person that facilitates the transfer of any of the articles described in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

(2) commercial passenger aircraft licensed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury are being used for activities described in paragraph (1); and

(3) foreign governments and persons have facilitated the activities described in paragraph (1), including allowing the use of airports, services, or other resources.

(c) FORM OF DETERMINATION.—The determination required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT.—The term “commercial passenger aircraft” includes—

(A) an aircraft of United States origin and that is classified under Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 9A991 on the Commerce Control List maintained under Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations; or

(B) an aircraft not of United States origin of which United States-controlled content constitutes 10 percent or more of the total value of the aircraft and that is—

(i) classified under Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 9A991 on the Commerce Control List maintained under Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations; and

(ii) is registered in a jurisdiction other than the United States.

(2) EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS.—The term “Export Administration Regulations” means subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) RELATED SERVICES.—The term “related services”, with respect to a commercial passenger aircraft, includes—

(A) the export, re-export, sale, lease, or transfer to Iran of spare parts and components; and

(B) warranty, maintenance, and repair services.

**SEC. 6. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are implementing.

**SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) CREDIBLE INFORMATION.—The term “credible information” has the meaning given such term in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(3) GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.—The term “Government of Iran” has the meaning given such term in section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on January 1, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1415

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, due to the technical issues in the Chamber, I ask to withdraw the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the motion is withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1431

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PALMER) at 2 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

**IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILES AND INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS ENFORCEMENT ACT**

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1698) to expand sanctions against Iran with respect to the ballistic missile program of Iran, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1698

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act”.

**SEC. 2. SANCTIONS RELATING TO EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WITH RESPECT TO BALLISTIC MISSILE-RELATED GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)—

(A) calls upon Iran “not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology”; and

(B) requires member states to “take the necessary measures to prevent, except as decided otherwise by the UN Security Council in advance on a case-by-case basis, the supply, sale, or transfer of arms or related material from Iran”.

(2) The United States maintains bilateral sanctions against Iran for its efforts to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technology, and its acquisition of destabilizing types and amounts of conventional weapons.

(3) According to the 2016 Worldwide Threat Assessment, the United States intelligence community judges “that Tehran would choose ballistic missiles as its preferred method of delivering nuclear weapons, if it builds them. Iran’s ballistic missiles are inherently capable of delivering [weapons of mass destruction], and Tehran already has the largest inventory of ballistic missiles in the Middle East. Iran’s progress on space launch vehicles—along with its desire to deter the United States and its allies—provides Tehran with the means and motivation to develop longer-range missiles, including ICBMs.”

(4) Since the passage of United Nations Security Council 2231, Iran has conducted numerous tests of ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and has acquired destabilizing types of conventional weapons.

(5) Iran has pursued the ability to indigenously produce ballistic missile and cruise missile goods, services, and technologies.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to prevent Iran from undertaking any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.

**(c) REPORT ON SUPPLY CHAIN OF IRAN’S BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the following:

(A) An analysis of the foreign supply chain and domestic supply chain in Iran that directly or indirectly significantly facilitates, supports, or otherwise aids the Government of Iran’s ballistic missile program.

(B) A description of the geographic distribution of the foreign and domestic supply chain described in subparagraph (A).

(C) An assessment of the Government of Iran’s ability to indigenously manufacture or otherwise produce the goods, services, or technology necessary to support its ballistic missile program.

(D) An identification of foreign persons that have, based on credible information, directly or indirectly facilitated or supported the development of the Government of Iran’s ballistic missile program, including the foreign and domestic supply chain described in subparagraph (A).

(E) A determination with respect to each foreign person identified under subparagraph (D) as to whether the foreign person meets the criteria for designation under—

(i) paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by this section;

(ii) section 104 of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44); or

(iii) Executive Order 13382 (2005).

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “EXPORTS, TRANSFERS, AND TRANSHIPMENTS” and inserting “WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION; BALLISTIC MISSILES; CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS”;

(2) by striking “Except as” and inserting the following:

“(A) WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—Except as”;

(3) by striking “(A) on or after the date of the enactment of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012” and inserting the following:

“(i)(I) on or after the date of the enactment of the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act”;

(4) by striking “(B) knew” and inserting the following:

“(II) knew”;

(5) by striking “(i) the export” and inserting the following:

“(aa) the export”;

(6) by striking “would likely” and inserting “may”;

(7) by striking “(ii) the export” and inserting the following:

“(bb) the export”;

(8) by striking “(I) acquire” and inserting the following:

“(AA) acquire”;

(9) by striking “; or” at the end of subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)(bb)(AA) (as so redesignated);

(10) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)(bb)(AA) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(BB) acquire or develop ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technologies; or”;

(11) by striking “(II) acquire” and inserting the following:

“(CC) acquire”;

(12) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (A)(ii)(II)(bb)(CC) (as so redesignated) and inserting “; or”; and

(13) by adding at the end of subparagraph (A) the following:

“(ii) knowingly exports or transfers, or permits or otherwise facilitates the transshipment or re-export of, goods, services, technology, or other items to Iran that materially supports Iran’s efforts to—

“(I) acquire or develop ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technologies; or

“(II) acquire or develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons (as such term is defined in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1608 of the Iran Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992).”

(e) SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO BALLISTIC MISSILES.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by subsection (e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ADDITIONAL BALLISTIC MISSILE-RELATED GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGY.—

“(i) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in paragraph (8), (10), or (12) of section 6(a), as the case may be, with respect to—

“(I) an agency or instrumentality of the Government of Iran if the President determines that the agency or instrumentality, on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, knowingly seeks to develop, procure, or acquire goods, services, or technology that materially supports efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies as described in clause (iii);

“(II) a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if the Presi-

dent determines that the person or agency or instrumentality knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, provides significant material support to the Government of Iran that supports efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies as described in clause (iii); and

“(III) a foreign person that the President determines knowingly engages in a significant transaction or transactions with, or provides significant financial services for, a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in subclause (I) or (II) with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies as described in clause (iii).

“(ii) DETERMINATION AND REPORT ON BALLISTIC MISSILE TESTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President determines that the Government of Iran has conducted a test of a ballistic missile that fails to comply with, violates, or is in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that identifies each senior official of the Government of Iran that the President determines is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing the missile test.

“(II) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subclause (I) should include available information on the ballistic missile or the generic class of ballistic missile or space rocket that was launched; the trajectory, duration, range, and altitude of the missile flight; the duration, range, and altitude of the flight of each stage of the missile; the location of the launch point and impact point; the payload; and other technical information that is available.

“(III) FORM.—The report required by subclause (I) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

“(iii) EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WITH RESPECT TO BALLISTIC MISSILE-RELATED GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES DESCRIBED.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subclauses (I), (II), and (III) of clause (i), and except as provided in subclause (II) of this clause, efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies described in this subsection are efforts by the Government of Iran to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, test or use ballistic missiles or associated goods, services, or technology by the Government of Iran, including efforts by the Government of Iran to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, purchase—

“(aa) goods, services, or technology listed on the Missile Technology Control Regime Equipment and Technology Annex of October 8, 2015, and subsequent revisions that have been acquired outside of the Procurement Working Group or not otherwise approved by the United Nations Security Council; or

“(bb) goods, services, or technology not described in the matter preceding item (aa) or item (aa) but which nevertheless the President determines would be, if such goods, services, or technology were United States goods, services, or technology, prohibited for export to Iran because of their potential to materially support the development of ballistic missile systems or ballistic missile launch technologies.

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply with respect to efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to ballistic missile-related goods, services, and technologies that have been approved under paragraph 4 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

“(iv) PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP DEFINED.—In clause (ii)(I), the term ‘procurement working group’ means the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission established under Annex IV of the applicable provisions in Annex A of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

“(v) ADDITIONAL REPORT ON BALLISTIC MISSILE TESTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the President should submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that specifies the number and generic class of ballistic missiles and space rockets launched by Iran during the preceding calendar year and the dates of each missile launch and the type of missile launched on each relevant date. The report should include definitions used for classifying the generic classes of missiles.

“(II) FORM.—The report required by subclause (I) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.”

(f) SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by subsections (e) and (f), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in paragraph (8) or (12) of section 6(a), as the case may be, with respect to a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if the President determines that the person or agency or instrumentality knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, imports, exports, or re-exports to, into, or from Iran, whether directly or indirectly, any significant arms or related materiel prohibited under paragraph (5) or (6) of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).”

(g) EXCEPTION AND DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by subsections (e), (f), and (g), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) EXCEPTION.—The President may not impose sanctions under subparagraph (B) or (C) with respect to a foreign person or a United States person if the President determines that the person has exercised due diligence in establishing and enforcing official policies, procedures, and controls to ensure that the person does not sell, supply, or transfer to or from Iran materials the sale, supply, or transfer of which would subject a person to the imposition of sanctions under subparagraph (B) or (C), as the case may be, or conduct or facilitate a financial transaction for such a sale, supply, or transfer.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—In subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph:

“(i) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY.—The term ‘agency or instrumentality’ has the meaning given such term in section 1603(b) of title 28, United States Code.

“(ii) FOREIGN STATE.—The term ‘foreign state’ has the meaning given such term in section 1603(a) of title 28, United States Code.

“(iii) GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.—The term ‘Government of Iran’ has the meaning given such term in section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on January 1, 2016.

“(iv) SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION OR TRANSACTIONS; SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SERVICES.—The terms ‘significant transaction or transactions’ and ‘significant financial services’

shall be determined in accordance with section 561.404 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section 561.404 was in effect on January 1, 2016.”

(h) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—Section 6(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (10) and inserting the following:

“(10) **INADMISSIBILITY TO UNITED STATES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may direct the Secretary of State to deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude from the United States and, if the individual has been issued a visa or other documentation, revoke, in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) the visa or other documentation of any alien that—

“(i) is designated pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 5(b)(1); or

“(ii) the President determines is a corporate officer or principal of, or a shareholder with a controlling interest in, a sanctioned person.

“(B) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.**—Sanctions under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (13); and

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

“(12) **EXPORT SANCTION.**—In the case of an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, no item on the United States Munitions List or Commerce Munitions List may be exported to that foreign state for a period of two years.”

(i) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The sanctions that are required to be imposed under this section and the amendments made by this section are in addition to other similar or related sanctions that are required to be imposed under any other provision of law.

(j) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out any amendments made by this section.

(k) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan to implement—

(1) paragraph (1) of section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by this section; and

(2) section 104 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44).

(l) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by this section shall—

(A) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) apply with respect to an activity described in subsection (b) of section 5 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as amended by this section, that is commenced on or after such date of enactment.

(2) **APPLICABILITY TO ONGOING ACTIVITIES RELATING TO CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.**—A person that, before the date of the enactment of this Act, commenced an activity described in section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, and continues the activity on or

after such date of enactment, shall be subject to the provisions of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as amended by this Act.

### SEC. 3. REPORT ON SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed three years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the following information:

(1) Any credible information regarding Iran's attempts to develop, procure, or acquire goods, services, or technology with respect to which sanctions may be imposed pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 5(b)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as added by section 2 of this Act.

(2) Any credible information regarding Iran's acquisition or attempted acquisition of significant arms and related material in violation of paragraph 5 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(3) Any credible information regarding Iran's export or attempted export of significant arms and related material in violation of paragraph 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(4) Any approval granted by the United Nations Security Council for the export of significant arms and related material identified under paragraphs 5 or 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(5) Any credible information regarding violations of travel restrictions described in paragraph 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(6) Any approval granted by the United Nations Security Council for exemptions to the travel restrictions described in paragraph 6 of Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

(b) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

### SEC. 4. DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS FOR THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF DESTABILIZING TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) **NOTIFICATION OF SALES AND TRANSFERS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the President receives credible information that destabilizing numbers and types of conventional weapons have been sold or transferred to Iran, the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the sale or transfer.

(b) **DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SANCTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the President notifies the appropriate congressional committees of a sale or transfer under subsection (a), the President shall—

(A) determine whether such sale or transfer meets the requirements to impose sanctions under each provision of law specified in subsection (c); and

(B)(i) if the determination is that the sale or transfer is subject to any such sanctions, the President shall—

(I) make a determination whether to impose or waive such sanctions with respect to such sale or transfer; and

(II) submit that determination to the appropriate congressional committees; or

(ii) if the determination is that the sale or transfer is not subject to any such sanctions, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on the determination and the specific reasons for the determination.

(2) **FORM.**—The determination in paragraph (1) shall be provided in an unclassified form, and may contain a classified annex.

(c) **PROVISIONS OF LAW SPECIFIED.**—The provisions of law specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) Section 5(b)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by section 2 of this Act.

(2) The Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(3) The Iran, North Korea, and Syria Non-proliferation Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons”—

(1) has the meaning given the terms “advanced conventional weapons” and “cruise missile” as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 1608 of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); and

(2) includes the S-300 and S-400 missile defense systems and air superiority fighters.

### SEC. 5. DETERMINATION ON USE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OF COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND RELATED SERVICES FOR ILLICIT MILITARY OR OTHER ACTIVITIES.

(a) **DETERMINATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for three years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a determination on use by the Government of Iran of commercial passenger aircraft and related services for illicit military or other activities on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **ELEMENTS OF DETERMINATION.**—The determination required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the extent to which—

(1) commercial passenger aircraft in Iran are being used to transport—

(A) arms or related materiel, including defense articles, defense services, or technical data that are controlled on the United States Munitions List established under section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778);

(B) any item that is, or would be, if located in the United States, controlled by Export Control Classification Number 600 series listed on the Commerce Control List maintained under Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations;

(C) items used to facilitate the development or production of a chemical or biological weapon or other weapon of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including ballistic missiles and cruise missiles; or

(D) any foreign person that facilitates the transfer of any of the articles described in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

(2) commercial passenger aircraft licensed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury are being used for activities described in paragraph (1); and

(3) foreign governments and persons have facilitated the activities described in paragraph (1), including allowing the use of airports, services, or other resources.

(c) **FORM OF DETERMINATION.**—The determination required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT.**—The term “commercial passenger aircraft” includes—

(A) an aircraft of United States origin and that is classified under Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 9A991 on the Commerce Control List maintained under Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations; or

(B) an aircraft not of United States origin of which United States-controlled content constitutes 10 percent or more of the total value of the aircraft and that is—

(1) classified under Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 9A991 on the Commerce Control List maintained under Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations; and

(ii) is registered in a jurisdiction other than the United States.

(2) EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS.—The term “Export Administration Regulations” means subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) RELATED SERVICES.—The term “related services”, with respect to a commercial passenger aircraft, includes—

(A) the export, re-export, sale, lease, or transfer to Iran of spare parts and components; and

(B) warranty, maintenance, and repair services.

#### SEC. 6. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are implementing.

#### SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) CREDIBLE INFORMATION.—The term “credible information” has the meaning given such term in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(3) GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.—The term “Government of Iran” has the meaning given such term in section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on January 1, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives here considers four measures that we have worked on in a bipartisan way, four measures that are consistent with the President’s call for an approach to Iran that addresses the full range of threats that it possesses to not just the United States, but to our allies, to our partners as well.

This legislation, which I have authored along with my colleague, ELIOT ENGEL, I am proud to say we now have 323 cosponsors to this bill. This is the bipartisan Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act.

What this does is respond to the regime’s continued pursuit of intercontinental ballistic missiles and to dangerous conventional weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I will begin by thanking my good friend, Mr. ENGEL, for his hard work, his collaboration, along with Mr. STENY HOYER and Mr. MCCARTHY, in bringing this important legislation to this floor.

Iran has already developed an arsenal of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, and those missiles put our allies, our partners, as well as U.S. forces in range.

Now Iran is working on intercontinental ballistic missiles. I think to get the point across, I would just quote our former Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, because he testified before Congress on this issue. What he conveyed to us is: “. . . the I in ICBM stands for intercontinental, which means having the capability from flying from Iran to the United States, and we don’t want that.”

That was the way he explained this.

One of the reasons that we don’t want that is that intercontinental ballistic missiles are inherently capable of carrying nuclear weapons. In fact, as one expert told the Foreign Affairs Committee, “no country that has not aspired to possess nuclear weapons has ever opted to sustain” a lengthy and expensive missile program.

I would take issue with that. I do know of one exception to that rule. That exception was South Africa under the apartheid regime, which did develop the atomic weapon. It is an example of how sanctions can be successful, because when we passed sanctions here, the consequence was they made a decision to turn that weapon back over to the IAEA, as well as to allow Nelson Mandela to leave jail, and they held elections. That is the exception I know of.

So whether you supported the nuclear deal or whether you opposed that nuclear deal, this other issue should concern you either way. By developing the delivery system, Iran is keeping its options open.

So from those who worked on the deal, one of the architects, Jake Sullivan of the former administration, made it clear to us—and this was 2 weeks ago—that imposing costs on Iran for its continued pursuit of ballistic missiles and other destabilizing activ-

ity is “not only necessary, but justified.”

That is one of the architects of the agreement itself.

That is what this bill does. It requires a comprehensive investigation to identify and designate the companies, the banks, the individuals inside and outside of Iran which supply the regime’s missiles and supply their conventional weapons programs, and it sanctions them. In doing so, it shuts out Iranian and foreign companies involved in Iran’s missile program. It also shuts out the banks that back them. It shuts them out from the global financial system.

This bill expands Iran sanctions that we passed and were signed into law in August with H.R. 3364, the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.

For example, while the bill that passed over the summer specifically sanctions those who materially contribute to Iran’s ballistic missile program, the bill before us today goes a step further by sanctioning those that are in the business of financing Iran’s efforts.

The conventional weapons prohibition in the bill before us are also stronger, and let me explain why. The August legislation referenced the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which excludes such items as Russia’s recent sale of the S-300 air defense system to Iran. The bill before us ensures that there is no such carve-out.

Mr. Speaker, Members have different views on how to handle Iran’s nuclear program, but when it comes to Iran’s ballistic missile and conventional weapons programs, all 323 cosponsors of this bill agree: Iran has no business developing or acquiring intercontinental ballistic missiles. That is why it is so important that we pass this bill and give the administration the tools to respond.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 1698, the “Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act,” on which the Committee on Ways and Means was granted an additional referral.

As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 1698 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive formal consideration of this bill so that it may move expeditiously to the floor. The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an

appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 1698.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.*

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1698 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
*Washington, DC, October 20, 2017.*

Hon. ED ROYCE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, as amended.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1698, as amended, at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1698 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Committee Report and the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.*

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1698 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.*

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1698 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-  
MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV-  
ERNMENT REFORM,  
*Washington, DC, October 24, 2017.*

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House  
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 1698, the "Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act." This bill would expand sanctions against Iran with respect to the ballistic missile program of Iran and contains provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As a result of your having consulted with me concerning the provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo consideration of the bill so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1698 at this time we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and we will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Further, I request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform during any House-Senate conference convened on this or related legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the bill report filed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

TREY GOWDY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.*

Hon. TREY GOWDY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Govern-  
ment Reform, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOWDY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 1698 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

Let me thank our chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my friend, ED ROYCE from California, for his work moving this bill. I was pleased to join him as the lead Democratic cosponsor when we introduced this bill in March of this year.

I stand by his entire statement that he has just made. We have an absolute meeting of the minds on this bill, and that is why we were able to get 323 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle, because people understand and realize the threat that Iran poses to us, to the world, and to our allies.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has been hard at work this year devising new tools and approaches for dealing with the threat of Iran. There is no doubt that Iran must be one of our major priorities in our foreign policy, the world's most prolific state sponsor of terrorism, a serial abuser of human rights, a lifeline for the murderous

Assad regime in Syria, and the challenge we are dealing with today: Iran's illicit development of ballistic missiles.

The chairman and I share the view that when it comes to the nuclear deal, which we both opposed, the best path forward is to enforce the hell out of it even while we work to hold Iran's feet to the fire on all these other harmful activities.

We passed a tough sanctions bill last summer to crack down on Iran, as well as North Korea and Russia. While the bill before us today basically contains very similar provisions which we dealt with then and, as the chairman explained, we go one step further here, I am always eager to find even more ways to dial up pressure on the regime in Tehran, which is a malevolent regime, which is a regime that sponsors terrorism, which is a regime that is hostile to the United States, hostile to our ally Israel, and hostile to our other allies in the Middle East. But I worry that the administration isn't taking this problem seriously.

So far, the White House hasn't fully implemented the previous bill we sent to the President. The White House's approach to the nuclear deal sends a bad message to allies and adversaries around the world that the United States might not live up to its word. Rather than extracting more concessions with Iran, which I believe may be possible by working hard to build a strong multilateral coalition, the course of this may instead push Iran to leave the deal and resume work on a bomb. We can never allow that to happen.

So I am happy that we keep passing the sanctions bills, but Congress' role can only go so far. It is up to the administration to lay out its goals, devise a strategy, and implement the tough sanctions Congress has passed. It is more than 60 days since we passed the sanctions bill, and the President has not implemented it. According to the bill, which the President signed, it was supposed to be implemented within 60 days, so it sends a mixed message.

Talking tough is not enough. Congress sends a bill to the White House, the President signs it, it really should be implemented. So I want to urge the President and the administration to listen to this Congress in a bipartisan way. We passed this bill. It needs to be implemented, and it needs to be passed and implemented again.

In the meantime, I am happy to support this bill. I think this shows that we need to work together when it comes to Iran in a bipartisan way to show that there is really not a shred of difference, that we will not stand for Iran's aggression, we will not stand for the mullahs threatening us, we will not stand for Iran stomping on its own people.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the chairman for his leadership on this issue. I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. He is a former Federal prosecutor and a senior member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, let me first commend Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL for their strong bipartisan work on this very important legislation that sanctions Iran's ballistic missile program and the Iranian-backed terror group Hezbollah.

Over the last several decades, the tyrannical regime in Iran has been racing to develop a nuclear weapons program that could threaten the United States and our allies and potentially spark an arms race in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, the extremely flawed JCPOA kept parts of Iran's nuclear infrastructure in place and strengthened the regime's leader with a windfall of cash. Because this toothless deal failed to address Iran's other malign activities, such as support for terror and their intercontinental ballistic missile program, we must now find other ways to apply new pressure.

Fortunately, the House is taking action today. One of the bills we are considering will require the President to impose additional sanctions on enemies and individuals supporting Iran's development of ballistic missiles. I sincerely hope that we can soon add even more pressure on Iran by designating the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization, legislation I pursued in the last two Congresses.

Going after state sponsors is an important part of winning this fight, but we must fight also directly individual terror groups to limit the resources to prevent future attacks. That is why I am pleased that we also are considering measures to target Hezbollah.

This package would direct the President to impose new sanctions on financial institutions and foreign governments that support Hezbollah and affiliated organizations, as well as individual members of the terror groups, that they have used civilians as human shields.

□ 1445

I will say it is Hezbollah that killed so many of our marines in Beirut, Lebanon, let us not forget.

The chairman and ranking member and I recently visited Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu, who described the Shia Crescent of Iran going into Iraq, into Syria, into Lebanon. He talked to us about the manufacturing plant in Lebanon manufacturing rockets pointed straight at the State of Israel.

These bills, I believe, will take us steps closer toward ridding the world of this terrible threat posed by Islamic terror.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman

from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the esteemed majority leader of the House.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I want to thank the gentleman for his work as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I stand on this floor thinking of the world and America's place in it. What I desire most is peace. America has no desire to fight those who do not harm us. I would gladly support any international agreement that I thought would bring us to an honorable and enduring peace.

But peace is not based on hope; it is not based on good intentions; and it is not based on pieces of paper signed at well-planned ceremonies. Peace is based on strength. America and our allies will only be at peace if those who hate us fear us. This is where our credibility matters.

When an American President agrees to a deal that is so obviously unequal and untenable, everyone stops fearing us. They start to think they can push us around.

Let me be clear. They may start to push, but no one can knock us down. America will win any fight. Our enemies should know that. But, frankly, I want our enemies to be so afraid of us they don't even want to fight. That saves everyone a great deal of trouble.

When I look back to our nuclear deal with North Korea and our deal with Iran, they aren't just flawed; they are dangerous. The displays of weakness have consequences beyond nuclear weapons.

Our North Korea deal has failed. The Kim regime will soon have nuclear warheads on intercontinental ballistic missiles. These warheads will be capable of hitting our homeland. In the meantime, they have reportedly fired missiles over our allies South Korea and Japan and, almost daily, threatened war.

The deal with Iran is on a path to failure, designed in such a way that, even if it were followed, a regime that chants "death to America"—let me say that again, a regime that chants "death to America"—could have nuclear weapons the day after the deal expires.

Even ignoring the deal, Iran continues to destabilize the region for its own goal, funding terrorism abroad and fueling violence between Shia and Sunni Muslims that is tearing the Middle East apart.

The spread of nuclear weapons is a danger in and of itself. I do not need to explain why enemies of the United States should be stopped from gaining the power to level American cities, but the evil is made worse when our enemies, with any weapons, think they can push America and our allies around.

America will not be weak any longer. Today's sanction on Iran undermines its ballistic missile program and the terrorist warriors of Hezbollah whose pockets are filled with Iranian money,

just as their hands are covered with American blood. This is an important part of our Nation's new Iran strategy.

Yesterday, we passed the most far-reaching sanctions we have ever imposed on North Korea. Those who do business with North Korea support a regime run on slave labor. They support a regime that deprives its citizens of every freedom, even the freedom to think, and they support a regime that tortured and murdered American citizen Otto Warmbier not because he committed a crime or threatened their government in any way, but because he was an American. If you do business with such a regime, there will be severe consequences.

I had the honor of meeting Otto's parents, Cindy and Fred. They told me about Otto's warmth, his joy, his love of life, and the great hopes he had. In everything, he stood as a living example of the good in humanity that the Kim regime seeks to destroy. We renamed that legislation as the Otto Warmbier North Korea Nuclear Sanctions Act. It won't bring him back, but it will remind North Korea that evil has consequences.

Otto's murder was a crime we cannot accept, but it is a crime, I fear, our enemies would repeat on a much larger scale if we do not start stopping them now. Let's remind them who they are up against. America will not fail.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, and she is the author of multiple laws addressing the Iranian threat.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE for authoring this bill alongside our good friend Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, the dynamic duo of Foreign Affairs. I want to thank them for their leadership and their continued effort in holding Iran accountable.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill is called the Iran Ballistic Missile and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, authored by our chairman and ranking member. It is a strong and important bill. It sanctions Iranian and foreign persons and entities that support, that facilitate, that finance Iran's ballistic missile program. It is a necessary measure because, as we know, Iran has felt emboldened to continue advancing its missile program since the P5+1 and Iran concluded the weak nuclear deal.

Tehran has taken advantage of this deal and the U.N. Security Council resolution that endorsed the agreement. Despite language that prohibits Iran's ballistic missile testing in U.N. Resolution 2231, Iran has actually increased its missile activities, violating both the spirit and the letter of the resolution.

With the President having made his determination 2 weeks ago that Iran is not in compliance with its commit-

ments under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, we now have an opportunity to address the weakness in the nuclear deal and also Iran's illicit activity.

We must continue to press forward on a dual track. We must continue to hold Iran accountable for its non-nuclear illicit activity, while also looking to address our concerns with the nuclear deal. They are not mutually exclusive, Mr. Speaker. Both are extremely important for our national security. This is an important step.

I thank the Members for their great leadership. I support passage of Chairman ROYCE and ELIOT ENGEL's measure.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE). He is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Iran continues to be one of the two greatest threats to the United States' national security and to global security. The other, of course, is North Korea.

It has become very clear that the Iranian deal has not moderated the regime. Regardless of where people are on whether we should have signed it or not signed it, it hasn't stopped the aggressive activity and belief of the regime.

I believe that they are still developing or trying to develop nuclear weapons. No one denies that Iran is actively working toward developing a delivery capability for a nuclear payload. Iran's ballistic missile program is going to be and already is a menace not only to the United States, but to Europe and other parts of the world.

Iran is working with North Korea to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching our shores. These two nations engage in their activity and belief in hate—hate—of freedom to destroy the United States and our some of our allies. We should understand that this is a reality and the threat is now. We should deal with both of those countries accordingly, not in 10 years.

This legislation, Mr. ROYCE's Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, is very crucial.

We must hold the Ayatollah accountable for threatening the global security and our security.

We must hold the Ayatollah and the IRGC and Hezbollah accountable for the people that have been murdered throughout the world because of their response to hate, their hating of all peoples who don't agree with them.

We must target the entire global supply chain of Iran's ballistic missile program. I believe the Ayatollah, Mr. Speaker, when he tells us, on a periodic basis, "Death to America." I believe him when he says that. That is their

foreign policy to the United States: "Death to America." Americans should believe this.

Mr. Speaker, we must make sure that he does not have the capability to achieve a delivery system of his nuclear weapons, and I urge voting in favor of H.R. 1698.

Mr. Speaker, I also do want to mention another bill that I think is important that we pass today, Mr. DEUTCH's H.R. 359.

In 2013, the European Union finally came around to designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, but for reasons that make absolutely no sense to me, the Europeans only designated Hezbollah's military wing, not the political wing. By distinguishing between a terrorist group's so-called military and political wings, it seems like we have legitimized this group's deadly behavior.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah is a terrorist organization, and wherever you look in the Middle East and you find trouble, you will find the IRGC and Hezbollah working together. These two agencies from Iran are the gestapo actors for the Iranian Ayatollah, and it is time that we hold them accountable for what they are doing. We must pass these pieces of legislation, and this will go a long way in doing that.

And that is just the way it is.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we have shown again and again, and you can tell with all the comments that were made here, there is support on both sides of the aisle for holding Iran accountable for its dangerous behavior.

While today's bill is similar to the bipartisan sanctions Congress passed during the summer, the direction we are moving today with this bill is the right one: going after Iran for something outside the scope of the nuclear deal.

When the nuclear deal was negotiated, we were told very clearly that it would not prevent us, would not stop us from slapping sanctions on Iran for other things, other things like support of terrorism or ballistic missiles, or all the troublemaking activities that they do.

This is what we are doing today. We are slapping sanctions on Iran for its behavior. We are slapping sanctions on Iran because we are not going to stand for their doing whatever they please and helping terrorism, suppressing rights of its people, and being a general threat to the United States.

□ 1500

So I hope that we can get a strong, bipartisan, overwhelming vote for this bill the way we did in the bill that Chairman ROYCE and I introduced 3

months ago, again, which gave the President 60 days to identify sanctions, which was not done beyond the 60 days, and I hope that the administration forthwith does that now.

So I think this is an important measure. I think it is an important measure to have a strong bipartisan vote because we have to show the Iranians that, while we may disagree on certain things, there is no disagreement on the fact that we regard Iran as the largest state sponsor of terrorism.

It is true of both sides of the aisle that we regard Iran as threatening; that we regard Iran as dangerous in the Middle East; that we regard Iran, unfortunately, as an adversary of the United States. The comments with the rallies that the Ayatollah holds, death to America, death to Israel, is not something that we can countenance in this country, and so we are going to fight it.

I am very proud of what the House is doing today. I urge a "yes" vote. And I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, once again, for his strong leadership on this measure and so many other measures.

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit any statements or any material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all our members who worked on this bill. Over the last few years, the Foreign Affairs Committee has conducted dedicated oversight of the threats posed by Iran, and we have had dozens of hearings. And whether the topic was the nuclear program, or the missile program, or Iran's support for terrorism, or the regime's human rights abuses, the conclusion was clear. The United States must respond to the full range of threats, and with this bill and the others before us, that is what we are doing here today.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1698, and am proud to cosponsor the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enhancement Act because we must do everything in our power to curb, and ultimately put an end to Iran's malign behavior in the Middle East region and across the globe.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, which governs implementation of the JCPOA, contains travel restrictions for certain Iranian individuals. One such individual is Commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, General Qasem Soleimani. There are troubling reports that General Soleimani has traveled to Russia, and other countries, in violation of UNSCR 2231, yet, the United States and the United Nations have failed to act.

I am pleased my amendment to require a report on any credible information regarding violations of the UN travel restrictions and any exemptions that have been approved by the Security Council is included in this bill. These travel restrictions were put in place for good reason and we deserve to know whether in fact violations have occurred and what the U.S. and UN plan to do in response.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 1698.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1698, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

### SANCTIONING HIZBALLAH'S IL-LICIT USE OF CIVILIANS AS DEFENSELESS SHIELDS ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3342) to impose sanctions on foreign persons that are responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights by reason of the use by Hizballah of civilians as human shields, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3342

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Human shields are civilians, prisoners of war, and other noncombatants whose presence is designed to protect combatants and military objects from attack, and the use of human shields violates international law.

(2) Throughout the 2006 conflict with the State of Israel, Hizballah forces utilized human shields to protect themselves from counterattacks by Israeli forces, including storing weapons inside civilian homes and firing rockets from inside populated civilian areas.

(3) Hizballah has rearmed to include an arsenal of over 150,000 missiles, and other destabilizing weapons provided by the Syrian and Iranian governments, which are concealed in Shiite villages in southern Lebanon, often beneath civilian infrastructure.

(4) Hizballah is legally required to disarm under both United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) and the Taif Agreement (1989).

(5) Hizballah maintains an armed military force within Lebanon's sovereign territory in direct violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006), thus preventing Lebanon from exert-

ing its lawful control over its internationally recognized borders.

#### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to consider the use of human shields by Hizballah as a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights, to officially and publicly condemn the use of innocent civilians as human shields by Hizballah, and to take effective action against those that engage in the grave breach of international law through the use of human shields.

#### SEC. 4. UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

The President should direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations Security Council to secure support for a resolution that would impose multilateral sanctions against Hizballah for its use of civilians as human shields.

#### SEC. 5. IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS BY REASON OF USE BY HIZBALLAH OF CIVILIANS AS HUMAN SHIELDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each person on the list required under subsection (b).

(b) LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of the following:

(A) Each foreign person that the President determines, based on credible evidence, is a member of Hizballah, or acting on behalf of Hizballah, that is responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the use of civilians as human shields.

(B) Each foreign person, or agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, that the President determines has provided, attempted to provide, or significantly facilitated the provision of, material support to a person described in subparagraph (A).

(2) UPDATES.—The President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees an update of the list required under paragraph (1) as new information becomes available.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be imposed on a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state on the list required under subsection (b) are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the foreign person or of such agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if such property or interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is a foreign person on the list required under subsection (b) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—



(i) IN GENERAL.—Any visa or other documentation issued to an alien who is a foreign person on the list required under subsection (b), regardless of when such visa or other documentation was issued, shall be revoked and such alien shall be denied admission to the United States.

(ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under clause (i)—

(I) shall take effect immediately; and

(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or documentation that is in the possession of the alien who is the subject of such revocation.

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that knowingly violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations promulgated to carry out this section to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that knowingly commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of such Act.

(4) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of carrying out this section.

(B) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section.

(C) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than ten days before the promulgation of regulations under subparagraph (B), the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the proposed regulations and the provisions of this section that the regulations are implementing.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the President pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or any other relevant provision of law.

(d) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section for periods not to exceed 120 days with respect to a foreign person, or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, if the President reports to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(e) EXEMPTIONS.—Any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), or to any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

#### SEC. 6. REPORT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing a determination on whether each person described in subsection (b) meets the criteria described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 5(b)(1).

(b) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The persons described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Secretary General of Hizballah.

(2) Members of the Hizballah Politburo.

(3) Any other senior members of Hizballah or other associated entities that the President determines to be appropriate.

(4) Any person, or agency or instrumentality of a foreign state that the President determines provides material support to Hizballah that supports its use of civilians as human shields.

(c) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(1) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of such report shall be made available to the public and posted on the internet website of the Department of State—

(A) in English, Farsi, Arabic, and Azeri; and

(B) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats.

#### SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF A FOREIGN STATE.—The term “agency or instrumentality of a foreign state” has the meaning given such term in section 1603(b) of title 28, United States Code.

(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(4) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means any citizen or national of a foreign country, or any entity not organized solely under the laws of the United States or existing solely in the United States.

(5) FOREIGN STATE.—The term “foreign state” has the meaning given such term in section 1603(a) of title 28, United States Code.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States.

(7) HIZBALLAH.—The term “Hizballah” means—

(A) the entity known as Hizballah and designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189); or

(B) any person—

(i) the property or interests in property of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(ii) who is identified on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury as an agent, instrumentality, or affiliate of Hizballah.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members might have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am rising in strong support to this Shields Act, as we call it, which sanctions Hezbollah, sanctions them for their use in southern Lebanon of not only families, but entire villages as human shields; and let me explain this.

As we have discussed today, the Iranian-backed terrorist organization, Hezbollah, has constructed an entire military apparatus in the nation that sits just north of Israel's northern border in Lebanon. It is now complete with missile production facilities that are intended to strike at Israel's civilian centers.

I do want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) for his leadership because he has helped bring this critical attention to us today.

But, in the process, as we talk about Hezbollah, they have placed Israeli and Lebanese civilians directly into the path of the conflict. If you go to that border, as I have done, you can see command post after command post, not manned by the Lebanese Armed Forces. Those flags you see are not Lebanese flags, they are Hezbollah battle flags. And they man those posts, surrounded by antitank and infantry positions, surrounded by underground tunnels and rocket launchers and arms depots. In short, countless Lebanese villages are, in effect, military bases, the ones that are right along that border, financed and equipped by Iran.

No one has the right to sacrifice the lives of innocent women and children, and certainly not those dedicated to the twisted and evil goals of destroying the State of Israel.

When I say I have seen this firsthand, in 2006, I was in Haifa during the war that Hezbollah was conducting with Israel, and Hezbollah forces used human shields extensively in a cowardly effort to protect their rocket launchers from counterattacks by Israeli forces. I watched as those rockets came into civilian populations in Haifa and exploded there, and sent those civilians to the trauma hospital.

In Rambam trauma hospital, as they were bringing people in, I asked for the count that day. There were 600 victims, wounded victims of those attacks, being treated in that hospital—Arab Israelis, Jewish Israelis, Druid Israelis, all of them victims of those Hezbollah attacks.

It seems—and by the way, when you see the devastation, every one of those Iranian-made missiles has 90,000 ball bearings in it, and that is what they are launching on schools, civilian areas. They attempted to hit the hospital itself.

It seems that Hezbollah and its Iranian backers are willing to fight to the

last villager there in their quest to annihilate the people of Israel, yet neither Hezbollah nor Iran has been held to account by responsible nations for these egregious crimes.

While Foreign Minister Zarif of Iran was coddled by the EU, this issue was never raised, not by us, not by the EU. We never raised this with the Iranians as a serious issue. We have to because the willingness to overlook these human rights violations is why we find ourselves in the position that we are in today and why this legislation is critically important.

This bill calls on the U.S. and its partners to hold Hezbollah and Iran accountable through targeted sanctions and appropriate action at the United Nations Security Council.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3342, Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3342 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 3342, the "Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act."

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

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3342.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request on H.R. 3342, Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3342 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman.

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

I rise in support of this measure. Let me start off by thanking Representatives GALLAGHER of Wisconsin and SUOZZI of New York. Mr. SUOZZI is a very valued, new member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I want to thank both of them for their hard work on this bill. And, as always, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership.

This is the first of three measures that we are considering today to crack down on the terrorist group, Hezbollah. I have been focused on this challenge for a long time. More than a decade ago, I wrote a law to get Syria out of Lebanon and, with it, Syria's support for Hezbollah.

But this is a group made up of extremists, and they will always try to find new ways to gather resources and spread their reach, all in aid of its dangerous and violent agenda, which is undermining Lebanon's political independence; supporting Iran's activities, aggressive activities throughout the region; fueling chaos and war in Syria; and threatening our ally, Israel.

We need to do everything in our power to isolate Hezbollah. We need to crack down on its recruiters and financiers. We need to cut off its supply of weapons, and we need to silence its propaganda machine.

The three measures we will now consider will help us meet this challenge. The first is a new sanctions bill aimed at Hezbollah's use of innocent civilians

as human shields. It would ban entry into the United States to anyone who uses human shields on behalf of Hezbollah, and it would freeze whatever assets they have in the United States.

This bill would call upon our Ambassador to the U.N. to push for multilateral sanctions for the same behavior, and it would require the administration to keep Congress apprised about whether certain Hezbollah leaders would be caught up in the web of these sanctions.

It is a good bill and a piece of a broader strategy to cut the legs out from under this odious group.

You know, some our friends in Europe like to say: Well, there are really two parts of Hezbollah. One is the military wing, and one is the humanitarian wing, and the so-called humanitarian wing takes care of people who are in trouble, who need aid, who need help, and that is the way the story goes.

The fact is, a terrorist organization is a terrorist organization. You cannot cut it in half and say one wing is good and the other wing is not. A terrorist organization is not good. A terrorist organization kills innocent people. A terrorist organization doesn't want peace, they want war, they want killing, they want people to continue to suffer. So let us remember, Hezbollah is a terrorist group.

Hezbollah is primarily financed by Iran. Assad was losing the war in Syria on at least two occasions, and, on those times, Syria had an infusion of Hezbollah fighters sent by Iran on the side of the Assad regime to prop up Assad. And after they did it, the Russians came in and propped up Assad.

So let's remember the hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians who have been murdered in Syria in the Syria civil war. That is Hezbollah, a terrorist organization—bombs in Israel against innocent civilians, bombs every place else.

We cannot sit idly by. And so this bill, again, is a piece of a broader strategy to cut the legs out from under this odious group.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support it. I urge everyone to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER). He is a member of the Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees. He is also the author of this bill, along with Mr. TOM SUOZZI of New York.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 3342, the Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their steadfast support of this effort and their broader leadership, not only in the Middle East and as it pertains to rolling back Iran's influence in their terrorist proxies, foremost among them Hezbollah, but also as it pertains to making the case

for American leadership in the world, making the case for why American leadership, buttressed by its strong alliances, is a sound investment in our safety here at home.

I would also like to thank my friend and colleague, TOM SUOZZI, for his tireless work to make this bill a reality. He and his staff have been a pleasure to work with every step along the way, and I think he is a perfect example of someone who is here and unafraid to reach across the aisle when it comes to doing what is right for the country.

Mr. Speaker, this bill comes at an extremely important time, when Iran and its proxies, such as Hezbollah, are making a concerted push on the ground in the Middle East against the United States, our allies, and our interests.

This isn't a new phenomenon, of course. Since its founding in the early 1980s, Hezbollah has been one of the most dangerous and destructive forces throughout the greater Middle East. With the exception of al-Qaida, no foreign terrorist organization has killed more Americans than Hezbollah.

□ 1515

With the support of the Iranian Government and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Hezbollah has engaged in a sustained campaign of terrorism and violence, including against the United States and Israel.

Congress, along with the United Nations, has repeatedly documented Hezbollah's numerous violations of international law, including employing human shields throughout the 2006 conflict; concealing an arsenal that has grown to over 150,000 missiles and other destabilizing weapons provided by the Syrian and Iranian Governments in southern Lebanon, often beneath civilian infrastructure; and maintaining an armed military force within Lebanon's sovereign territory in direct violation of numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions, thus preventing Lebanon from exerting its lawful control over its internationally recognized borders.

The State Department designated Hezbollah as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997, leading to the creation of a sanctions regime against the group. Despite these sanctions, Hezbollah has continued to expand its military capabilities due in large part to extensive Iranian financial support. The State Department has continually expressed alarm at Hezbollah's capabilities and influence, describing the group in 2010 as "the most technically capable terrorist group in the world." In 2013, State Department noted the increasing tempo of Hezbollah's terrorist activities.

Despite its extensive track record of terror, Hezbollah has yet to be specifically sanctioned by the United States for its barbaric practice of using defenseless civilians as human shields. The Shields Act finally changes that and finally punishes Hezbollah for these atrocities.

Just a few of the measures included in the Shields Act include: identifying

and sanctioning Hezbollah members and those acting on behalf of Hezbollah who are complicit in or responsible for ordering or directing the use of human shields; identifying and sanctioning foreign persons, agencies, or instrumentalities of foreign states who have provided, attempted to provide, or facilitated provision of material support to identified individuals; and invoking financial penalties blocking real estate transactions, and leveraging powers ascribed by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

In short and in sum, the Shields Act is a vital and bipartisan bill that advances American interest, punishes those who support and enable the barbaric practice of using human shields, and protects our allies in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this critical legislation, and I thank the chairman again for his help and leadership.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), my colleague on the Foreign Affairs Committee, a fellow New Yorker, and one of the new good members of our committee, and co-author of this important bill.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their bipartisan leadership and the model that they show all of us on this committee in the work that they do together, and for their mentorship as well.

I would also like to thank and applaud my colleague and friend, MIKE GALLAGHER, for his leadership on this bill, and for working so closely to get this done. We are very grateful to him for his work here.

The Shields Act that I rise in support of right now will sanction Hezbollah members and their supporters for the use of human shields. It also seeks to punish the governments that enable such war crimes, including their primary supporter, Iran.

This summer, I visited Israel and I stood near Lebanon's southern border, not far from where Hezbollah threatens Israel's security. In the over 30 years since Hezbollah in 1983 killed hundreds of Americans when it bombed the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, they have become one of the most dangerous terrorist organizations, not only in Lebanon, but across the entire Middle East.

In 2006, it provoked a war with Israel by killing and kidnapping soldiers in cross-border raids, and then for nearly a month rained rockets down on Israel cities, killing dozens of civilians. Journalists and human rights groups found that it fired many of these rockets from populated areas, even from inside private homes and other civilian buildings.

That war ended more than a decade ago, but Hezbollah remains committed to Israel's destruction. It has spent millions to replenish its arsenal, which

now includes up to 150,000 missiles scattered across southern Lebanon, much of it concealed in mosques, hospitals, schools, and homes where civilians are used as human shields.

Hezbollah has continued its provocative actions on the border between Lebanon and Israel. It has killed and wounded Israeli soldiers. It has threatened bombings of gas fields and chemical plants. It has tried to smuggle advanced weapons into Lebanon. It has built an expansive network of tunnels through civilian neighborhoods. The civilians caught in its destructive web of terror would have no safe haven if Hezbollah started a war.

Hezbollah has also expanded its nefarious activities regionally, most notably playing a major role in the Syrian civil war, deploying thousands of its own men to prop up Bashar al-Assad's vicious regime. Hezbollah members are fighting alongside a Syrian army that has killed almost half a million of its own people and driven millions more into exile.

In the process, it has trained for its next war with Israel. The Israeli intelligence official have said that the group has learned frightening skills in urban warfare from its years on the ground in Syria. It did all of this, of course, at the behest of its Iran patrons who continue threatening to rain warheads down into Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

From Iraq to Gaza, from Yemen to Bahrain, Iran's proxies have been at the center of the chaos consuming the Middle East. But Hezbollah remains Iran's oldest and deadliest proxy, and its actions in Syria deserve particular attention.

In town after town, Hezbollah's militants prevented civilians from fleeing the Assad regime artillery. Activists have accused the group of carrying out mass killings and torturing refugees and other civilians. Hezbollah is one of the main reasons Assad's murderous regime continues to stay in power in 2017. Hezbollah is not only a threat to the people beyond Lebanon's border, it is a threat to the Lebanese people. The U.N. has implicated Hezbollah in the assassination of a Lebanese Prime Minister. Its use of civilians as human shields endangers the Lebanese people every moment of every day.

I applaud the leadership and the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee for continuing to find ways to crack down on Hezbollah and Iran.

Today there are four suspension bills on the calendar: H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, which prevents Iran from undertaking any activity related to advancing their ballistic missiles program; H.R. 3329, Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, which restricts Hezbollah's ability to raise money and recruit for their nefarious activities; H. Res. 359, which urges our European allies to drop their false distinction between Hezbollah's political

wing and its military wing, and designate them in their entirety as a terrorist organization; and, finally, my and Mr. GALLAGHER's legislation, H.R. 3342, the Shields Act.

We must pass these four bills to continue to reduce the influence of a group and its primary backer, Iran, that have menaced their neighbors and their own people for far too long. By passing H.R. 3342, the bipartisan Shields Act, we will send a strong message that the United States of America will not stand for the use of innocent civilians as pawns in the destructive chess game of Iran's and Hezbollah's effort to destabilize the region and the West.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleague, Congressman GALLAGHER, for his leadership. I am proud to join him in this effort. I ask my colleagues for their support.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, you can say that again.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be here with Ranking Member ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE. I want to congratulate both of them on the great work that they are doing on especially Middle East issues. Over and over again, they have been on top of the situation and making sure that America's position and the moral position of the world is declared by this Congress. Today we have four bills that are in keeping with that tradition and the great job that they have already been doing.

First of all, let us just note that this human shield legislation, whatever way Hezbollah acts, it is worth us saying: Look how horrible it is. Look at the horrible tactics they are using. It is worth us having a resolution to draw people's attention to it, but let's just be fair.

What this is today is we are calling for peace in the Middle East. We are pleading with those people who have degenerated to the point that they are using innocent people as shields, where their bodies will be cut apart by shrapnel or by enemy fire. This is how far down those people who would destroy Israel have gone. So it is just and right for us today.

Yes, they point out the human shields, but this is part of a bigger problem. That is, that you have the leadership in the Islamic world, in that part of the world anyway, in the Middle East. The Islamic leaders in that part of the world refuse to recognize Israel and its right to exist. Whether they are using their people as human shields and innocent people as human shields to accomplish their mission, whether they are allied with the mullah regime who chants "death to Israel," no; when those people—and whether it is Iran or Hezbollah or their allies throughout the Middle East—rec-

ognize that Israel has a right to exist, a major step forward would happen.

Instead, they play games about the right of return. So how would Israel ever be able to accept the fact that their country is going to be inundated with other people and taken over the minute they make some kind of an agreement to let them do so?

What we are calling out for today is—yes, we are pointing our fingers at the immorality of Hezbollah and their association with both the mullahs and the tyrannical Assad regime in Syria. We point that out, but what we are really asking for is not just a condemnation. We are asking for peace. We are asking for these people to take a look at moral arguments. America is standing for these moral arguments. Please, we are pleading with you through these condemnations of immoral activity, we are pleading with you to reach a peace agreement with Israel and to reach a peace agreement with the other peoples of that region.

I am very proud to stand with Mr. ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL, as all of us are, in the bipartisan effort to make sure America stands for truth, justice, and morality.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the bipartisan leadership of this committee.

Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 34th anniversary of the devastating Marine Corps barracks bombing in Lebanon. As the very proud mother of a U.S. marine, this is deeply personal to me. My son returned safely from his tours of service. Not so blessed were the families of 220 marines and 21 other service personnel who were murdered when Hezbollah struck with truck bombs at a Marine Corps compound in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983.

The marines we lost that day were someone's husband, father, brother, or son. Except for al-Qaida, Hezbollah has killed more Americans than any other terrorist group in the world, and it continues to be a menacing threat to all humanity.

Just look at Syria, the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time: hundreds of thousands of civilians murdered; 5 million have fled as refugees; Hezbollah, a tool of Iran, propping up Assad and fueling the violence.

Their actions don't stop there. Israelis live under the constant shadow of Hezbollah's missile arsenal that is pointed directly at them. In just a decade, they have increased their rocket count from 15,000 to 150,000. They hold the Lebanese people hostage by embedding weapons in their mosques, their hospitals, and their schools.

These bipartisan bills before us that I wholeheartedly support will help America go after the full range of Hezbollah's activities, sanctioning them for utilizing civilians as human shields, targeting Iran's financial sup-

port to Hezbollah, and urging the European Union to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of these bills.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our dynamic duo once again for this wonderful legislation and for bringing this bill before us this afternoon. I rise in strong support of H.R. 3342, Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act, authored by our friends, Congressmen GALLAGHER and SUOZZI. I thank the gentleman for their leadership.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I applaud our effort here in the House to take up several measures, as you have heard, that address a variety of threats that Iran and its proxies pose to our national security and the security of those in the region.

The use of human shields is unconscionable, morally unacceptable, and a clear violation of human rights. Yet for terrorist groups such as Iran proxies, Hezbollah, and Hamas, the use of human shields is an acceptable tactic. It is a tactic used because they engage in terror activity and asymmetric warfare. They don't have the same beliefs and morals of the United States or Israel.

□ 1530

It is an attempt to cause innocents to be dragged into their conflict and to cause as many casualties as they can with no regard whatsoever for human life.

Iran and Hezbollah know that if they engage in hostilities with Israel, the world will be quick to blame Israel for civilian deaths despite the great precautions Israel takes to not only save human lives, but to only go against belligerents.

Responsible nations must condemn this tactic by Hezbollah and by all of its state sponsors of terrorism. We must take action to hold anyone who engages in such actions accountable.

Iran and Hezbollah will continue to take advantage of our morality—what they perceive to be a weakness on our part—and they will continue to employ the use of human shields during armed conflicts until the world sends a strong and unified message, and that is what this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and I thank the ranking member.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT), who is a member of the Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security Committees.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL.

Mr. Speaker, today, I think, represents the culmination of a series of wonderful bipartisan efforts that, while on their face to those who are not initiated may seem to deal with disparate subjects insofar as they stem from Iranian ballistic missiles to Hezbollah's use of humans as shields, are, in effect, dealing with the same subject.

Mr. Speaker, one can't separate Hezbollah from Iran. In fact, Hezbollah was born only a few short years after the Iranian Revolution, which brought such heartache that the loss of life in Iran, adjusted for population, mirrors that of the entire loss of life by the United States in combat during the entire Second World War.

These are innocent Iranians killed by their own government, Mr. Speaker. And we see, also, that the Hezbollah forces in Israel, Lebanon, and, indeed, around the world quite literally have continued to use human shields.

My friend and colleague from California, Congressman ROHRBACHER, said that Hezbollah actions had degenerated to the point where they were using human shields. While I hold Mr. ROHRBACHER in great esteem, I would submit that they haven't degenerated, because that implies at some point that Hezbollah didn't engage in such reprehensible behavior.

So the bipartisan actions led by Ranking Member ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE today bring us to where, indeed, we need to be by virtue of the reality of the world in which we live. Hezbollah does not exist but for the largess of Iran and the monies funneled by the Iranian regime.

The Hezbollah missiles, which Member FRANKEL eloquently spoke of, are, indeed, Iranian missiles, and the ICBMs that Iran is developing that we seek to curtail stem from a failure to include a prohibition on ICBM development in the JCPOA under which this Congress and this administration now labor.

I would note for the RECORD, for the Members, and for those who might be viewing at home that U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929 of 2010, which included signatures from the Russians and the Chinese, said that Iran was forbidden from engaging in missile development. The JCPOA says Iran is asked not to engage in this.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Virginia an additional 1 minute.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, so we then arrive at the point where the good work of Mr. ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE is needed today, and that is what we do. It is with a glad heart that I note the bipartisan nature of these agreements.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time to close the way I always do.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides for their hard work on this bill. I want to remind my colleagues that, just a few years ago

when the last war was raging in Gaza, the other terrorist group, Hamas, used civilians as human shields. We had a resolution on the floor of this House condemning it, and I was very, very proud that that resolution passed unanimously.

We need to condemn these terrorist groups no matter what they do, but when they use people as human shields—innocent people—and then try to blame the other side for the death, it is not something that we can countenance or stand for at all. I hope that we rise to the occasion this time, as well, because I can think of nothing more despicable than using innocent civilians as human shields.

These bomb factories are built in mosques, they are built in schools, and they are built in playgrounds. They are built where children are. They are built because they are daring Israel and the United States to go after them when we know that there will be human casualties. It is really a despicable position.

Here you have two terrorist groups, Hezbollah and Hamas. One is Shia; one is Sunni. It doesn't matter. They are both out to kill people. They are both out to terrorize people. They are both out to do the opposite of what we try to do in the United States: lifting people up.

They need to be stopped, and this Congress needs to keep sending strong messages with teeth behind them to the world that we will not sit idly by and allow these terrorist activities to happen.

Using civilians as human shields is really the lowest of the low. The fact that Hezbollah would put innocent men, women, and children in harm's way as human shields tells you everything you need to know about this organization. It is a cowardly practice by a gruesome group, and it cannot and shall not be tolerated.

This measure puts us on record again condemning this terrorist group, and it gives the administration more tools to deal with one of Hezbollah's worst tools, more tools to deal with Hezbollah to stop its terrorist activities. So I urge a bipartisan "yes" vote.

I thank Chairman ROYCE again for his collaboration with us on both sides of the aisle. That is one of the great things about the Foreign Affairs Committee because we realize that partisanship stops at the water's edge. When we are talking about terrorist groups and we are talking about anti-democratic groups, they affect us all. It is important that this Congress sends strong bipartisan measures and a strong bipartisan voice to say we will not tolerate these atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote from all my colleagues on both sides, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to say I have had the opportunity to travel exten-

sively with Mr. ENGEL and to observe him and his work here in this House for many years. He has always transcended partisanship in my view, but, more importantly, from my standpoint, he has been a servant of the national interests here and the core values of the United States of America and our attempt to represent those core values around the world.

I want to take this moment, especially given his eloquent statement here about these values as he spoke about Hezbollah. These are values that I think all of us should share.

The Geneva Convention, itself, establishes standards for international law, and it does so for the protection of civilians in a war zone. They specifically prohibit, under that Geneva Convention, of course, the use of civilians as human shields. It is article 58 of the Convention's additional protocols that require parties of any conflict to avoid locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas.

So, to date, Hezbollah's arsenal is well over 100,000. As I shared with you, all of them are manufactured today by Iran. Those rockets and missiles of various ranges today include precision-guided missiles.

I spoke earlier of 2006, the second Lebanon War. That actually should be called the Hezbollah war. At that time, as I talked about the 600 victims that were in the trauma hospital, they were down to an inventory of 10,000 missiles. Today, they have, in the hands of Hezbollah—again, because of Iran—over 100,000 such rockets and missiles.

So I think, yes, Hezbollah has blatantly violated the well-established laws of armed conflict. It has targeted civilians for more than two decades in both Lebanon and Israel. As a result, both peoples are victims of Hezbollah's—and, frankly, of Iran's—brutality, and it is high time we hold them accountable. This we try to do in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, Mr. ENGEL, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3342, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HIZBALLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3329) to amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3329

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HIZBALLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

Sec. 101. Mandatory sanctions with respect to fundraising and recruitment activities for Hizballah.

Sec. 102. Modification of report with respect to financial institutions that engage in certain transactions.

Sec. 103. Sanctions against foreign states that support Hizballah.

Sec. 104. Prohibitions and conditions with respect to certain accounts held by foreign financial institutions.

Sec. 105. United States strategy to prevent hostile activities by Iran and disrupt and degrade Hizballah’s illicit networks in the Western Hemisphere.

**TITLE II—NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH**

Sec. 201. Blocking of property of affiliated networks of Hizballah.

Sec. 202. Report on racketeering activities engaged in by Hizballah.

Sec. 203. Modification of report on activities of foreign governments to disrupt global logistics networks and fundraising, financing, and money laundering activities of Hizballah.

Sec. 204. Report on combating the illicit tobacco trafficking networks used by Hizballah and other foreign terrorist organizations.

**TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Sec. 301. Regulatory authority.

Sec. 302. Implementation; penalties; judicial review; exemptions.

**TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HIZBALLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

**SEC. 101. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 101. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall, on or after the date of the enactment of this section, impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person that the President determines knowingly assists, sponsors, or, provides significant financial, material, or technological support for—

“(1) Bayt al-Mal, Jihad al-Bina, the Islamic Resistance Support Association, the Foreign Relations Department of Hizballah, the External Security Organization of Hizballah, or any successor or affiliate thereof;

“(2) al-Manar TV, al Nour Radio, or the Lebanese Media Group, or any successor or affiliate thereof;

“(3) a foreign person determined by the President to be engaged in fundraising or recruitment activities for Hizballah; or

“(4) a foreign person owned or controlled by a foreign person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

“(b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

“(A) **ASSET BLOCKING.**—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(B) **ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

“(i) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or designee of one of such Secretaries) determines is subject to subsection (a) is—

“(I) inadmissible to the United States;

“(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

“(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

“(ii) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who the President determines is subject to subsection (a), regardless of when issued.

“(II) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

“(2) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under paragraph (1)(A) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

“(c) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

“(d) **WAIVER.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person or foreign persons if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(2) **CONSULTATION.**—

“(A) **BEFORE WAIVER EXERCISED.**—Before a waiver under paragraph (1) takes effect with respect to a foreign person, the President shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign person in activities described in subsection (a).

“(B) **AFTER WAIVER EXERCISED.**—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign person, and every 120 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President

shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign person in activities described in subsection (a).

“(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate a report that lists the foreign persons that the President has credible evidence knowingly assists, sponsors, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support for the foreign persons described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a).

“(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms ‘admitted’ and ‘alien’ have meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

“(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

“(3) **ENTITY.**—The term ‘entity’—

“(A) means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group, or subgroup; and

“(B) includes a governmental entity

“(4) **FUNDRAISING OR RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The term ‘fundraising or recruitment activities’ includes online fundraising and other online commercial activities, or other means of such fundraising, recruitment, and retention, as determined by the President.

“(5) **HIZBALLAH.**—The term ‘Hizballah’ has the meaning given such term in section 102(f).

“(6) **PERSON.**—The term ‘person’ means an individual or entity.

“(7) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term ‘United States person’ means a United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States (including foreign branches), or a person in the United States.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by striking the item relating to section 101 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 101. Mandatory sanctions with respect to fundraising and recruitment activities for Hizballah.”.

**SEC. 102. MODIFICATION OF REPORT WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (d) of section 102 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) **REPORT ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and annually thereafter for a period not to exceed three years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report that—

“(A) identifies each foreign financial institution described in paragraph (2) that the President determines engages in one or more activities described in subsection (a)(2);

“(B) provides a detailed description of each such activity; and

“(C) contains a determination with respect to each such foreign financial institution that is identified under subparagraph (A) as engaging in one or more activities described in subsection (a)(2) as to whether or not such foreign financial institution is in violation of Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism) or section 2339B of title 18, United States Code, by reason of engaging in one or more such activities.

“(2) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DESCRIBED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign financial institution described in this paragraph is a foreign financial institution—

“(i) that, wherever located, is—

“(I) organized under the laws of a state sponsor of terrorism or any jurisdiction within a state sponsor of terrorism;

“(II) owned or controlled by the government of a state sponsor of terrorism;

“(III) located in the territory of a state sponsor of terrorism; or

“(IV) owned or controlled by a foreign financial institution described in subclause (I), (II), or (III); and

“(ii) the capitalization of which exceeds \$10,000,000.

“(B) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—In this paragraph, the term ‘state sponsor of terrorism’ means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined is a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

“(i) section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4605(j)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

“(ii) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

“(iii) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

“(iv) any other provision of law.”

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) all countries should designate the entirety of Hizballah as a terrorist organization; and

(2) the notion of separate Hizballah political and military “wings” is an artificial construct that attempts to legitimize Hizballah members of parliament and Hizballah cabinet officials who are complicit in Hizballah’s use of violence and coercion against its political opponents.

(c) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF HIZBALLAH.—Clause (ii) of section 102(f)(1)(E) of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “(I)” and inserting “(I)(aa)”;

(2) by striking “(II)” and inserting “(bb)”;

(3) by striking “of Hizballah.” and inserting “of Hizballah; or”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) who the President determines is an agent or affiliate of, or is owned or controlled by Hizballah.”

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains a description of any sanctions described in section 102 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of

2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) apply with respect to a foreign financial institution by reason of engaging in an activity described in subsection (a)(2) of such section with a member of the Lebanese parliament or any cabinet official of the Lebanese Republic who is a member of Hizballah or identifies as such.

(2) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be transmitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

**SEC. 103. SANCTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN STATES THAT SUPPORT HIZBALLAH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 103. SANCTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN STATES THAT SUPPORT HIZBALLAH.**

“(a) SANCTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions described in paragraph (3) with respect to any agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in paragraph (2).

“(2) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY DESCRIBED.—An agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in this paragraph is an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state that the President determines has, on or after the date of the enactment of this section, knowingly—

“(A) directly or indirectly conducted combat operations with, or supported combat operations of, Hizballah or an entity owned or controlled by Hizballah; or

“(B) directly or indirectly provided significant financial or material support for, or significant arms or related material to, Hizballah or an entity owned or controlled by Hizballah.

“(3) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this paragraph are the exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(b) SANCTIONS AGAINST STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state that engages in the activities described in subsection (a) that is an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in paragraph (3), the President shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)), require a li-

cense under the Export Administration Regulations to export or re-export to that foreign state any item designated by the Secretary of Commerce as ‘EAR 99’, other than food, medicine, medical devices, or similarly licensed items.

“(2) AUDITING REQUIREMENTS.—In the case of an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state that engages in the activities described in subsection (a) that is an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in paragraph (3), or the Government of the Russian Federation if the President determines such Government is engaged in the activities described in subsection (a), the President shall—

“(A) ensure that United States persons, and foreign persons subject to United States jurisdiction, exercise enhanced due diligence in the jurisdiction of that foreign state to ensure such persons do not directly or indirectly finance Hizballah or engage in transactions with foreign persons that directly or indirectly finance Hizballah;

“(B) ensure that United States persons, and foreign persons subject to United States jurisdiction, maintain—

“(i) internal controls to prevent such persons from engaging in a transaction or transactions with Hizballah; and

“(ii) full compliance with relevant laws and regulations;

“(C) ensure that United States persons, and foreign persons subject to United States jurisdiction, engage an auditor to perform due diligence to ascertain whether—

“(i) the internal controls of such person are effective; and

“(ii) any transactions of such person are directly or indirectly financing Hizballah; and

“(D) ensure the accuracy of the independent private sector audits and other due diligence processes by providing recommendations for the processes used to carry out such audits, including to—

“(i) improve the accuracy of such audits; and

“(ii) establish standards of best practices.

“(3) FOREIGN STATE DESCRIBED.—A foreign state described in this paragraph is a foreign state that—

“(A) the President determines has, on or after the date of the enactment of this section, knowingly provided significant financial or material support for, or arms or related material to—

“(i) Hizballah; or

“(ii) an entity owned or controlled by Hizballah; and

“(B) is a state sponsor of terrorism.

“(c) WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign state or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—

“(A) BEFORE WAIVER EXERCISED.—Before a waiver under paragraph (1) takes effect with respect to a foreign state or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, the President shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign state in activities described in subsection (b)(3) or involvement of the agency or instrumentality of a foreign state in activities described in subsection (a)(2), as the case may be.

“(B) AFTER WAIVER EXERCISED.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign state or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, and every 120 days thereafter

while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign state in activities described in subsection (b)(3) or involvement of the agency or instrumentality of a foreign state in activities described in subsection (a)(2), as the case may be.

“(d) REPORT ON SUPPLY CHAIN OF HIZBALLAH’S MISSILE PRODUCTION FACILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate on a report that contains the following:

“(A) An analysis of the foreign and domestic supply chain that significantly facilitates, supports, or otherwise aids Hizballah’s acquisition or development of missile production facilities.

“(B) A description of the geographic distribution of the foreign and domestic supply chain described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) An assessment of the provision of goods, services, or technology transferred to Hizballah by the Government of Iran or its affiliates to indigenously manufacture or otherwise produce missiles.

“(D) An identification of foreign persons that have, on or after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and based on credible evidence—

“(i) knowingly provided significant financial or material support for, or significant arms or related material to, Hizballah or an entity owned or controlled by Hizballah; or

“(ii) knowingly facilitated the transfer of significant arms or related materiel to Hizballah utilizing commercial aircraft or air carriers.

“(E) A description of the steps that the President is taking to disrupt the foreign and domestic supply chain described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF A FOREIGN STATE; FOREIGN STATE.—The terms ‘agency or instrumentality of a foreign state’ and ‘foreign state’ have the meanings given those terms in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code.

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

“(3) ARMS OR RELATED MATERIAL.—The term ‘arms or related material’ means—

“(A) nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological weapons or materials or components of such weapons;

“(B) ballistic or cruise missile weapons or materials or components of such weapons;

“(C) destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons;

“(D) defense articles or defense services, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (3) and

(4), respectively, of section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794); or

“(E) defense information, as that term is defined in section 644 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403).

“(4) EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS.—The term ‘Export Administration Regulations’ means subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act).

“(5) HIZBALLAH.—The term ‘Hizballah’ has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).

“(6) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—In this paragraph, the term ‘state sponsor of terrorism’ means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined is a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

“(A) section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4605(j)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

“(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

“(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

“(D) any other provision of law.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 102 the following new item:

“Sec. 103. Sanctions against foreign states that support Hizballah.”.

(c) REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL SUPPORT AND ARMS OR RELATED MATERIEL PROVIDED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO HIZBALLAH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the following:

(A) A description of significant material support and arms or related material that the Government of the Russian Federation has, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, knowingly, directly or indirectly, provided to Hizballah or an entity owned or controlled by Hizballah.

(B) An analysis of the extent to which Russian strategic weapons deployed in Syria, including air defense systems, have provided protection for Hizballah fighters in Syria.

(C) An assessment of whether Russian counter-proliferation safeguards can ensure that any arms or related materiel described in subparagraph (A) will not be used against Israel in the future.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015, as added by this section.

(B) ARMS OR RELATED MATERIAL.—The term “arms or related material” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015, as added by this section.

**SEC. 104. PROHIBITIONS AND CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ACCOUNTS HELD BY FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

Section 104(c)(2)(A)(ii) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513(c)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting before “or support for acts of international terrorism” the following “, including Hizballah

(as defined in section 102(f)(1)(E) of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note)), and any affiliates or successors thereof.”.

**SEC. 105. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT HOSTILE ACTIVITIES BY IRAN AND DISRUPT AND DEGRADE HIZBALLAH’S ILLICIT NETWORKS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to prevent hostile activities by Iran and disrupt and degrade Hizballah’s illicit networks in the Western Hemisphere that—

(1) identifies Department of State priorities, in coordination with other executive branch agencies, for defining United States policy to protect United States interests from Iranian and Hizballah threats in the Western Hemisphere;

(2) coordinates with other executive branch agencies to ensure that information-sharing, interdictions, arrests, investigations, indictments, sanctions, and designations related to Hizballah individuals or networks in the Western Hemisphere are integrated, coordinated, and publicly communicated by the United States in a manner that supports United States interests;

(3) describes Iranian and Hizballah activities in the Western Hemisphere, their relationships with transnational criminal organizations in the region, their use of the region’s commodities trade to engage in illicit activities, and their use of Latin American and Caribbean visas, including through Citizenship by Investment Programs to seek admittance into the United States, as well as a plan to address any security vulnerabilities to the United States;

(4) includes a review of all relevant United States sanctions that relate to Hizballah’s activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and an assessment of their use, effectiveness, and any capability gaps;

(5) includes a review of the use of the Department of State’s rewards program under section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act (22 U.S.C. 2708) to obtain information related to Latin America-based Hizballah operatives and illicit networks and an assessment of the effectiveness of this program for targeting Hizballah in the Western Hemisphere;

(6) includes a review of all relevant United States sanctions on financial institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean that engage in activities outlined by section 102 of Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) and an assessment of the use of the authorities outlined, their effectiveness, and recommendations for improvement;

(7) describes Hizballah criminal support networks, including country facilitation, in the Western Hemisphere and outlines a United States approach to partners in the region to address those illicit networks and build country capacity to combat the transnational criminal activities of Hizballah; and

(8) includes a review of the actions of governments in the Western Hemisphere to identify, investigate, and prosecute Latin America-based Hizballah operatives, and enforce sanctions either personally or to their business interests of Latin America-based Hizballah operatives as well as recommendations for United States action towards governments who refuse to impose sanctions or who willingly facilitate Latin America-based Hizballah illicit activities.

(b) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the greatest extent possible but may include a classified annex.



(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(d) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 129 Stat. 2206; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by section 103 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 104. DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.**

“Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the President shall instruct—

“(1) the Secretary of State to increase cooperation with countries in the Western Hemisphere to assist in strengthening the capacity of governments to prevent hostile activity by Iran and disrupt and degrade Hizballah’s illicit networks operating in the region, including diplomatic engagement that involves—

“(A) efforts to target and expose illicit networks, arrest perpetrators, freeze assets, and attack Iran and Hizballah’s use of illicit networks using international trade and banking systems;

“(B) efforts to revoke or deny visas from those implicated in Hizballah’s activity in the region, including lawyers, accountants, business partners, service providers, and politicians who knowingly facilitate or fail to take measures to counter Hizballah’s illicit finance in their own jurisdictions;

“(C) efforts to assist willing nations with the development of counter-organized crime legislation, the strengthening of financial investigative capacity, and a fully-vetted counter-organized crime judicial model in places plagued with corruption; and

“(D) efforts to persuade governments in the region to list Hizballah as a terrorist organization;

“(2) the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States to work to secure support at the Organization of American States for a resolution that would declare Hizballah as a terrorist organization and address Hizballah’s illicit networks operating in the region;

“(3) the United States Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to work to secure a report on compliance by participating states with OSCE Decision Number 1063, the ‘Consolidated Framework for the Fight Against Terrorism’, in regard to Hizballah, with particular focus on the mandate to ‘suppress the financing of terrorism, including its links with money-laundering and illegal economic activities’, especially as it relates transatlantic relations, including with Latin America and the Caribbean; and

“(4) United States diplomats to work with international forums, including the Financial Action Task Force, to identify government entities within Latin America and the Caribbean that provide support, facilitation, or assistance to individuals affiliated with Hizballah in the Western Hemisphere.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by inserting after the item related to section 103 the following new item:

“Sec. 104. Diplomatic initiatives.”.

**TITLE II—NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH**

**SEC. 201. BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF AFFILIATED NETWORKS OF HIZBALLAH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 201. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO AFFILIATED NETWORKS OF HIZBALLAH.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to affiliated networks of Hizballah, including by reason of significant transnational criminal activities of such networks.

“(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are sanctions applied with respect to a foreign person pursuant to Executive Order 13581 (75 Fed. Reg. 44,757) (as such Executive order was in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this section).

“(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘Hizballah’ has the meaning given such term in section 102(f).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to title II and inserting the following:

“TITLE II—IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO AFFILIATED NETWORKS OF HIZBALLAH AND REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH”;

and

(2) by striking the item relating to section 201 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 201. Imposition of sanctions with respect to affiliated networks of Hizballah.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 202. REPORT ON RACKETEERING ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY HIZBALLAH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 202. REPORT ON RACKETEERING ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY HIZBALLAH.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the heads of other applicable Federal agencies, shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:

“(1) Activities that Hizballah, and agents and affiliates of Hizballah, have engaged in that are racketeering activities.

“(2) The extent to which Hizballah, and agents and affiliates of Hizballah, engage in a pattern of such racketeering activities.

“(b) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(2) HIZBALLAH.—The term ‘Hizballah’ has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).

“(3) RACKETEERING ACTIVITY.—The term ‘racketeering activity’ has the meaning given that term in section 1961(1) of title 18, United States Code.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by striking the item relating to section 202 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 202. Report on racketeering activities engaged in by Hizballah.”.

**SEC. 203. MODIFICATION OF REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO DISRUPT GLOBAL LOGISTICS NETWORKS AND FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(a)(1) of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “this Act” and inserting “the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years”;

(2) in subparagraph (D)(ii)(II), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and free-trade zones.” and inserting “free-trade zones, business partnerships and joint ventures, and other investments in small and medium-sized enterprises.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) a list of provinces, municipalities, and local governments outside of Lebanon that expressly consent to, or with knowledge allow, tolerate, or disregard the use of their territory by Hizballah to carry out terrorist activities, including training, financing, and recruitment;

“(G) a description of the total aggregate revenues and remittances that Hizballah receives from the global logistics networks of Hizballah, including—

“(i) a list of Hizballah’s sources of revenue, including sources of revenue based on illicit activity, revenues from Iran, charities, and other business activities; and

“(ii) a list of Hizballah’s expenditures, including expenditures for ongoing military operations, social networks, and external operations;

“(H) a survey of national and transnational legal measures available to target Hizballah’s financial networks;

“(I) an assessment of Hizballah’s financial operations in areas under its operational or political control in Lebanon and Syria and available measures to target Hizballah’s financial operations in those areas;

“(J) a review of Hizballah’s international operational capabilities, including in the United States; and

“(K) a review of—

“(i) the total number and value of Hizballah-related assets seized and forfeited; and

“(ii) the total number of indictments, prosecutions, and extraditions of Hizballah members or affiliates.”.

(b) REPORT ON ESTIMATED NET WORTH OF AND DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO SENIOR HIZBALLAH MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the President

shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains—

(A) the estimated total net worth of each individual described in paragraph (2);

(B) a description of how funds of each individual described in paragraph (2) were acquired, and how such funds have been used or employed; and

(C) a determination of whether each individual described in paragraph (2) meets the criteria described in paragraph (3) or (4) of section 1263(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

(2) **INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.**—The individuals described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Secretary General of Hizballah.

(B) Members of the Hizballah Politburo.

(C) Any other individual that the President determines is a senior foreign political figure of Hizballah, is associated with Hizballah, or otherwise provides significant support to Hizballah.

(3) **FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—

(A) **FORM.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(B) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The unclassified portion of the report required under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Department of State and all United States Embassy websites.

(4) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(B) **FUNDS.**—The term “funds” means—

(i) cash;

(ii) equity;

(iii) any other intangible asset the value of which is derived from a contractual claim, including bank deposits, bonds, stocks, a security (as defined in section 2(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a))), or a security or an equity security (as those terms are defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))); and

(iv) anything else of value that the President determines to be appropriate.

(C) **SENIOR FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURE.**—The term “senior foreign political figure” has the meaning given that term in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

**SEC. 204. REPORT ON COMBATING THE ILLICIT TOBACCO TRAFFICKING NETWORKS USED BY HIZBALLAH AND OTHER FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on combating the illicit tobacco trafficking networks used by Hizballah and other foreign terrorist organizations to finance their operations, as described in the report submitted to Congress in December 2015 by the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services entitled, “The Global Illicit Trade in Tobacco: A Threat to National Security.”

(b) **MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the steps to be taken by Federal agencies to combat the illicit tobacco trafficking networks used by Hizballah, other foreign terrorist organizations, and other illicit actors.

(2) A description of the steps to be taken to engage State and local law enforcement authorities in efforts to combat illicit tobacco trafficking networks operating within the United States.

(3) A description of the steps to be taken to engage foreign government law enforcement and intelligence authorities in efforts to combat illicit tobacco trafficking networks operating outside the United States.

(4) Recommendations for legislative or administrative action needed to address the threat of illicit tobacco trafficking networks.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

**TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 301. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, prescribe regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) **BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 10 days before the prescription of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are implementing.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

**SEC. 302. IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES; JUDICIAL REVIEW; EXEMPTIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title I of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by sections 103 and 105 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 105. IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES; JUDICIAL REVIEW; EXEMPTIONS; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

“(a) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out sections 101 and 103.

“(b) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Pow-

ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed to carry out section 101 or 103 to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

“(c) **PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If a finding, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court *ex parte* and in camera.

“(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under section 101 or 103 or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

“(d) **EXEMPTIONS.**—The following activities shall be exempt from sections 101 and 103:

“(1) Any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

“(2) Any transaction necessary to comply with United States obligations under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United States, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, or under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or any other United States international agreement.

“(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in section 101 or 103 shall be construed to limit the authority of the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or under any other provision of law.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104, as added by section 105(c) of this Act, the following new item:

“Sec. 105. Implementation; penalties; judicial review; exemptions; rule of construction.”

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend any remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we will consider legislation targeting Hezbollah, Iran's leading terrorist proxy, with tough, new sanctions.

It was 34 years ago this Monday that a truck bomb filled with explosives

detonated outside the United States Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 of our servicemen. Between 1982 and 1984, we had 272 marines, soldiers, and sailors from 39 States and Puerto Rico lose their lives while serving as peacekeepers in Beirut. Hezbollah was behind those attacks.

Since that fateful day, Hezbollah has collaborated with Iran to expand terror throughout the region, taking hundreds of thousands of lives if we count the lives of human beings lost in Syria, in Yemen, in Iraq, and in Gaza.

Today, as a leading Iranian proxy, Hezbollah continues to be Iran's front line against Israel. Since its 2006 war with Israel, Hezbollah has dramatically grown its supply of rockets and missiles, allowing it to strike throughout Israel with great precision and force.

It is by putting that military power to very effective use that it has gleaned through what it has learned on the ground in Syria. In Syria, its fighters are key to Tehran and its efforts to prop up the Assad regime, working with the Revolutionary Guard and also working with Russian troops there.

So now Hezbollah and Iran are reportedly working to introduce game-changing weapons into Lebanon and Syria, and that is what brings about this particular bill. What they are trying to do is produce facilities for sophisticated rockets and missiles there on the ground, on the border in Syria, on the border, also, in Lebanon, and that could lead to another war.

It is not a cheap effort to do this. That is why the committee is focused on dismantling Hezbollah's financial networks. In 2015, we led the way to enact the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act to target those that facilitate financial transactions for Hezbollah.

Now this bill builds on that effort to further ramp up pressure on the Iranian proxy, Hezbollah. It sanctions regimes, including Iran and Syria, that provide weapons to Hezbollah—in other words, an attempt to stop the transfer of these weapons. It targets Hezbollah's innovative fundraising and recruiting efforts, including its attempts to crowdsource small donations to support its fighters, which is the latest evolution of Hezbollah's efforts.

□ 1545

Hezbollah launched an online crowdsourcing campaign entitled: "Equip a Mujahid," which calls for donations, large or small, payable in installments or in one sum, to equip suicide bombers and Hezbollah fighters.

This bill recognizes that Hezbollah is no longer only a terrorist group, but is also a global criminal organization, which has developed a global criminal network that profits from drug trafficking, money laundering, counterfeiting, and cigarette smuggling, and it gives the administration the tools to respond accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, for years, this body has led the way in calling for the need to

respond to the full range of threats from Iran. Hezbollah, the regime's leading terrorist proxy, ranks among the top of those threats, in terms of what is being encountered right now.

So I urge my colleagues to support this effort to ensure that the United States has the tools to respond.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3329, the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3329 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, October 20, 2017.

Hon. ED ROYCE,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 3329, the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, as amended.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3329, as amended, at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3329 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Committee Report and the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3329, the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3329 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 3329, the "Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017."

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

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3329.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 23, 2017.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request on H.R. 3329, the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3329 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
*Chairman.*

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

Let me again thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership and for his hard work on this bill. I am glad to be the lead Democratic cosponsor of this legislation, which builds on a law that ED ROYCE and I wrote in 2015.

One of the best ways to stop Hezbollah's dangerous activity is to cut off its financing, which is what we tried to do 2 years ago. We went after Hezbollah's financial patrons, including Iran. But again, this is a group that, if you block one path forward, they will do what it takes to find another way around.

So with this measure, we are broadening existing law by going after a bigger universe of Hezbollah supporters and enablers. This bill would impose mandatory sanctions on any third parties or governments providing money, equipment, or weapons to Hezbollah.

We know that Iran will again get caught up in this dragnet, and this bill doesn't run afoul of our obligations under the nuclear deal or any other deal. After all, Iran's support for Hezbollah is outside the scope of the JCPOA.

But it is not just Iran. In recent years, we have seen Moscow step up its support of Hezbollah, particularly on the battlefields of Syria, where Russia has supplied Hezbollah with weapons. It is really outrageous. Russia claims to be fighting so-called terrorists as they bomb schools, hospitals, and marketplaces. Yet Russian weapons are ending up in Hezbollah hands.

Let me be clear: Hezbollah is a terrorist group. It is as simple as that. Chairman ROYCE and I have said this many times. The Russia-Hezbollah relationship threatens to undermine global antiterrorism efforts.

This bill sends a message that any government in cahoots with Hezbollah, anyone who wants to do business with this terrorist group or support its violent aims, is going to face the consequences.

This is a timely bill. Iran is building weapons factories in southern Lebanon that would be buried far underground, out of Israel's reach. The missiles that will come off that assembly line are

more precise and have a longer range, putting virtually the whole of Israel in their sights.

Iran's and Hezbollah's presence in Syria, particularly in the south, right on Israel's borders, is a very serious concern. I worry about the deescalation zones the United States helped to establish in southern Syria. We don't want those zones to become hotbeds of Hezbollah.

Several weeks ago, I was in Israel, and we trekked up to the border between Israel and Lebanon. At the border, as far as the eye can see, when you are in Israel and you are looking down at Lebanon, you see a number of flags. Are they the Lebanese flag? No. It is the Hezbollah flag.

Hezbollah has virtually taken over large parts of Lebanon, strangling the Lebanese people as well. The Lebanese people are suffering under a brutal terrorist group that is embedded in a society that disallows them to act as a free and open society.

My heart really goes out to the Lebanese people, who have a terrorist group virtually sitting in their lap, refusing to move, and putting them in all kinds of danger.

These areas have the potential to create a safe haven for Hezbollah and Iranian actors. They will stoke existing tensions and could create a corridor from Tehran to the Mediterranean through Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. This would present a major shift in the regional balance of power, and it would present threats to Israel that it could not ignore.

If these deescalation zones end up empowering Iran and Hezbollah, then we will have betrayed our ally, Israel, at the most critical moment. That is why we are passing this bill.

I, again, thank Chairman ROYCE for his continued strong leadership on this issue. I strongly support this measure.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, in view of the National Defense Authorization conference, and in view of the fact that, from the House side, Mr. ENGEL and I both serve on that conference, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), and I ask unanimous consent that she may control that time on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, since I, too, will go over to the Senate side, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), and I ask unanimous consent that he may control the time on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. ROYCE from California, and the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL from New York, once again for their leadership. They are the dynamic duo of the Foreign Affairs Committee on this issue. This is a very important day, in terms of sanctioning evildoers in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor the bill promoted by Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, H.R. 3329, the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act. This is yet another strong, bipartisan bill that they have authored and brought to the floor, aimed at holding Iran and its proxy, Hezbollah, accountable for their illicit activity.

I was pleased that my amendment to this bill was included to ensure that we identify those Hezbollah parliamentarians and cabinet officials who are subject to the sanctions in this bill and the underlying bill that it amends.

This is important, Mr. Speaker, because Hezbollah members have prominent positions in Lebanon's Government, and we want to ensure that they cannot use government funds to divert to Hezbollah's terror activity, and, if they do, those institutions that help facilitate such activity are held to account.

I was also pleased to see other provisions approved that would allow us to identify and track individuals and entities that are being used by Iran to supply Hezbollah with arms or support for its missile production facilities in Syria.

We know that Iran uses commercial civilian aircraft to fly weapons, arms, and fighters to Syria in support of Hezbollah. We cannot allow Iran to use these civilian aircraft for such activity. This is the first step toward making sure that, once these aircraft are identified, responsible nations will think twice about allowing these Iranian planes to land in their countries.

This bill also addresses Iran's and Hezbollah's ability to finance their illicit activities, which is so important, Mr. Speaker. We must go after those individuals and those institutions that provide financial safe havens to these terror groups, and we have got to disrupt their financial networks.

That is why this bill is so important, and I urge my colleagues to support Chairman ROYCE's and Ranking Member ENGEL's measure before us today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is good to be on the floor with my friend and colleague from Florida to speak in support of H.R. 3329, an important bipartisan effort brought forward by Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, an important measure to further combat Hezbollah's terrorist activity.

We made great strides 2 years ago when we passed the Hezbollah International Financing Act, which has already begun to sever the terror group

from its funding sources. However, it is clear that more needs to be done.

The new bill will further restrict Hezbollah's ability to recruit and fundraise by targeting foreign state sponsors, including Iran, while also increasing pressure on banks and other international financial institutions that serve Hezbollah.

It is important to remember why it is in America's interest to combat Hezbollah terrorism. Not that anyone here or at home needs a reminder, we all remember, or we have all learned about, the 1983 attacks in Beirut on our Embassy and the Marine Corps barracks that killed hundreds of Americans; the attacks in Argentina on the Israeli Embassy in 1992, and the AMIA Jewish center in 1994 that, in total, killed over 100 more; the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia; and more recent attacks in Europe, including the 2012 bus bombing of Israeli tourists in Bulgaria.

But it has been Hezbollah's support for the horrific Assad regime in Syria that has led even Arab governments in the region to acknowledge Hezbollah's dangerous role as an Iranian terror proxy. Last year, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League took the dynamic step of designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

Yet, even while Hezbollah is focused on the war in Syria, its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, continues to vow Israel's destruction, a threat Israel's leaders don't take lightly, given two previous wars and intelligence suggesting Hezbollah now has over 150,000 missiles and rockets in Lebanon aimed at every corner of Israel's map.

In a future war, Israeli defense officials fear that Hezbollah will launch over a thousand rockets a day with the capacity to hit civilians in Israel's north, across Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and even in the southernmost city, Eilat.

This is made all the more troubling by reports that Iran, in addition to transferring advanced precision-guided missiles to Hezbollah, is now helping the terror group set up indigenous missile development facilities in both Syria and Lebanon.

These are unacceptable developments. They underscore the importance of today's legislation: cut off Hezbollah's most critical sources of funding and support, including from its primary sponsor, Iran.

I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for her tireless leadership in standing up for all those pushing back against Iran's influence in the region, Iran's support for Hezbollah, and specifically here, cutting off sources of funding for Hezbollah.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For 30 years, Hezbollah has remained Iran's proxy and Iran remains Hezbollah's primary source of financial support—a cozy relationship.

In April 2015, its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, boasted that, even under sanctions, Iran still funds Hezbollah's terror. He anticipated that “a rich and powerful Iran, which will be open to the world” will be able to do even more.

The Iran nuclear agreement has made it possible for Iran to provide Hezbollah with a windfall. But Tehran is not Hezbollah's only source of income. Since its inception, Hezbollah has developed a broad criminal network involved in a range of illicit activities, from drug trafficking to cigarette smuggling, to money laundering to counterfeiting.

These global terrorists double as global criminals. This is why we must employ a combination of law enforcement, financial, criminal, civil, and regulatory tools to deter, disrupt, and publicly illuminate the global illicit Hezbollah network.

□ 1600

I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for closely collaborating and developing this critical legislation, as well as Senator RUBIO and Senator SHAHEEN in the Senate that have taken the lead on this effort in the Senate. I look forward to continuing to work with them to get this critical legislation signed into law.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3329, the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act. This important legislation builds on the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015. I was pleased to have originally introduced this bill in 2014 with my colleague MARK MEADOWS.

Hizballah at the behest and assistance of Iran is active in Syria and has helped Assad maintain regime control. Hizballah fighters are returning to Lebanon more battle-tested and more capable than ever before.

In Lebanon, again with assistance from Iran, Hizballah has been able to amass more than 150,000 rockets—a ten-fold increase compared to 15,000 in 2006.

Iran uses several means to transfer weapons to Hizballah, including by land, sea, and air and is now reportedly building missile production facilities in Lebanon to enable an indigenous rocket-producing capability for Hizballah.

Hizballah is not only a grave threat to our ally Israel, they are a threat to regional security and America's national security interests. Hizballah will be far more dangerous than ever before with an indigenous rocket-producing capability.

That is why I am pleased that an amendment I offered during the full committee markup of H.R. 3329 was included in the bill to en-

sure the U.S. Government is focused on this urgent threat. My amendment would require the President to report to Congress on the foreign and domestic supply chain that advances Hizballah's domestic missile capabilities. This includes how Iran is able to transfer goods and technology, a list of those who facilitate missile transfers, and the steps being taken to disrupt the supply chain that advances Hizballah's missile capabilities.

The United States cannot stand by while Israel faces such a grave threat on its northern border. We must decisively act and we deserve to know what exactly the U.S. Government is doing to combat this threat.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3329.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3329, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### URGING EUROPEAN UNION TO DESIGNATE HIZBALLAH AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 359) urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 359

Whereas in July 2012 a Hizballah terror attack in Bulgaria killed five Israeli tourists and one Bulgarian;

Whereas in March 2013 a Hizballah operative in Cyprus was convicted of planning terror attacks after admitting he was a member of Hizballah, was trained in the use of weapons, and used a dual Swedish-Lebanese passport to travel around Europe on missions as a courier and scout for Hizballah;

Whereas though such Hizballah operative was convicted on criminal-related charges, authorities had to drop terrorism charges against him because Hizballah was not listed as a terrorist organization;

Whereas the European Union (EU) in July 2013 designated Hizballah's so-called “military wing”—but not the organization as a whole—as a terrorist organization;

Whereas despite restrictions put on Hizballah since the designation of its military wing, the group continues to conduct illicit narco-trafficking, money laundering, and weapons trafficking throughout Europe;

Whereas EU designation of Hizballah's military wing has enabled substantial and important cooperation between United States and European authorities aimed at uncovering and thwarting Hizballah's international criminal activities, such as drug trafficking and money laundering, the proceeds of which are used to purchase weapons and advance Hizballah's terrorist aims;

Whereas in December 2015 the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-102) was signed into law

in the United States, broadening financial sector sanctions against Hezbollah to compel foreign financial institutions to refrain from supporting the terrorist group;

Whereas in February 2016 the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection partnered with counterparts in France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium to arrest top leaders of the European cell of Hezbollah's External Security Organization Business Affairs Component—a cell that engages in international money laundering and drug trafficking to support Hezbollah's terror activities;

Whereas for many years, the Governments of Iran and Syria have been the prime sponsors of Hezbollah, harboring, financing, training, and arming the group;

Whereas Department of Defense officials estimate that Iran provides as much as \$200,000,000 per year to Hezbollah in the form of financial and logistical support, weapons, and training;

Whereas Hezbollah now has an arsenal of approximately 150,000 missiles and rockets, many of which can reach deep into Israel, at a time when Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah is threatening to attack and invade Israel;

Whereas Hezbollah fighters have been supporting the Assad regime in Syria, often leading operations in the conflict which has left more than 465,000 dead;

Whereas Russia has established fusion centers in Syria to coordinate with Iran, the Assad regime, and Hezbollah, and Russian air cover has given Hezbollah an advantage on the battlefield against Syria rebels;

Whereas Hezbollah's destabilizing actions in the conflict in Syria has fueled a migrant crisis that has brought nearly 400,000 migrants and refugees to Europe in 2016 and 2017 alone;

Whereas Lebanon continues to be plagued by instability and violence;

Whereas due to Hezbollah's actions in Syria, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has carried out retaliatory terrorist attacks in Beirut;

Whereas the Lebanese Armed Forces, the legitimate security establishment of the country as set forth in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), are struggling to control the flow of weapons and Hezbollah fighters at its borders;

Whereas Hezbollah trains and provides weapons for Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, further destabilizing the region and perpetuating violence in those countries;

Whereas in October 2012 Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem stated that "[Hezbollah does not] have a military wing and a political one . . . Every element of Hezbollah, from commanders to members as well as our various capabilities, are in the service of the resistance";

Whereas the United States, Canada, Israel, and the Netherlands have designated Hezbollah in its entirety as a terror organization, while Australia and New Zealand have applied the designation to the organization's so-called military wing;

Whereas in March 2016 the Gulf Cooperation Council, the bloc of six Gulf Arab nations, formally branded Hezbollah, in its entirety, a terrorist organization, and the League of Arab States shortly thereafter adopted the same designation;

Whereas in April 2016 the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, denounced Hezbollah's "terrorist acts" in the Middle East;

Whereas Hezbollah Secretary General Nasrallah said in May 2017 that the conflict in Syria had entered a "new and critical phase" in which Damascus, Moscow, Tehran, and Hezbollah were "in more harmony politically and militarily than at any time";

Whereas the United States has designated Hezbollah's Foreign Relations Department, which has representatives around the world, as a Specially Designated National, subject to United States primary and secondary sanctions;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury has diligently added persons and entities to the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists who have provided material support to the Hezbollah terrorist organization, thereby hampering its financing and logistical capabilities; and

Whereas in May 2017 the United States and Saudi Arabia sanctioned Hashem Saffiedine, a member of Hezbollah's executive council which oversees the organization's political, organizational, social and educational activities, for his involvement in terrorist activity; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses appreciation to the European Union (EU) for the progress made in countering Hezbollah since the EU designated Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization;

(2) applauds and expresses support for the continued, increased cooperation between the United States and the EU in thwarting Hezbollah's criminal and terrorist activities;

(3) supports transcontinental efforts within Europe to share intelligence information among police and security services to facilitate greater cooperation in tracking, apprehending, and prosecuting terrorists, foreign fighters, and potential offenders;

(4) encourages the EU to, whenever possible and applicable with due process standards, implement sanctions against Hezbollah-affiliated terrorists in tandem with the United States; and

(5) urges the EU to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on the group, including through—

(A) facilitating better cross-border cooperation between EU members in combating Hezbollah;

(B) issuing arrest warrants against members and active supporters of Hezbollah;

(C) freezing Hezbollah's assets in Europe, including those masquerading as charities; and

(D) prohibiting fundraising activities in support of Hezbollah.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker and Chairman ROYCE, as well as Congressman ENGEL, the ranking member, for their help in bringing this important resolution to the floor.

I also want to say how proud our committee is of the great work of

Ranking Member TED DEUTCH of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, and our Florida colleague, GUS BILIRAKIS, who are the authors of H. Res. 359, urging the European Union to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization. I thank Mr. DEUTCH for his leadership on this.

This notion, Mr. Speaker, that there can be separate wings of a terrorist organization is as absurd as the notion that Iran can be a responsible member of the international community. There is no distinction between Hezbollah members. Anyone who pledges allegiance to this terror group must be labeled accordingly.

One needn't look further than Hezbollah's activities in Syria or its terror attacks against Israel or even the statements coming out of Iran, its patron, and Hezbollah itself to know that if you are Hezbollah, you support terror activities. Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism, and Hezbollah is its proxy.

There is simply no justification at all for our European friends to try to differentiate between a military wing and a political wing of a terrorist organization. They may justify it by saying it will upset the delicate balance in Lebanon and they worry about the fallout, but the sad reality is that it comes down to money.

They will not take any action against Iran, as we have seen since the JCPOA, because members of the EU have signed lucrative business deals with Iran, and they don't want to damage their economic opportunities. It is as simple as that, because even our Gulf allies have labeled Hezbollah, in its entirety, as a terrorist organization.

The European Union needs to wake up, and we must urge it and its member states to designate the whole of Hezbollah as the terrorists that they are, and it must realize that doing so would be in their best interest and in the best interest of Israel, a nation that shares their values and their ideals, unlike Iran, a regime that benefits by the lack of a full designation of Hezbollah.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 359.

I would first like to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership on the committee in bringing this resolution forward. I would like to thank my friend from Florida, Congressman BILIRAKIS, for working with me on this resolution. I thank as well Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership on the subcommittee and ensuring that we have the opportunity to move forward together.

Mr. Speaker, in 2013, almost exactly 1 year after a Hezbollah suicide bomber blew up a bus in Bulgaria, killing mostly Israeli tourists, the European Union took action to finally designate

Hezbollah a terrorist organization. However, they only designated what they called Hezbollah's military wing as a terror group and not its political wing.

The United States has been clear that this was a false distinction then and it remains a false distinction today. Hezbollah is one unified terrorist organization, and it is led by the terrorist, Hassan Nasrallah. It is one unified Hezbollah that is responsible for the horrific acts of terror against Europeans, Americans, Israelis, and others across the Middle East and around the globe.

It is one unified Hezbollah that has helped prop up the Assad regime, and it is complicit in the death of half a million Syrians and the dissolving of a once thriving nation. So this one unified Hezbollah should be designated as a terrorist organization so we can increase international cooperation to isolate and dismantle this group.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee held a hearing on next steps for our Iran policy. There, I noted that 2 days ago we marked a solemn anniversary, because 34 years ago, on October 23, two Hezbollah suicide bombers blew themselves up at the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, killing over 300 U.S. and French servicemembers, peacekeepers, and civilians. That attack, like so many of Hezbollah's deadly terrorist activities over the past several decades, was sponsored and directed by Iran.

While our Nation built a memorial honoring the victims of that attack, Tehran built a monument honoring the perpetrators of that attack. A full EU designation of Hezbollah now would help demonstrate Europe's commitment to cracking down on Iran's use of proxy terror groups, destabilizing the region, and attacking Western interests.

Now, I understand that the EU has legal concerns about this designation since Hezbollah has infiltrated Lebanon's political system. However, I would just offer this observation. The terrorist organization Hamas operates as a political party in Gaza, yet the EU still rightly lists the entirety of Hamas as a terror organization. That has not impacted their ability to support Gaza reconstruction, just as designating Hezbollah would not prevent them from supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Last year, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League both designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. They made no distinction between the military and political wing, despite Lebanon being a member of the Arab League. I hope the EU took note of that.

I thank the Speaker for bringing this resolution to the floor so that my colleagues can join me in sending an important message to our European friends and allies. More can be done to counter the Iranian proxy Hezbollah,

and that begins with calling them what they are, a terrorist organization committed to the destruction of Israel and undermining the values and interests of the United States.

Our EU friends must acknowledge as well the values and interests of Europe. The world knows that Hezbollah is a terrorist group. It is time for the European Union to end its false distinction and join us in designating all of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to send them that message.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I will wait for Mr. DEUTCH to close on his time. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, Congressman BILIRAKIS, and to my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee and other Members for their work on the three measures today aimed at curbing the terrorist group Hezbollah.

The measures that we are advancing today represent smart and tough approaches that will respond to Hezbollah and its enablers, and will build stronger international support for this important effort. This measure and the others that we have considered today are a great example of the way that we can work across the aisle to help keep our country safe. I urge a "yes" vote on this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Florida, Ranking Member DEUTCH, for authoring this resolution and bringing it to the floor today.

Hezbollah has a single leadership, fungible finances, and a single hostile mission. All branches and operations serve its terrorist activities, and it is a deadly mistake to attempt to distinguish among its arms.

I again want to thank Mr. DEUTCH, Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL for their work on this important resolution, which calls for our European allies to designate all branches of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. This is a critical step that our partners across the Atlantic must take to protect our citizens and allies from a highly organized, capable, and increasingly battle-trained terror group that operates networks in countries around the world.

We must work together to deprive this organization of its support. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution. I thank the gentleman from Florida for his authorship.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the chairman of the House Committee on

Small Business and a senior member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Chairman ROYCE, and all the other folks that have worked on a number of bills here today.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 359; H.R. 3329; H.R. 3342; and H.R. 1698, that one, in particular, aims to prevent Iran from acquiring ballistic missiles because they have the capability or soon will have the capability not just to target the Middle East and Europe, but also target us here on our soil right here in the United States if we don't do something about this, with ultimately a nuclear device.

Iran is determined to be the dominant power in the Middle East. The Iranian regime hopes to achieve this by exporting terrorism, destabilizing its neighbors, and promising death to America and to our allies.

Bearing this in mind, Iran's nuclear ambitions and ballistic missiles program are not only a direct threat to the United States and our allies, but they are a direct threat to the peace and stability of the entire world.

When the Iran deal was signed, I said back then and believed back then that this was a bad deal, it would ultimately lead to nuclear weapons, and that they weren't going to meet their commitments. And we are seeing here today the backsliding by Iran to these commitments.

Ten years ago, Russia agreed to sell a number of S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to Iran. The Russians suspended the deal in 2010, but renewed it after the Iran deal, the JCPOA was agreed to. Now Moscow has delivered multiple S-300 systems.

While the S-300 missile platforms strengthens Iran's conventional capabilities, it also fundamentally complicates the United States' strategy for eliminating a potential nuclear threat against us or against our allies. Iran displayed this surface-to-air missile system to the public late last month, so we know it is there and it is dangerous.

That is exactly why H.R. 1698 is so important. It will help combat Iran's ongoing nuclear ambitions by requiring the President to report on the Iranian ballistic missiles program and to oppose targeted sanctions on Iranian Government entities and foreign actors that aid Iran in its nuclear development.

I also want to speak briefly relative to the threat that Hezbollah poses to the Middle East and the entire world. I, again, want to thank Congressman ROYCE and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member ENGEL and many others for their hard work on this.

Hezbollah's mission is to destroy Israel. It is backed by Iran. It poses a constant threat to the Middle East peace. We have designated it as a terrorist organization due to its routine attacks, especially rocket attacks on

Israel that have led to war, and its brutal tactics.

□ 1615

For years, Hezbollah has continued to accumulate larger rocket stockpiles, grow their presence, and develop even more unimaginable barbaric strategies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for these, and I urge my colleagues to support these.

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

Because the gentlewoman from Florida did not close as expected, the gentleman from Florida will, without objection, be allowed to reclaim his time.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, that is very kind, but I am happy to yield to my friend from Florida, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is now recognized to close debate.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, with that, I also yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

Let me thank my good friend and colleague from Florida, Representative DEUTCH, the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Middle East Subcommittee, for bringing forward this measure.

This measure represents another part of a good congressional strategy for combatting Hezbollah, and that's rallying support among friends and partners . . . making sure that around the world everyone sees Hezbollah for what it is: a terrorist group.

This has been a bit of a stumbling block with our friends in the European Union. Make no mistake: Hezbollah has waged its campaign of violence in Europe over the years, such as 2012, when a Hezbollah terrorist killed five Israelis in Bulgaria.

Yet in 2013, the EU announced it would consider only the "military wing" of Hezbollah to be a terrorist organization, drawing a distinction with the so-called political wing.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a distinction without a difference. Hezbollah is a terrorist organization, and that's all there is to it. The more shades of grey clouding this issue, the harder it's going to be to work with our EU allies to stop Hezbollah's violent activities.

So this measure lays out the facts about Hezbollah's presence in Europe and the other groups that have labeled Hezbollah a terrorist organization. It commends the work we're already doing with our EU allies to push back against Hezbollah. And it says that it's time for the EU to stop the hairsplitting. It calls on the EU to designate all of Hezbollah for what it is: a terrorist organization.

I'm glad to support this measure. It sends such an important signal to our friends across the Atlantic.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 359, which I am proud to co-lead and cosponsor with my colleagues. This important resolution urges the European Union to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.

There is no distinction between the military and political wings of Hezbollah. They are part and parcel of the same entity, that is a terrorist organization that threatens the United

States and our allies, and contributes to instability and violence in the Middle East.

The EU designated Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization in 2013, and has made notable progress in countering Hezbollah activities, but more must be done. This resolution urges the EU to take practical and tangible steps to reduce the terrorist threat posed to the United States, Europe, Israel, and our other allies in the Middle East by Hezbollah. For example, increasing cross-border intelligence sharing, freezing Hezbollah assets, prohibiting Hezbollah fundraising activities, and issuing arrest warrants for Hezbollah members and supporters in Europe would not only send a strong message, but would have a concrete impact inhibiting the ability of Hezbollah to operate with impunity.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 359.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 359, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUNSHINE FOR REGULATIONS AND REGULATORY DECREES AND SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2017

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 469.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 577 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 469.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1621

##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 469) to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN from Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to be here on H.R. 469. We have had the opportunity, through rule debate yesterday, to discuss this.

What we are coming forward with today is a bill that I have introduced that basically breaks down to what we know is a sue and settlement ban on this part of my bill. There are other parts that we are going to get to as we go forward in this.

But I think I want to start off this debate today by simply stating some of the foundational issues—things that we come here and talk about many times on the floor of the House have to do with bills and discussions. But one of the things I think that has been very disturbing for me—and I know many of our colleagues as we have come up here—is the disturbing trend of moving away from Congress relieving its powers and taking ownership of its Article I authority, and doing the oversight, doing the planning, doing the budgeting, and then sort of moving that more toward the executive branch or letting the judicial system take responsibility.

And I think one of the things that we are starting out with today in these bills, that we have taken up over the past 2 days, is a general discussion to move back toward Article I authority, which Congress is doing the legislating and the oversight that it is supposed to be, and the executive branch is following through in their role of actually executing the laws that are made, judicial, of course, being the interpretive branch.

What we are seeing in this bill—and one of the reasons for our sue and settlement legislation, which is my part of this bill, and I want to start here, and we will continue as we go through this through the other parts as we go—is really a fairness issue. And this is not specific to one party in the executive branch. I stated this yesterday. Sometimes it gets mixed up. But hear me clearly: I don't care the party of the resident at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. I do not care who they may be in the sense of what they do in that job. What I want to know is: Are they fulfilling the executive branch role and not overstepping Congress' role?

What we have seen over previous administrations, including the last one and the previous administration, especially under this area of sue and settlement that increased greatly during the last administration, was this idea of taking a law that we have passed, having the regulatory agency's job to execute that law; but, at the same point in time, being sued by a friendly party, or another party, on a deadline of the bill, or something that they want to, they go into, say, with EPA or another agency, and they discuss this lawsuit. They come to an agreement, and they



file the suit. Many times the suit and the consent were filed on the same day.

The consent decree—now, look, consent decrees are good judicial tools. They have been used, and will continue to be used, even under this bill. But what we don't want to have happen is when the consent decree basically comes at the time of the suit, or just shortly thereafter, where the party that wants to see a specific agenda pushed, along with a willing agency, goes to a judge, is able to get that consent decree, and then turn around and give it to somebody else and say: You now have to live under this without any emphasis or any input from the other party.

So we are simply saying: Let's make this a little fair. You are going to have to publicize notice, you are going to have to actually include others who may have a problem with this consent decree, and you are going to have to do it a little more transparently.

So we are going to start here today, Mr. Chairman. We are going to talk about these issues and coming forward. We can talk about many other things as the day progresses, but, at the end of the day, it is about Congress itself taking control of its Article I authority and saying, "We are going to be the legislative branch that we are called to be," and the executive taking their role and judiciary taking theirs.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 469, an unwarranted and costly intrusion into Congress' powers under Article I of the Constitution that will undermine the enforcement of statutory deadlines.

When passing laws, Congress routinely establishes mandatory deadlines for agency action. These statutory deadlines serve several purposes. They establish congressional priorities, attempt to reduce undue delay in an agency's compliance with the law, and communicate the importance of a legal requirement to the public. But because agency resources are limited, there is widespread noncompliance with statutory deadlines, as the Administrative Conference of the United States has long observed.

Accordingly, a plaintiff with standing may file a lawsuit to complete a schedule for an agency to complete an action required by Congress, often referred to as a "deadline suit." As the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, the GAO, reported earlier this year, "Most deadline suits are resolved through a negotiated settlement agreement because, in the majority of them, it is undisputed that a statutory deadline was missed," and there was no legal defense to the lawsuit.

But proponents of H.R. 469 assert that these settlements undercut applicable administrative law and short-cir-

cuit review of new regulations. This premise is based on a report by the Chamber of Commerce that the so-called sue and settle process is increasingly being used as a technique to shape agencies' regulatory agendas. This concern, however, is unsupported by any independent evidence and has been debunked by the GAO.

In two reports on deadline suits, the GAO has found that, "the settlement agreements did not affect the substantive basis or procedural rule-making requirements," of the agencies it studied.

In its December 2014 report on deadline lawsuits involving the Environmental Protection Agency, the GAO determined that none of the settlements finalized under the Obama administration "included terms that finalized the substantive outcome of a rule." The GAO underscored this point in the title of its report: "Impact of Deadline Suits on EPA's Rulemaking is Limited."

In its February 2017 report on deadline suits involving the Endangered Species Act, the GAO found that "the settlement agreements did not affect the substantive basis or procedural rulemaking requirements the agencies were to follow in completing the actions, such as providing opportunities for public notice and comment on proposed listing rules."

Leading experts have also debunked the Chamber's sue and settle narrative. John Cruden, a senior career official at the Justice Department for more than two decades during two Republican and two Democratic administrations, testified on a substantially identical bill that he was "not aware of any instance of a settlement that could remotely be described as collusive, but that the Justice Department vigorously represented the Federal agency, defending the agency's legal position, and obtaining in any settlement the best possible terms that were consistent with the controlling law."

Other administrative law experts, such as Robert Weissman, the president of Public Citizen, have similarly testified that sue and settle allegations are patently false.

This bill is also unnecessary because current law and agency practice already restrict the use of settlement policy to shape regulatory priorities. During its exhaustive review of deadline litigation, the GAO found that the Justice Department is guided by the Meese memo of 1986, when litigating deadline suits. This policy, as the GAO noted earlier this year, limits the settlement of a deadline suit to "only include a commitment to perform a mandatory action by an agreed upon schedule and would not otherwise predetermine or prescribe a specific substantive outcome for the actions to be completed by the agencies."

The Meese memo was codified in 1991, in the Code of Federal Regulations, and applies to settlement policy today. The Meese policy primarily restricts agen-

cies from using settlement policy to contravene the law or congressional intent.

□ 1630

As the majority noted in its report on a substantially identical version of the bill considered last Congress, this policy is grounded in separation of powers concerns. There is no evidence that agencies do not follow this policy, and the majority's witnesses in prior hearings on this proposal have been unable to provide examples of settlements that violate the Meese policies.

H.R. 469 is also wasteful and undermines Congress' powers under Article I of the Constitution. Congress, not agencies, establish regulatory priorities through statutes. Agencies do not have discretion to pick and choose regulatory priorities where Congress has expressly instructed that certain actions be undertaken by a specific date. By imposing a series of onerous procedures that will constrain the use of settlements to resolve a Federal agency's noncompliance with the law, H.R. 469 erodes the constitutional function of the legislative branch.

Finally, the bill is also costly. The Congressional Budget Office notes that this bill greatly lengthens the settlement process, costing millions of dollars and straining the Treasury's Judgment Fund through increased attorney's fees.

In closing, I strongly oppose this measure.

I now yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), our ranking member, to control.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chairman, our system of government is a tripartite one, with each branch having certain defined functions delegated to it. The Congress is charged with writing the laws, the President with executing the laws, and the judiciary with interpreting them.

The Constitution divides powers between the branches in this manner in order to guard against the abuse of power by any one branch. The separation of powers is at the core of the fundamental premise of our constitutional design that a limited government, divided into three branches exercising enumerated powers, is necessary to protect individual liberty and the rule of law.

Unfortunately, over the last several decades, Congress has allowed its powers to gradually be chipped away at by the other branches. By allowing its powers to be diminished, Congress, especially this House, effectively is permitting the people to be deprived of their most responsive voice in the Federal Government. Through the legislation before us today and other legislation that the House has actively pursued in recent years, we can begin to

reestablish and enforce the limits on the authority of the other two branches.

Although no package of bills by itself can rebuild Congress' institutional strength and restore the Constitution's integrity, it is absolutely necessary that Congress begin reasserting the powers that it has ceded to the other branches. This package of bills promotes the restoration of Congress' Article I powers.

The first bill in the package addresses executive branch negotiated regulatory decrees and settlements. Over the past several decades, consent decrees and settlement agreements increasingly have been used in Federal litigation to allow the executive branch to write new law in ways that give short shrift to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, Regulatory Flexibility Act, and other laws by which Congress has prescribed how agencies must conduct rule-making.

While the executive does have some regulatory authority, these settlements and consent decrees have been used to aggrandize that authority and shift regulatory priorities under the cloak of judicial authority. This subverts the boundaries both the Constitution and Congress have placed on administrative authority.

The Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act limits the ability of the executive branch to collude with plaintiffs to abuse consent decrees and settlement agreements in a manner that allows the executive to thwart laws written by Congress and increases the power of the judiciary beyond its constitutional limits.

The second bill in the package, the Judgment Fund Transparency Act, increases transparency over Federal spending by requiring the Treasury Department to publish data on settlements and court-offered judgments entered against the Federal Government.

One of Congress' core powers is the authority to authorize and appropriate money from the Treasury. In order to properly exercise this power, Congress needs to know how the bill it has appropriated is being spent.

This bill will allow Congress to better scrutinize and understand where Federal taxpayer dollars are going. Only through the transparency this bill provides can Congress make the executive and the judiciary more accountable for the money that comes out of the Judgment Fund.

The final bill in the package, the Article I Amicus and Intervention Act, makes clear Congress' ability to defend and assert its institutional interests in litigation that puts the powers and responsibilities of Congress into question.

Currently, when the executive branch declines to pursue litigation in defense of an act of Congress, it is not required to give Congress notice sufficient to allow the House or Senate to defend

the lawsuit before court filing deadlines have expired. In addition, the House of Representatives, unlike the Senate, does not have a statutory right to intervene or file amicus briefs in cases questioning congressional authority. This legislation ensures that both Houses of Congress have adequate time and a right to intervene in litigation that questions congressional authority.

We cannot continue to abdicate our powers and responsibilities to the other branches of government, weakening the separation of powers enshrined in our Constitution and threatening the very liberty divided powers were designed to protect.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be here to support—well, I don't think it is going to be support. It is really more in opposition to this so-called Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act.

Well, why? Well, because it is anticongsumer.

Well, why? Because it is antienvironment.

Well, why? Because it is antiprivacy.

Not surprisingly, a broad consortium of more than 150 organizations strenuously oppose this bill, including some of our best nonprofits: the National Resources Defense Council, for example; the Sierra Club, for another example; Public Citizen; and a lot of labor organizations and other groups.

Title I of this bill, for example, has one goal: it is to discourage the use of settlement agreements and consent decrees that compel agencies to follow the law.

When enacting new statutes, Congress routinely establishes deadlines for agency action, particularly when it involves urgent public health and safety concerns. When agencies fail to meet these deadlines, a party with standing may file a lawsuit under section 7 of the Administrative Procedure Act to ensure that the agency performs this mandatory, nondiscretionary duty. By delaying the enforcement of statutory deadlines, the bill, however, jeopardizes public health and safety, which explains why the previous Obama administration issued a veto threat to similar legislation considered only last Congress.

Title I imposes nearly impossible hurdles for agencies seeking to resolve the deadline lawsuits and gives opponents of regulation multiple opportunities to stifle agency regulatory actions.

With respect to consent decrees concerning a rulemaking, an agency would be forced to go through two public comment periods—one for the consent decree, and one for the rulemaking that results from the consent decree—doubling the agency's effort. In addition, it would allow any affected party to intervene in opposition to a pro-

posed settlement agreement or consent decree.

Contrary to the claims of those who support this measure, the Government Accountability Office has found no evidence that these deadline lawsuits are collusive. As the Justice Department, which represents most Federal agencies, acknowledged earlier this year, these agencies are left with few defenses, if any, to these lawsuits.

I am also concerned that H.R. 469 will inevitably generate more litigation that will result in millions of dollars of additional transactional costs, all of which will be borne by you know who—the American taxpayer.

For example, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, in its analysis of the bill's predecessor from the last Congress, concluded:

The measure would impose millions of dollars in additional costs, most of which would be incurred because the litigation involving consent decrees and settlement agreements would probably take longer under the bill, and agencies would face additional administrative requirements.

That is a quotation. In other words, Title I of this bill is a costly solution, again, in search of a problem.

Now, Title II of the bill isn't much better. For instance, Title II overrides the Privacy Act to require publication of sensitive personal information of victims of government abuse or unlawful conduct, which raises serious privacy concerns.

Although proponents of this measure argue it will increase government transparency, its real effect will be to force the Treasury Department to publish, on the Internet, the names of individual victims of government misconduct compensated for their claims by the Judgment Fund, including victims of race and sex discrimination, and so, in effect, revictimizing victims harmed by the Federal Government.

Finally, Title III would facilitate the ability of the House majority to intervene in pending cases where the Justice Department has already determined that it will not defend the constitutionality of a Federal law.

Not only do these provisions raise possible separation of powers concerns, it is unclear why they are even needed.

This measure has not ever been the subject of a single hearing or markup by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. As a result, there has not been any opportunity to consider these critical issues and to analyze the ramifications presented by Title III.

For all of these reasons, I must, accordingly, urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 469.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments, especially of my friend from Rhode Island. I would agree in principle with the Meese amendment as well. The problem is that, through the Clinton administration and through preceding administrations, it has been watered

down. I would actually go back to that. The problem is lack of transparency and the lack of a coherent voice here as we go further, but I do appreciate the comments.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in overwhelming and adamant support of H.R. 469, the Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act, which will strengthen Article I powers for Congress.

Let me begin by briefly quoting Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution, the Necessary and Proper Clause: "The Congress shall have the power . . . to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers . . . in the government," meaning, Congress must continue to respect and reinforce the idea of the separation of powers in our government, but, at the same time, Congress can ultimately decide when, whether, and how to legislate the powers and authority of another branch of government.

□ 1645

Mr. Chairman, this piece of legislation will go a long way in fortifying the balance of powers and reestablishing Congress' authority set forth by James Madison and our Founding Fathers and Article I of the United States Constitution.

Furthermore, we must be sure to use our constitutional authority to effectively guarantee and ensure that government is more efficient, transparent, and accountable to all American citizens of our great Nation, and this bill will do just that.

It is time for Congress to establish procedures for honest regulations, transparency within the Treasury Department, and judicial intervention in unconstitutional court cases.

Mr. Chairman, again, I rise in full support of H.R. 469, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers to make sure this is a government not only of the people, but for the people.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 469, the newly renamed Congressional Article I Power Strengthening Act.

This bill stitches together three unrelated bills, each one problematic in its own way.

Title III of the bill, the Article I Amicus and Intervention Act, would permit as a right the House to intervene as a party where an amicus in a lawsuit with the Department of Justice declines to defend the constitutionality of a law or regulation.

While this proposal may have some merit, it was introduced only last week. It was the subject of no hearing. It has had no markup. We simply do

not know the full implications of the measure. If it is a worthy proposal, we should take the time to consider it in committee before moving forward.

Title II of the legislation, the Judgment Fund Transparency Act, would require additional reporting about the funds paid out of the Treasury Department's Judgment Fund by the United States Government to resolve legal claims against it. This legislation raises significant privacy concerns. It would require publishing sensitive, personally identifying information about individual claimants who are the victims of government misconduct, such as medical malpractice, racial discrimination, or sexual harassment.

Our laws should carefully balance the need for public disclosure of government spending with the need to protect the personal privacy of individual citizens. This bill upsets that balance.

By far, the most concerning aspect of this legislation is Title I, the Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act.

This provision also poses as a transparency measure, but its real aim is to disrupt and delay the process for issuing rules that protect public health and safety.

Congress frequently sets a statutory deadline for an agency to complete a rulemaking, but the agency sometimes misses that deadline. Under current law, private parties can sue the agency to meet its statutory obligations. Since there is little dispute that the agency has failed to do its duty, these lawsuits often end up settling, with the agency agreeing to a new schedule in which to complete the required rulemaking. That is perfectly reasonable.

However, the Republican majority and the businesses that are the subject of such regulation believe these lawsuits have some nefarious purpose. They have concocted an imagined vast conspiracy by which private parties collude with the government to file a lawsuit, and the government happily either settles or enters into a consent decree, supposedly allowing it to impose obligations or rules beyond what it could otherwise do.

Unfortunately for supporters of this bill, there is no evidence of such a conspiracy and no evidence, in fact, of any problem. To solve this nonexistent problem, this bill adds numerous procedural requirements before a settlement or consent decree can be entered into.

The effect of these requirements would be to make any settlements or consent decrees more difficult and more time-consuming to enter into, with the predictable result that agencies will not even bother to enter into them at all.

Most troubling, the bill would create a special and more permissive rule for virtually any party to involve itself in the case as an intervener. These interveners would do their best to ruin, block, or delay any settlement, including during what should be private negotiations.

That, of course, is the true purpose of this bill. They seek to tie government agencies up in years of litigation so that they are unable to issue rules protecting public health and safety. The real conspiracy here is the Republican plot to destroy the regulatory state. With one hand, we defund the agencies; and with the other hand, we build all sorts of hurdles in the regulatory process so that the agencies have no ability to complete their work.

It is a shameful effort that may save big businesses some money and regulatory compliance, but it will cost our citizens their health, their safety, and possibly their lives.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this terrible legislation.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe, as was just stated, that there is a nefarious plot here. It is to get government doing the regulation it should with transparency—and that is what needs to be done—and have Congress do what it should be doing, and that is writing laws and having the regulatory process start from here. That is simply what we are looking at. If that is too much, I understand.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Mr. COLLINS and Chairman GOODLATTE for their work.

Mr. Chairman, I have to say, in listening to this debate, I can't imagine why anyone would oppose this legislation that is entirely designed to create transparency. This is good work that Chairman GOODLATTE and Mr. COLLINS have worked on.

Last week we heard a number of shocking stories about government malfeasance, such as Chairman GOODLATTE's investigation that the government had settled and revealed that the Obama Justice Department had funneled money to politically allied groups. We are grateful for that.

Today we are taking up H.R. 469, and I am thrilled that this legislation includes the text of my bill, the Judgment Fund Transparency Act.

As I said, the purpose of this act is really very simple. Actually, contrary to what has been said, it is to bring simplicity, it is to bring transparency. This bill would go a long way to providing our constituents and taxpayers a better idea of how their tax dollars are spent.

Heaven knows, and for heaven's sake, those of us here certainly know that sometimes the Federal Government makes mistakes. It is not perfect. It is prone to errors and it can cause harm to individuals. And when that happens, especially when these errors are particularly egregious, the government is sued and damages can be awarded.

Early on, in fact, this Congress spent a lot of its time doing nothing but that, sorting through claims and making appropriations to pay those claims. In fact, not even 100 years ago, much of this body's work was consumed only by

this topic. It wasn't until 1956 that Congress established the Judgment Fund and gave authority to the Treasury Department to resolve these claims in "a permanent and indefinite appropriation." That has simply been abused.

In keeping with the law, the Treasury Department files a yearly report with Congress and maintains a web page that supposedly can be searched. That sounds good, but it doesn't work that way. It is cryptic and has otherwise limited information related to each payout that has made the data almost entirely worthless. There is no information on what the government did. There is no information on the claimant. We are all familiar with, for example, when the previous administration took \$1.3 billion out of the fund and converted it to cash and delivered it to Iran.

Four years ago, The New York Times reported what was likely an illegal billion-dollar payout to farmers who had never even sued the government. This isn't just unacceptable, it is crazy. It is horrible government. It is what leads people to distrust the Federal Government.

It would require the Treasury to make payment out of this fund public, and it would include very simple things that common sense would simply demand.

This bill would name the agency. It would name the name of the plaintiff and the amount that they were paid, then a brief description of the facts around that claim.

Mr. Chairman, I will conclude by just saying the Judgment Fund Transparency Act may not prevent bad decisions by all government employees, but it will shine a light on decisions to the American people. It is about helping to increase trust between the American people and government, a government that we have given them reason not to trust. Let's bring in accountability and transparency to that.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and the language found within this bill.

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

I just want to again remind folks that, during the course of this argument, we have heard this narrative about the problems with the sue and settle, as Mr. NADLER described it, an imagined, concocted vast conspiracy, but without any evidence that it actually exists, a solution in search of a problem.

Just to remind folks, there were two reports done by the GAO—I have them in my hand; they are thick—that, in fact, undermine the suggestion that there is any such problem.

In response to requests from the Republican committee chairs, the Government Accountability Office has twice concluded that agencies cannot and do not circumvent the rulemaking system through settlements relating to statutory deadlines.

Finally, we received testimony earlier this year from Attorney General Jeff Sessions' Justice Department that current agency policy, which was codified in 1991, prohibits circumventing the rulemaking process through deadline lawsuits. We have heard similar testimony from career Justice Department officials in prior administrations.

I ask the question: How is H.R. 469 necessary in light of this complete lack of support for this so-called sue and settle phenomenon and the presence of controls against this from happening in the first instance?

Mr. Chair, again, there is just no evidence to support the necessity for this. I think it has been articulated very well by my colleagues what the dangers are of moving forward with this legislation.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 469, the Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act.

This is an important piece of legislation because, as has been noted here, it seeks to increase accountability on the regulatory process by providing greater scrutiny of sue and settle cases. Yes, they do exist.

It requires the Department of Justice to release details of payments made through the Judgment Fund, and it strengthens Congress' ability to intervene on litigation regarding the constitutionality of congressional statutes.

This legislation also includes H.R. 1096, the Judgment Fund Transparency Act, which I am proud to cosponsor. That piece of legislation includes an amendment I offered, which would require the Secretary of the Treasury to clearly display the total expenditures, including the attorney's fees, interest, and all other payments made from the Judgment Fund on an annual basis.

Hardworking taxpayers deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent, and Congress must ensure that programs like the Judgment Fund are following the law. The American people must be allowed every available tool to keep their government accountable, and this will be an important tool.

Also, it would ensure a terrorist organization is prohibited from receiving any taxpayer funds from the Judgment Fund by prohibiting any foreign terrorist organization, as defined in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

That statute clearly classifies a terrorist organization as those who "engage in terrorist activity or terrorism, and the organization threatens the security of the United States nationals or the national security of the United States."

These terrorist organizations only seek to commit serious harm or potential targets, of course, including Americans, and I believe this prohibition is warranted to be included in this important legislation.

Let me be clear. We should all agree that not a cent of taxpayer dollars should ever go to a state sponsor of terrorism or foreign terrorist organizations. A recent illustration of the need for this ban on funding to state sponsors of terrorism is what we now know about the previous administration. They paid \$1.3 billion from the Judgment Fund to the nation of Iran in a settlement dating back over 30 years. Although all the information surrounding this payment was never made clear to the public, Iran still remains a state sponsor of terrorism, the most notorious one.

Mr. Chair, again, I strongly support H.R. 469. We must never allow taxpayer dollars to be given to violent rogue nations that support terrorists or, obviously, terrorist organizations, and this will ensure a constitutional check on the Judgment Fund. This is about Article I, the authority of this body. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support it, and I encourage our colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say I am baffled by the gentleman from Louisiana's assertion that this legislation improves accountability. It is very hard to imagine how undermining the enforcement of duly enacted legislation by Congress of the United States improves accountability.

This is like the upsidown world. How does that improve accountability, making it more difficult to enforce the laws passed by Congress of the United States?

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say in closing that it is very important to note that my opposition to H.R. 469 is joined by a very broad spectrum of organizations, including the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, or AFL-CIO; the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; Public Citizen; Consumer Federation of America; the National Consumer Law Center; the Natural Resources Defense Council; the Sierra Club; Earthjustice; and People for the American Way; among many others.

Mr. Chairman, I think that is company, which should suggest to my colleagues that this legislation does not benefit the American people, it will undermine the actions of Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I urge everyone to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I just want to say that this is not just something that has

been dreamed up, as far as from a bill perspective. And they can point to studies that say this may or may not be a part, but even the outside organization, the Environmental Council of the States, sent a letter and basically did a resolution that said there is a need to reform State participation in EPA consent decrees which settled through citizen lawsuits. I mean, this is an issue because there is not the transparency that is needed. That is why these bills are here.

I would just like to remind everyone why we are considering this bill today, going back to where we first started, and why the House passed the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act and the Congressional Subpoena Compliance and Enforcement Act earlier this week: to help restore and reinforce the powers the people gave Congress in Article I of the Constitution.

Restoring and reinforcing these powers is not some academic issue; this is something that we practice every day. It goes back to as early as our elementary school days dealing with our simple civics, saying this is the way our government is set up.

I have said this before, Mr. Chairman, from this podium, and I will say it again. If the people in agencies down the street would like to make law, then I encourage them to leave their job, run for Congress, and come up here and make law. This is not their job to do it from a cubicle down the street through a lawsuit. We need to do it up here, as it should be properly done.

So, for far too long, Congress has been giving away its power. We want to see that change. We are going to see that. That is why this bill is here. And although this bill alone is certainly not a silver bullet for restoring the power the Congress has ceded, just as powers are gradually lost over time, they will be regained by Congress gradually reasserting itself.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation to reassert congressional authority and to ensure that individual liberty protected by the powers of separation of powers between the branches is maintained.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to H.R. 469 the "Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act" of 2017.

H.R. 469 is yet another attempt to undermine the ability of Federal regulators to protect the health and safety of Americans.

This ill-conceived bill imposes numerous new procedural burdens on agencies and courts intended to dissuade them from using consent decrees and settlement agreements to resolve enforcement actions filed to address agency noncompliance with the law.

H.R. 469 targets consent decrees and settlement agreements involving congressionally mandated federal agency actions.

These agency actions in many instances have the purpose of protecting civil rights, health, safety, and the environment.

H.R. 469 prescribes a host of burdensome—and, in some cases, ambiguous—

steps for courts and parties relating to such consent decrees and settlements that would favor continued litigation over settlement.

H.R. 469 establishes a prolonged process of publication, intervention, and court-supervised mediation for these types of settlements.

This prolonged process would waste judicial, individuals, and local governments' resources, while wealthy corporations are empowered to perpetuate violations of federal rules.

Such hurdles to settlements conflict directly with the expressly stated and longstanding policy of the federal judiciary system to favor compromise and the settlement of disputes in order to make the best use of limited resources.

Proponents of this legislation argue that agencies and interest groups collude to "sue and settle" to avoid compliance with the procedures set forth in the Administrative Procedure Act.

These allegations are unfounded in fact.

The consent decrees and settlement agreements at issue do not determine the substance of agency rules.

Rather, such agreements simply seek to enforce mandatory statutory and procedural duties (such as deadlines enacted by Congress).

In fact, a December 2014 Government Accountability Office report surveyed settlements over deadlines for major U.S. Environmental Protection Act rulemakings and found that the settlements did not influence the substantive results.

Furthermore, all public notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act and the individual laws at issue still apply when an agency undertakes the substantive action for which a deadline was missed.

Parties and non-parties alike are provided with numerous opportunities to provide input in advance of the rules being finalized.

H.R. 469 undermines protections for the American people, masqueraded as a measure to prevent undocumented and unfounded allegations of "sue and settle" collusion between public interest plaintiffs and sympathetic federal agencies entering into consent decrees and settlements.

In fact, H.R. 469 favors industry interests at taxpayer expense and promotes regulatory uncertainty by making it virtually impossible to actually enter into consent decrees and settlements that avoid the costly and time consuming alternative of litigation.

But its most serious flaw is that H.R. 469 is really a back door way to derail the rule-making process and undermine federal law, shifting limited agency resources away from the implementation of health and safety protections for the very people that we are supposed to be representing.

What this bill truly targets are the legal rights of citizens to hold government accountable by enforcing laws designed to protect health, safety, and the environment, obligations that the supporters of this bill would prefer to remain unenforced.

A broad coalition of more than 150 civil rights, environmental, consumer protection and other public interest groups opposed the bill in the last Congress.

On Monday, October 23, 2017, I received a letter signed by 86 environmental protection and civil rights groups urging me to oppose this bill.

A bill that attempts to give third parties the power to obstruct and delay the enforcement

of federal law; which will harm plaintiff corporations, state and local governments, non-profit groups, and individuals alike, when their interests have been harmed by illegal federal agency actions or inactions.

Consent decrees and settlement agreements are simple, streamlined ways to hold federal agencies accountable when they ignore Congress by failing to commit congressionally mandated actions by a date established in statute.

H.R. 469 is a sad attempt to eliminate vital and broadly supported protections that have improved and saved millions of American lives.

By providing opportunities for industry to subvert or delay the process of redressing injured groups, H.R. 469 effectively makes it more expensive for agencies to do what Congress has mandated, that is to protect the American people and redress any harm to their livelihood.

Some of the unwholesomeness of this bill could have been mitigated had the Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 469 been made in order.

The Jackson Lee amendment would have excepted consent decrees or settlement agreements that pertain to a reduction in illness or death from exposure to toxic substances in communities that are protected by Executive Order 12898.

Executive Order 12898 directs federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects of agency action on minority and low-income populations.

It is impossible to understand why even conservative Republicans would back legislation that hinders enforcement of the law, requires agencies to waste money in court on cases they believe they cannot win, and would stymie industry and state settlements along with all others.

I urge all members to vote against H.R. 469 and reject this harmful legislation.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MITCHELL). All time for general debate has expired.

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

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-34. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 469

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Congressional Article I Powers Strengthening Act".

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

*Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.*

*TITLE I—SUNSHINE FOR REGULATIONS AND REGULATORY DECREES AND SETTLEMENTS*

*Sec. 101. Short title.*

*Sec. 102. Definitions.*

*Sec. 103. Consent decree and settlement reform.*

*Sec. 104. Motions to modify consent decrees.*

*Sec. 105. Effective date.*

TITLE II—JUDGMENT FUND  
TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Judgment fund transparency.

TITLE III—ARTICLE I AMICUS AND  
INTERVENTION

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Congressional intervention as of right.

Sec. 303. Intervention and amicus authority for  
house of representatives.

TITLE I—SUNSHINE FOR REGULATIONS  
AND REGULATORY DECREES AND SET-  
TLEMENTS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Sunshine for  
Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settle-  
ments Act of 2017”.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the terms “agency” and “agency action”  
have the meanings given those terms under sec-  
tion 551 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term “covered civil action” means a  
civil action—

(A) seeking to compel agency action;

(B) alleging that the agency is unlawfully  
withholding or unreasonably delaying an agen-  
cy action relating to a regulatory action that  
would affect the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person  
bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government; and

(C) brought under—

(i) chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code; or  
(ii) any other statute authorizing such an ac-  
tion;

(3) the term “covered consent decree” means—  
(A) a consent decree entered into in a covered  
civil action; and

(B) any other consent decree that requires  
agency action relating to a regulatory action  
that affects the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person  
bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government;

(4) the term “covered consent decree or settle-  
ment agreement” means a covered consent de-  
cree and a covered settlement agreement; and

(5) the term “covered settlement agreement”  
means—

(A) a settlement agreement entered into in a  
covered civil action; and

(B) any other settlement agreement that re-  
quires agency action relating to a regulatory ac-  
tion that affects the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person  
bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government.

SEC. 103. CONSENT DECREE AND SETTLEMENT  
REFORM.

(a) PLEADINGS AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any covered civil action,  
the agency against which the covered civil ac-  
tion is brought shall publish the notice of intent  
to sue and the complaint in a readily accessible  
manner, including by making the notice of in-  
tent to sue and the complaint available online  
not later than 15 days after receiving service of  
the notice of intent to sue or complaint, respec-  
tively.

(2) ENTRY OF A COVERED CONSENT DECREE OR  
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—A party may not  
make a motion for entry of a covered consent  
decree or to dismiss a civil action pursuant to a  
covered settlement agreement until after the end  
of proceedings in accordance with paragraph (1)  
and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph  
(2) of subsection (d) or subsection (d)(3)(A),  
whichever is later.

(b) INTERVENTION.—

(1) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—In consid-  
ering a motion to intervene in a covered civil ac-  
tion or a civil action in which a covered consent  
decree or settlement agreement has been pro-  
posed that is filed by a person who alleges that  
the agency action in dispute would affect the

person, the court shall presume, subject to re-  
buttal, that the interests of the person would  
not be represented adequately by the existing  
parties to the action.

(2) STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERN-  
MENTS.—In considering a motion to intervene in  
a covered civil action or a civil action in which  
a covered consent decree or settlement agree-  
ment has been proposed that is filed by a State,  
local, or tribal government, the court shall take  
due account of whether the movant—

(A) administers jointly with an agency that is  
a defendant in the action the statutory provi-  
sions that give rise to the regulatory action to  
which the action relates; or

(B) administers an authority under State,  
local, or tribal law that would be preempted by  
the regulatory action to which the action re-  
lates.

(c) SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.—Efforts to  
settle a covered civil action or otherwise reach  
an agreement on a covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement shall—

(1) be conducted pursuant to the mediation or  
alternative dispute resolution program of the  
court or by a district judge other than the pre-  
siding judge, magistrate judge, or special mas-  
ter, as determined appropriate by the presiding  
judge; and

(2) include any party that intervenes in the  
action.

(d) PUBLICATION OF AND COMMENT ON COV-  
ERED CONSENT DECREES OR SETTLEMENT AGREE-  
MENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days before  
the date on which a covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement is filed with a court, the  
agency seeking to enter the covered consent de-  
cree or settlement agreement shall publish in the  
Federal Register and online—

(A) the proposed covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement; and

(B) a statement providing—

(i) the statutory basis for the covered consent  
decree or settlement agreement; and

(ii) a description of the terms of the covered  
consent decree or settlement agreement, includ-  
ing whether it provides for the award of attor-  
neys’ fees or costs and, if so, the basis for in-  
cluding the award.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An agency seeking to enter  
a covered consent decree or settlement agree-  
ment shall accept public comment during the pe-  
riod described in paragraph (1) on any issue re-  
lating to the matters alleged in the complaint in  
the applicable civil action or addressed or af-  
fected by the proposed covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement.

(B) RESPONSE TO COMMENTS.—An agency  
shall respond to any comment received under  
subparagraph (A).

(C) SUBMISSIONS TO COURT.—When moving  
that the court enter a proposed covered consent  
decree or settlement agreement or for dismissal  
pursuant to a proposed covered consent decree  
or settlement agreement, an agency shall—

(i) inform the court of the statutory basis for  
the proposed covered consent decree or settle-  
ment agreement and its terms;

(ii) submit to the court a summary of the com-  
ments received under subparagraph (A) and the  
response of the agency to the comments;

(iii) submit to the court a certified index of the  
administrative record of the notice and comment  
proceeding; and

(iv) make the administrative record described  
in clause (iii) fully accessible to the court.

(D) INCLUSION IN RECORD.—The court shall in-  
clude in the court record for a civil action the  
certified index of the administrative record sub-  
mitted by an agency under subparagraph (C)(iii)  
and any documents listed in the index  
which any party or amicus curiae appearing be-  
fore the court in the action submits to the court.

(3) PUBLIC HEARINGS PERMITTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—After providing notice in the  
Federal Register and online, an agency may

hold a public hearing regarding whether to  
enter into a proposed covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement.

(B) RECORD.—If an agency holds a public  
hearing under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the agency shall—

(I) submit to the court a summary of the pro-  
ceedings;

(II) submit to the court a certified index of the  
hearing record; and

(III) provide access to the hearing record to  
the court; and

(ii) the full hearing record shall be included in  
the court record.

(4) MANDATORY DEADLINES.—If a proposed  
covered consent decree or settlement agreement  
requires an agency action by a date certain, the  
agency shall, when moving for entry of the cov-  
ered consent decree or settlement agreement or  
dismissal based on the covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement, inform the court of—

(A) any required regulatory action the agency  
has not taken that the covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement does not address;

(B) how the covered consent decree or settle-  
ment agreement, if approved, would affect the  
discharge of the duties described in subpara-  
graph (A); and

(C) why the effects of the covered consent de-  
cree or settlement agreement on the manner in  
which the agency discharges its duties is in the  
public interest.

(e) SUBMISSION BY THE GOVERNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any proposed covered  
consent decree or settlement agreement that con-  
tains a term described in paragraph (2), the At-  
torney General or, if the matter is being litigated  
independently by an agency, the head of the  
agency shall submit to the court a certification  
that the Attorney General or head of the agency  
approves the proposed covered consent decree or  
settlement agreement. The Attorney General or  
head of the agency shall personally sign any  
certification submitted under this paragraph.

(2) TERMS.—A term described in this para-  
graph is—

(A) in the case of a covered consent decree, a  
term that—

(i) converts into a nondiscretionary duty a  
discretionary authority of an agency to propose,  
promulgate, revise, or amend regulations;

(ii) commits an agency to expend funds that  
have not been appropriated and that have not  
been budgeted for the regulatory action in ques-  
tion;

(iii) commits an agency to seek a particular  
appropriation or budget authorization;

(iv) divests an agency of discretion committed  
to the agency by statute or the Constitution of  
the United States, without regard to whether  
the discretion was granted to respond to chang-  
ing circumstances, to make policy or managerial  
choices, or to protect the rights of third parties;  
or

(v) otherwise affords relief that the court  
could not enter under its own authority upon a  
final judgment in the civil action; or

(B) in the case of a covered settlement agree-  
ment, a term—

(i) that provides a remedy for a failure by the  
agency to comply with the terms of the covered  
settlement agreement other than the revival of  
the civil action resolved by the covered settle-  
ment agreement; and

(ii) that—

(I) interferes with the authority of an agency  
to revise, amend, or issue rules under the proce-  
dures set forth in chapter 5 of title 5, United  
States Code, or any other statute or Executive  
order prescribing rulemaking procedures for a  
rulemaking that is the subject of the covered set-  
tlement agreement;

(II) commits the agency to expend funds that  
have not been appropriated and that have not  
been budgeted for the regulatory action in ques-  
tion; or

(III) for such a covered settlement agreement  
that commits the agency to exercise in a par-  
ticular way discretion which was committed to

the agency by statute or the Constitution of the United States to respond to changing circumstances, to make policy or managerial choices, or to protect the rights of third parties.

(f) REVIEW BY COURT.—

(1) AMICUS.—A court considering a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that it is proper to allow amicus participation relating to the covered consent decree or settlement agreement by any person who filed public comments or participated in a public hearing on the covered consent decree or settlement agreement under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (d).

(2) REVIEW OF DEADLINES.—

(A) PROPOSED COVERED CONSENT DECREES.—For a proposed covered consent decree, a court shall not approve the covered consent decree unless the proposed covered consent decree allows sufficient time and incorporates adequate procedures for the agency to comply with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, and other applicable statutes that govern rulemaking and, unless contrary to the public interest, the provisions of any Executive order that governs rulemaking.

(B) PROPOSED COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—For a proposed covered settlement agreement, a court shall ensure that the covered settlement agreement allows sufficient time and incorporates adequate procedures for the agency to comply with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, and other applicable statutes that govern rulemaking and, unless contrary to the public interest, the provisions of any Executive order that governs rulemaking.

(g) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each agency shall submit to Congress an annual report that, for the year covered by the report, includes—

(1) the number, identity, and content of covered civil actions brought against and covered consent decrees or settlement agreements entered against or into by the agency; and

(2) a description of the statutory basis for—

(A) each covered consent decree or settlement agreement entered against or into by the agency; and

(B) any award of attorneys fees or costs in a civil action resolved by a covered consent decree or settlement agreement entered against or into by the agency.

**SEC. 104. MOTIONS TO MODIFY CONSENT DECREES.**

If an agency moves a court to modify a covered consent decree or settlement agreement and the basis of the motion is that the terms of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement are no longer fully in the public interest due to the obligations of the agency to fulfill other duties or due to changed facts and circumstances, the court shall review the motion and the covered consent decree or settlement agreement de novo.

**SEC. 105. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This title shall apply to—

(1) any covered civil action filed on or after the date of enactment of this title; and

(2) any covered consent decree or settlement agreement proposed to a court on or after the date of enactment of this title.

**TITLE II—JUDGMENT FUND TRANSPARENCY**

**SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Judgment Fund Transparency Act of 2017”.

**SEC. 202. JUDGMENT FUND TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT.—Section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) Unless the disclosure of such information is otherwise prohibited by law or court order, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the public on a website, as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after the date on which a payment under this section is tendered on or after January 1, 2016, the fol-

lowing information with regard to that payment:

“(A) The name of the specific agency or entity whose actions gave rise to the claim or judgment.

“(B) The name of the plaintiff or claimant.

“(C) The name of counsel for the plaintiff or claimant.

“(D) The amount paid representing principal liability, and any amounts paid representing any ancillary liability, including attorney fees, costs, and interest.

“(E) A brief description of the facts that gave rise to the claim.

“(F) The name of the agency that submitted the claim.

“(G) Any information available on reports generated by the Judgment Fund Payment Search administered by the Treasury Department.

“(2) In addition to the information described in paragraph (1), if a payment under this section is made to a foreign state on or after January 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the public in accordance with paragraph (1), the following information with regard to that payment:

“(A) A description of the method of payment.

“(B) A description of the currency denominations used for the payment.

“(C) The name and location of each financial institution owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a foreign state or an agent of a foreign state through which the payment passed or from which the payment was withdrawn, including any financial institution owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a foreign state or an agent of a foreign state that is holding the payment as of the date on which the information is made available.

“(3) Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the public on the website described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) the total amount paid under this section during the year preceding the date of the report; and

“(B) the amount paid under this section during the year preceding the date of the report—

“(i) for attorney fees;

“(ii) for interest; and

“(iii) for all other payments.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘foreign state’ has the meaning given the term in section 1603 of title 28.

“(e) Except with regard to children under eighteen, the disclosure of information required in this section shall not be considered a ‘clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy’ for purposes of title 5, United States Code.

“(f) No payment may be made under this section to a state sponsor of terrorism, as defined in section 1605A(h) of title 28, or to an organization that has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).”

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out the amendment made by this section by not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this title.

**TITLE III—ARTICLE I AMICUS AND INTERVENTION**

**SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Article I Amicus and Intervention Act of 2017”.

**SEC. 302. CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION AS OF RIGHT.**

(a) DEADLINE FOR REPORT ON LIMITATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS.—Paragraph (2) of section 530D(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) under subsection (a)(1)(B), within such time as will reasonably enable the House of Representatives and the Senate to take action, separately or jointly, to intervene in a timely fashion in the proceeding, but in no event—

“(A) later than 30 days after the making of each determination; and

“(B) later than 21 days before any applicable deadline for filing any pleading necessary—

“(i) to defend or assert the constitutionality of the provision at issue; or

“(ii) to request review of any judicial, administrative, or other determination adversely affecting the constitutionality of such provision.”

(b) INTERVENTION AS OF RIGHT.—Section 530D of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) INTERVENTION AS OF RIGHT.—The Senate or House of Representatives may intervene as of right in any proceeding referenced in subsection (a)(1)(B) in order to defend or assert the constitutionality of any provision of any Federal statute, rule, regulation, program, policy, or other law, or to appeal or request review of any judicial, administrative, or other determination adversely affecting the constitutionality of any such provision. Notwithstanding any otherwise applicable time limits or other provisions of law to the contrary, if such intervention is filed not later than 21 days after receipt of the notice required by this section the intervention shall be deemed timely and shall preserve the right of the Senate or House of Representatives to advance any applicable legal arguments in favor of the constitutionality of any such provision.”

**SEC. 303. INTERVENTION AND AMICUS AUTHORITY FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

Section 101 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2000 (2 U.S.C. 5571), is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following (and redesignating succeeding subsections accordingly):

“(c) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERVENTION AND AMICUS AUTHORITY.—

“(1) ACTIONS OR PROCEEDINGS.—When directed to do so in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the General Counsel of the House of Representatives shall intervene or appear as amicus curiae in the name of the House, or in the name of an officer, committee, subcommittee, or chair of a committee or subcommittee of the House, or other entity of the House, in any legal action or proceeding pending in any court of the United States or of a State or political subdivision thereof.

“(2) INTERVENTION OR APPEARANCE AS OF RIGHT.—Intervention as a party or appearance as amicus curiae shall be of right and may be denied by a court only upon an express finding that such intervention or appearance is untimely and would significantly delay the pending action or, in the case of intervention, that standing to intervene is required and has not been established under section 2 of article III of the Constitution of the United States.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer standing on any party seeking to bring, or jurisdiction on any court with respect to, any civil or criminal action against Congress, either House of Congress, a Member of Congress, a committee or subcommittee of a House of Congress, any office or agency of Congress, or any officer or employee of a House of Congress or any office or agency of Congress.”

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 115-363 and the amendment designated in the order of the House of October 24, 2017. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 115-363.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of Chairman GOODLATTE, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, line 2, insert after "otherwise prohibited by law" the following: "(other than section 552a of title 5, United States Code)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 577, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, the Department of the Treasury's interpretation of current law prohibits it from making public the names of plaintiffs. My amendment clarifies that these names, which this bill requires to be disclosed, will, in fact, be disclosed.

In January 2016, it was reported that the United States agreed to pay \$1.7 billion to Iran in a settlement arising from an agreement to sell military equipment to Iran prior to the 1979 Iranian Revolution. At the time, it was known that \$400 million in cash had been transferred to Iran, but it was unclear, even after public inquiry, how the remaining \$1.3 billion had been paid.

On August 22, 2016, the New York Sun reported that, while conducting an ongoing but fruitless search of "Iran" as a claimant in the Treasury database, it found 13 payments totaling 13 cents less than \$1.3 billion, as well as an additional payment of just over \$10 million. Without further context, however, the New York Sun could not confirm whether these payments were, in fact, part of the settlement.

It was only after months of increased public scrutiny, long after the money had been disbursed, that the previous administration acknowledges that these payments were indeed part of the Iran settlement.

My amendment will ensure that the public knows about the conduct of its government and the laws that are being faithfully executed and that justice is being served. The information that this bill requires to be disclosed, which, in many cases is already publicly available in court documents, informs Congress and the public in new ways, particularly with regard to systemic government abuse.

Furthermore, any concerns about the disclosure of the plaintiffs' names are mitigated by the fact that this amendment does not foreclose a court's ability to protect private information. Indeed, the information required to be made public in title II will not be disclosed if such disclosure is prohibited

by a court order. Moreover, Federal judges have ample discretion to allow a plaintiff to proceed under the pseudonym as a "Doe plaintiff" or to seal and redact intimate records.

My amendment is necessary to prevent future government abuse by increasing the overall transparency of the Judgment Fund and, in turn, increasing government accountability.

I urge my colleagues to support this important clarification, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I seek time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I think it is very important to say at the outset this is not about clarifying anything. This is about a major change in policy.

This amendment will permit the publication of a victim's sensitive information, such as the individual's name and case history, on the internet. This overrides the Privacy Act.

So let's be clear about what this is. This is not a clarification. This is a major change in policy.

This amendment will make a bad bill even worse. It specifies that the Privacy Act does not prohibit the publication of a victim's sensitive information, such as his or her name and case history.

Under current law, the Treasury Department cannot, for the purposes of the Judgment Fund, publish the sensitive information of individuals who are victims of government abuse or misconduct, such as a name or case history. This is because the Privacy Act requires an individual's consent prior to publishing their name or other sensitive information.

Although proponents of this amendment may claim that this information is, in some instances, already publicly available, the Supreme Court has recognized that a person's privacy interests and their personal information collected in government records does not automatically dissolve because such information may be available to the public already in some other format. Individuals have the right to control the dissemination of their own personal information. This amendment makes it clear that the bill will infringe on an individual's personal privacy if he or she is compensated from the Judgment Fund.

Moreover, this amendment does not further the public interest in government transparency. Publishing an individual person's name on the internet sheds no significant light on the inner workings of government and has no value; and so, to the contrary, it will result in potentially grave harassment or even intimidation.

Revealing this information is an unwarranted intrusion on personal privacy of individuals harmed by government misconduct, which could include victims of medical malpractice as well

as racial and sexual discrimination. In effect, it revictimizes the victims of government misconduct or abuse—a terrible result.

So, therefore, I oppose this amendment which does not do anything to improve the bill and, in fact, makes it considerably worse.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. And if you vote for it, recognize that you will have to go home and tell your constituents that you have agreed to a serious invasion of their personal privacy and that it will allow individuals who are victims of government misconduct to have that personal information put on the internet and shared with millions of people all over the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, you can also go home and tell them, if they filed a suit, that it is already currently in the PACER system, probably with more information than just that, or they could have filed it under a pseudonym or had their lawyers have this suppressed. This is an issue that is already out there; and as we look at this, this is moving forward. So I would just ask that this amendment be reported favorably.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 made in order by the order of the House of October 24, 2017.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT OFFERED IN LIEU OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 PRINTED IN PART A OF HOUSE REPORT NO. 115-363 OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS OF MICHIGAN

Page 3, line 17, strike ";" and insert "other than an excepted consent decree or settlement agreement";

Page 4, line 4, strike the period and insert "and";

Page 4, insert after line 4 the following: (6) the term "excepted consent decree or settlement agreement" means a covered consent decree or covered settlement agreement that prevents or is intended to prevent discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, or any other protected category.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 577, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would exempt from H.R. 469 settlement agreements and consent decrees intended to prevent discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, or other protected category.

Given the often systemic nature of discriminatory conduct, settlement



agreements and consent decrees provide an invaluable means to provide for general relief for non-identifiable victims and to prevent future discriminatory acts.

In particular, they are instrumental in enforcing critical civil rights protections in a wide variety of cases, including voting rights violations and predatory lending practices based on race. Other examples include the use of consent decrees by the Justice Department to address unconstitutional police pattern or practice activities.

For example, in 2003, the City of Detroit entered into a consent decree with the Justice Department concerning the inappropriate use of force and arrest practices by the city's police department. As a result of this decree, the police department implemented vastly improved practices that have substantially reduced the incidence of fatalities caused by law enforcement activities, a goal that the Judiciary Committee Chairman GOODLATTE and I very much endorse.

According to the department's civil rights division, these decrees facilitate institutional reforms, such as improving systems for supervising officers and holding them accountable for misconduct, as well as ensuring officers have the policy guidance, training, equipment, and other resources necessary for constitutional and effective policing.

Unfortunately, H.R. 469 would make the use of such remedies exceedingly difficult by subjecting them to numerous procedural and potentially meritless court challenges.

A particularly concerning provision of this bill is its broad and ill-defined authorization allowing virtually anyone to intervene with respect to a proposed settlement agreement or consent decree.

For example, imagine a proposed settlement agreement intended to restrict a city's school district from discriminating against Muslims. Under the bill, any anti-Muslim or neo-Nazi organization could petition the court to intervene for the purpose of opposing such agreement on the ground that it "would affect" such person.

This is just one of the many fundamental problems presented by this thoroughly flawed and, I think, harmful measure, and, so, accordingly, I ask my colleagues here to join me in opposing H.R. 469.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, with much respect for my ranking member on my committee—we have served together; we have worked on a lot of issues together, namely, the Police Working Group, and other things, and his work has been very helpful in that regard—I do have to oppose this amendment because, really,

what this amendment does is seek less transparency, public participation, and judicial review for consent decrees and settlement agreements for regulations that allegedly will help to protect civil rights.

With all due respect, I believe this has matters backwards. More transparency, public input, and judicial scrutiny will only help to produce regulations that better protect civil rights.

Further, since the bill promotes the participation of regulated entities and State, local, and Tribal entities that may be affected by or help to enforce the regulations, it will promote buy-in from these groups. That will help the regulation to be better and more promptly implemented and not held for years in litigation challenging the rules.

I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, although H.R. 469 has many flaws, I am particularly concerned that the bill's broad and ill-defined requirements would effectively delay and possibly deter civil enforcement agencies from providing general relief in discrimination cases, discourage courts from enforcing these settlements, and also invite costly and needless litigation.

In response to this problem, my amendment would simply exclude from the bill's burdensome requirements settlement agreements and consent decrees intended to remediate generalized harms in civil rights cases.

Mr. Chairman, this is a commonsense amendment, and I urge my colleagues here to support it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 115-363.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 17, strike “; and” and insert “, other than an excepted consent decree or settlement agreement;”.

Page 4, line 4, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 4, insert after line 4 the following:  
(6) the term “excepted consent decree or settlement agreement” means a covered consent decree or covered settlement agreement pertaining to a deadline established by Congress through the enactment of a Federal statute to—

(A) significantly improve access to affordable, high-speed broadband internet in under-served markets, such as low-income and rural communities; and

(B) facilitate economic development in locations without sufficient access to such service.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 577, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my amendment to H.R. 469, and to advocate for rural Georgians and Americans across the country who don't have dependable access to broadband internet services.

We are here today debating H.R. 469, a bill that would require burdensome and unnecessary processes that would delay the enforcement of Federal regulations. H.R. 469 undermines the ability of government agencies to protect public health and safety by prohibiting them from using consent decrees and settlements to enforce the law that we pass by allowing private industry to intervene in opposition to regulations that they deem unfavorable to them. It requires the publishing of the personal data of those who bring complaints against the government, thus deterring complaints.

My amendment would ensure that future actions taken by Congress to increase broadband access in rural areas are not stymied by these excessive regulatory burdens. My amendment would exempt any future legislation, or any future rules that may be enacted to bring this technology to underserved areas from the requirements put in place by H.R. 469.

It shouldn't be groundbreaking news that, in many of our districts, a gap exists between urban and rural communities insofar as broadband connectivity is concerned. The Fourth District of Georgia has some rural pockets that are facing this challenge today.

According to a study done by the Pew Research Center in 2016, rural Americans are still 10 percentage points less likely than average citizens to have broadband access at home. Although we have seen improvements since the 16-point gap in 2007, we have much work to do to ensure that all families have access to what is now a modern necessity.

My home State of Georgia ranks 21st in the Nation in terms of access to 25 megabit per second broadband, according to a report put together by the Georgia House and Senate Study Committee on High Speed Broadband Communications Access for all Georgians. In rural counties where this problem persists, we have seen local development stall without access to telehealth services, educational materials, and other digital resources.

Broadband connectivity brings with it countless learning opportunities and exchanges of information that are not possible in isolated communities without broadband. The issue of broadband access is inextricably linked to the vitality of these rural areas, and it is in our best interest as a Congress to give rural communities all of the modern tools they need to succeed.

The FCC's 2016 Broadband Progress Report identified 24 million rural Americans throughout the country who don't have a broadband connection—24 million Americans whose access would be delayed even further by the implementation of H.R. 469's elimination of consent decrees.

I hope Congress can agree on the importance of achieving full broadband access, and I hope that this amendment will begin removing this hurdle that is being put in place by my friends on the other side of the aisle who support business as opposed to people.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this common-sense amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I was just sitting here, Mr. Chairman, and I am excited and welcome my friend from Georgia to the fight for broadband. I have been leading on this fight now for several years, especially in my district, which is rural, which has a company called Windstream that does not provide for its citizens. I am excited to have the acknowledgment that rural broadband is something that we need to be fighting for.

My district has areas in which Windstream was supposed to use its Connect America funds to widen its footprint on rural broadband. Instead, they have shrunk it, only to compete in areas where they are competing against other companies, and only widening it in areas where they already had technology which they could have widened years before.

I think it is really interesting, and I am so glad about this because it also gives me the opportunity to talk about the GO Act, the Gigabyte Opportunity Act, which actually will provide real solutions into these districts for broadband opportunity.

I would encourage my friends from Georgia and from Michigan, and anybody else, to sign on to this bill. It is a good bill that has support across the way in the Senate, and also working with the administration to provide the way for States to actually look at their own States and provide gigabyte opportunity zones so that they can actually make ways and get these companies that are monopolizing the areas and not serving their constituents.

By the way, Mr. Chairman, it is sad because, in some of my districts right now, it has been over really about 6 weeks or so since Irma came through northeast Georgia and knocked out power and delayed broadband, and I still have customers in my district who do not have phone service or broadband this long after that fact.

This is just unacceptable, so I appreciate the concern here. The only problem is, this amendment doesn't help. This amendment is not one that does—again, it just is another amendment,

unfortunately, like the last amendment, that seeks less transparency and public participation. It does not do anything to discourage people from working to find rural broadband solutions.

What this actually does, it just, again, tries to seek less transparency instead of more. But I think there is a positive here. I choose to look at the positive. I disagree with this amendment and would ask that it be voted "no." But I look at the positive to say, as someone from Georgia, we have got a fight we can connect on, and that is rural broadband, because there is no longer a digital divide. There is a hope and dream divide. It is not a digital divide. It is a hope and dream for those students, and those moms, and those dads, and those families in those areas who cannot access the internet.

For me, it was a radio and a book. It took me all over the world. Nowadays, it is the internet and a phone where our students can actually get what they want. Unfortunately, this amendment doesn't do it. I have to oppose this amendment, but I am glad to welcome to the fight another friend against the evils of not being able to expand broadband.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I just enjoyed the contrast between our different styles. The Congressman, my friend from Georgia, is very upbeat and passionate. I am more laid back and kind of reserved. But we both agree on the fact that we want more broadband to be accessible to rural customers. We both agree on that.

We just simply disagree on whether or not we should allow a process whereby a third-party corporation can come in and gum up the regulatory scheme that has been laid out in the rulings that have been made and, thus, delay the availability of broadband to rural customers.

Mr. Chair, I would ask respectfully that my colleagues support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana) assumed the chair.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2266. An act making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

#### SUNSHINE FOR REGULATIONS AND REGULATORY DECREES AND SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2017

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MCEACHIN

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MITCHELL). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 115-363.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 17, strike “; and” and insert “, other than an excepted consent decree or settlement agreement;”.

Page 4, line 4, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 4, insert after line 4 the following:

(6) the term “excepted consent decree or settlement agreement” means a covered consent decree or covered settlement agreement pertaining to the improvement or maintenance of air or water quality.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 577, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment which seeks to reduce H.R. 469's adverse effects on public health and environmental quality. More specifically, my amendment would exempt from the terms of this bill consent decrees and settlement agreements pertaining to the maintenance or improvement of air and water quality.

Mr. Chairman, litigation empowers our constituents to hold Federal agencies accountable when they fail to take required actions by congressionally mandated deadlines. In many of these cases, agencies' failures are not in serious dispute. A missed deadline is a missed deadline. Litigants' goals are simply to ensure that the law is followed quickly and in full.

In such cases, it is not unusual, and certainly not unreasonable, for lawsuits to conclude with consent decrees or settlement agreements. As reported, this bill would introduce duplicative requirements and unnecessary barriers into the process by which the consent decrees and settlement agreements are reached. As a result, both tools would be used less often and less effectively.

Across the board, that change would be a mistake, but would generally be disastrous with respect to pollution. Air and water quality are matters of public health. When they fail to meet

certain levels, people get sick and potentially die. The World Health Organization says that unhealthy environments kill more than 12 million people annually. In the United States, multiple studies have shown that tens of thousands of deaths every year are attributable to air pollution alone. These figures, of course, do not begin to contemplate nonlethal effects of health and quality of life.

We all know that justice delayed is justice denied—and that is especially true when lives are at stake. When regulators fail to take mandated actions to maintain or improve air or water quality, that is an injustice. When they sincerely intend to take those actions, but fail to do so in a timely way, that is also an injustice.

If we make it harder for citizens to hold regulators accountable, if we take away tools that empower Americans to make their voices heard, and hold agencies to account, we are compounding those injuries.

Let me be clear: consent decrees and settlement agreements do make a real difference in people's lives. They do this not by changing the substance of the agencies' actions as a formal rule-making would do, but by ensuring that the planned or required actions are actually taken.

I invite my colleagues to look at the Chesapeake Bay and the settlement agreement in *Fowler v. EPA*. Back in 2010, the EPA was under both congressional and executive mandates to improve water quality in the bay, but the agency was not on track to implement necessary standards within the required timeframe.

Citizens and public interest groups filed suit, and the case concluded in a settlement agreement that established a concrete deadline for actions that the agency was already working towards—notably, the imposition of the total maximum daily load, a binding limit on pollution in the watershed.

The result has been a small but very promising improvement in the health of the bay. Were it not for the agreement, we might still be waiting on the EPA to take the actions necessary.

□ 1730

We would have lost a significant amount of time, and, instead of improving conditions, conditions might have worsened, and the problem we faced would have grown correspondingly greater.

So, again, Mr. Chairman, justice delayed is justice denied; and, again, consent decrees and settlement agreements prevent avoidable, unnecessary delay.

Contrary to what my friends on the other side of the aisle have said, consent decrees and settlements do not and cannot take the place of formal rulemaking. Existing Federal regulations prevent agencies from using either tool to make commitments in excess of what relevant statutes provide.

The GAO has explored whether deadline litigation affects the substance of

agencies' actions; overwhelmingly, they concluded it does not.

So the only function of this bill would be to stymie citizens'—our constituents'—efforts to ensure that our laws are faithfully executed to protect our air and our water, and, therefore, our health, in court.

My amendment would fix that problem in at least one area, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman bringing it forward. Again, we have never said that consent decrees can't be used. The issue here is how they are used in transparency. Justice delayed, as has been said, is not one that is denied, but also transparency not used is also things that are done in the dark and away from the public view which also can have issues that we go forward. Very few of these cases are actually brought by Joe Private Citizen. They are brought by groups with interest.

Even in the Chesapeake Bay, which has an \$18 billion compliance tag, the rushed timeframe did not allow others' input and buy-in from other localities.

So, again, nowhere has abuse of sue and settle tactics been seen so much as in the environmental regulation. In fact, the Judiciary Committee's report on this bill highlights 10 environmental sue and settle regulations from the Obama administration that equaled up to \$125 billion of cost.

Even the Environmental Council, as I stated earlier, in 2013, adopted a resolution calling upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adopt reforms like the ones in this bill.

This amendment would deny reform to precisely the area of regulation that needs it most and, thereby, substantially gut the bill. We can have good environmental regulations without shady, backroom dealing of sue and settle litigation skewing the results and excessively heightening the burden.

I appreciate the gentleman bringing the amendment, but I would oppose it, and I would ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment as well.

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's concerns, but actually having been a trial lawyer and actually having practiced law in the courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia and elsewhere, there is no more transparent process than the litigation process.

I would submit that the notion that somehow these actions are brought by someone other than our constituents, someone other than citizens of the United States, is not well taken.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would conclude by simply asking that my colleagues

support this amendment, that we move forward in that regard, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 5 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CARTWRIGHT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part A of House Report 115-363.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 17, strike “; and” and insert “, other than an excepted consent decree or settlement agreement;”.

Page 4, line 4, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 4, insert after line 4 the following:

(6) the term “excepted consent decree or settlement agreement” means a covered consent decree or covered settlement agreement entered into pursuant to sections 0.160 through 0.163 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly referred to as the “Meese Policy”).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 577, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that would create an exception in the legislation for consent decrees or settlement agreements entered into pursuant to the Meese policy.

For those unfamiliar, the Meese policy prohibits the Department of Justice from undertaking a regulatory action through a settlement. More specifically, the Meese policy directs departments and agencies not to enter into a consent decree if it would act as a so-called end run, around the regular rulemaking process or constrain an agency head from exercising its discretionary authority in the future.

Any departure from these rules must be approved by the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, or the Associate Attorney General beforehand.

Edwin Meese, the former Attorney General for the Reagan administration, wrote a memo articulating this policy in 1986, out of a concern for the abuse of settlements by agencies. Now, the Department of Justice later codified it in 1991, in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Simply put, there is a law already on the books that prevents the Department of Justice or other agencies from abusing consent decrees and settlement agreements used by Federal agencies, and it is working.

In February of this year, the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, determined that Department officials negotiating settlement terms are covered by the Meese policy. The GAO's report noted that any settlement would only include a commitment to perform an action already mandated by law.

So if you are scoring along at home, what I am saying is this: there is a needless overlap between this bill that we are considering, H.R. 469, and the Meese policy in regard to the scope of settlements. There is also redundancy with existing laws in terms of protecting the interests of third parties.

If I may be so bold, I would like to say that persons with only a nodding acquaintance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure already know that Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24 allows affected parties to intervene in litigation if they feel their interests are not properly represented in the case.

Moreover, even if a rule was promulgated by a settlement agreement, the Administrative Procedure Act would still mandate notice-and-comment procedures for the rule. Simply put, this is a bill that is a solution in search of a problem, and my amendment underscores that fact.

If I may be so bold, I would like to say that here in America we have actual real problems that merit our attention here in this House, such as why we haven't had an infrastructure bill leading to high-paying American jobs. We need actual solutions to actual problems, not theoretical ones like in this bill. That is why I have offered this amendment.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate the gentleman bringing in the Meese memo. We discussed this earlier that if we actually went back to the actual intent of the Meese memo which said the Attorney General would be the part, we could probably agree on that. But let's get some things straight. There has been nothing codified. This is a regulation. It has not been codified. Codification would have to come from actual legislation passed by this body, and it is not.

The amendment would seek to carve out of the bill consent decrees and settlements entered into under Department of Justice regulations ostensibly written to implement this Meese memo.

The Meese memo was a Reagan-era Department policy, issued by Attorney General Meese, that prohibited the De-

partment from entering into specified categories of decrees or settlements—particularly those that allowed the judiciary, through judicial orders, from invading the constitutionally exclusive authority of the executive branch.

Current regulations, however, require less scrutiny by, and less accountability for, such consent decrees on the part of the Attorney General.

What we need is not less Department of Justice accountability for backroom deals that trespass constitutional lines of authority, but more accountability. The bill would restore full accountability consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Meese memo itself.

Further, the amendment would carve out any and all decrees and settlements entered by the approval of officials as low as the Assistant Attorneys General—meaning most of the relevant decrees and settlements entered into by the Department. As a result, the amendment would gut the bill's consent decree and settlement reforms.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, to conclude, H.R. 469's proponents offer no evidence that there actually is a sue and settle problem or that agencies are not currently complying with the Meese memo. The GAO has already said they are. My amendment simply makes clear that this bill is unnecessary, and, as such, I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 115-363 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. MCEACHIN of Virginia.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. CARTWRIGHT of Pennsylvania.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) on which further proceedings were

postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

#### RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 231, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 585]

#### AYES—185

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Nolan
Aguilar	Fudge	Norcross
Barragan	Gabbard	O'Halleran
Bass	Gallego	O'Rourke
Beatty	Garamendi	Pallone
Bera	Gomez	Panetta
Beyer	Gonzalez (TX)	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Gottheimer	Payne
Blumenauer	Green, Al	Pelosi
Blunt Rochester	Green, Gene	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Grijalva	Peters
Boyle, Brendan	Gutiérrez	Peterson
F.	Hanabusa	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Pocan
Brown (MD)	Heck	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Higgins (NY)	Price (NC)
Bustos	Himes	Quigley
Butterfield	Hoyer	Raskin
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Rice (NY)
Carbajal	Jayapal	Rosen
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Cartwright	Keating	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Castro (TX)	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Khanna	Sánchez
Cicilline	Kihuen	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schiff
Clay	Kind	Schneider
Cleaver	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Kuster (NH)	Scott, David
Cohen	Langevin	Serrano
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Shea-Porter
Cooper	Lawrence	Sherman
Correa	Lawson (FL)	Sinema
Costa	Lee	Sires
Courtney	Levin	Slaughter
Crist	Lewis (GA)	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Lieu, Ted	Soto
Cuellar	Lipinski	Speier
Cummings	Loeb sack	Suo zzi
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Swalwell (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lowey	Takano
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham,	
DeGette	M.	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Titus
DeLauro	Maloney,	Tonko
DelBene	Carolyn B.	Torres
Demings	Maloney, Sean	Tsongas
DeSaulnier	Matsui	Vargas
Deutch	McCollum	Veasey
Dingell	McEachin	Vela
Doggett	McGovern	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael	McNerney	Vislosky
F.	Meeks	Walz
Ellison	Meng	Wasserman
Engel	Moore	Schultz
Eshoo	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Españillat	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
Esty (CT)	Nadler	Welch
Evans	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Foster	Neal	

#### NOES—231

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

Collins (NY) Jenkins (WV)  
Comer Johnson (LA)  
Comstock Johnson (OH)  
Conaway Jones  
Cook Jordan  
Costello (PA) Joyce (OH)  
Cramer Katko  
Crawford Kelly (MS)  
Culberson Kelly (PA)  
Curbelo (FL) King (IA)  
Davidson King (NY)  
Davis, Rodney Kinzinger  
Dent Knight  
DeSantis Kustoff (TN)  
DesJarlais Labrador  
Diaz-Balart LaHood  
Donovan LaMalfa  
Duffy Lamborn  
Duncan (SC) Lance  
Duncan (TN) Latta  
Dunn Lewis (MN)  
Emmer LoBiondo  
Estes (KS) Long  
Farenthold Loudermilk  
Faso Love  
Ferguson Lucas  
Fitzpatrick Luetkemeyer  
Fleischmann MacArthur  
Flores Marchant  
Foxy Marino  
Franks (AZ) Marshall  
Frelinghuysen Massie  
Gaetz Mast  
Gallagher McCarthy  
Garrett McCaul  
Gianforte McClintock  
Gibbs McHenry  
Gohmert McKinley  
Goodlatte McMorris  
Gosar Rodgers  
Gowdy McSally  
Granger Meadows  
Graves (GA) Meehan  
Graves (LA) Messer  
Graves (MO) Mitchell  
Griffith Moolenaar  
Grothman Mooney (WV)  
Guthrie Mullin  
Handel Newhouse  
Harper Noem  
Harris Norman  
Hartzler Nunes  
Hensarling Olson  
Herrera Beutler Palazzo  
Hice, Jody B. Palmer  
Higgins (LA) Paulsen  
Hill Pearce  
Holding Perry  
Hollingsworth Pittenger  
Huizenga Poe (TX)  
Hultgren Poliquin  
Hunter Posey  
Hurd Ratcliffe  
Issa Reed  
Jenkins (KS) Reichert

NOT VOTING—16

Bridenstine Johnson, Sam  
Denham Kaptur  
Fortenberry Lowenthal  
Hudson Lynch  
Huffman Richmond  
Jeffries

□ 1805

Messrs. BACON, KELLY of Pennsylvania, and ALLEN changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. SPEIER, Messrs. KIHUEN, and DOGGETT changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MCEACHIN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 226, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 586]

AYES—187

Adams Gabbard  
Aguilar Gallego  
Barragán Garamendi  
Bass Gomez  
Beatty Gonzalez (TX)  
Bera Gottheimer  
Beyer Green, Al  
Bishop (GA) Green, Gene  
Blunt Rochester Grijalva  
Bonamici Gutierrez  
Boyle, Brendan Hanabusa  
F. Hastings  
Brady (PA) Heck  
Brown (MD) Higgins (NY)  
Brownley (CA) Himes  
Bustos Hoyer  
Butterfield Jackson Lee  
Capuano Jayapal  
Carbajal Johnson (GA)  
Cárdenas Johnson, E. B.  
Carson (IN) Jones  
Cartwright Kaptur  
Castor (FL) Keating  
Chu, Judy Kelly (IL)  
Cicilline Kennedy  
Clark (MA) Khanna  
Clarke (NY) Kihuen  
Clay Kildee  
Cleaver Kilmer  
Clyburn Kind  
Cohen Krishnamoorthi  
Connolly Kuster (NH)  
Conyers Langevin  
Cooper Larsen (WA)  
Correa Larson (CT)  
Costa Lawrence  
Courtney Lawson (FL)  
Crist Lee  
Crowley Levin  
Cuellar Lewis (GA)  
Cummings Lieu, Ted  
Davis (CA) Lipinski  
Davis, Danny LoBiondo  
DeFazio Loebsack  
DeGette Lofgren  
Delaney Lowey  
DeLauro Lujan Grisham,  
DelBene M.  
Demings Luján, Ben Ray  
DeSaulnier Maloney,  
Deutch Carolyn B.  
Dingell Maloney, Sean  
Doggett Matsui  
Doyle, Michael McCollum  
F. McEachin  
Ellison McGovern  
Engel McNerney  
Eshoo Meeks  
Españat Meng  
Esty (CT) Moore  
Evans Moulton  
Foster Murphy (FL)  
Frankel (FL) Nadler  
Fudge Napolitano

NOES—226

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

Cramer Johnson (OH)  
Crawford Jordan  
Culberson Joyce (OH)  
Curbelo (FL) Katko  
Davidson Kelly (MS)  
Davis, Rodney Kelly (PA)  
Dent King (IA)  
DeSantis King (NY)  
DesJarlais Kinzinger  
Diaz-Balart Knight  
Donovan Kustoff (TN)  
Duffy Labrador  
Duncan (SC) LaHood  
Duncan (TN) LaMalfa  
Dunn Lamborn  
Emmer Lance  
Estes (KS) Latta  
Farenthold Lewis (MN)  
Faso Long  
Ferguson Loudermilk  
Galleo Love  
Gomez Fleischmann  
O'Halleran Lucas  
O'Rourke Luetkemeyer  
Pallone Flores  
Panetta MacArthur  
Payne Marchant  
Pelosi Marino  
Perlmutter Marshall  
Peters Garrett  
Peterson Massie  
Pingree Mast  
Pocan McCarthy  
Polis McHenry  
Price (NC) McKinley  
Quigley Gowdy  
Raskin Granger  
Rice (NY) Graves (GA)  
Rosen Graves (MO)  
Roybal-Allard Griffith  
Ruiz Grothman  
Ruppersberger Guthrie  
Rush Handel  
Ryan (OH) Mooney (WV)  
Sánchez Mullin  
Sarbanes Newhouse  
Schakowsky Noem  
Schiff Hensarling  
Schneider Herrera Beutler  
Schrader Hice, Jody B.  
Scott (VA) Higgins (LA)  
Scott, David Hill  
Serrano Paulsen  
Sewell (AL) Hollingsworth  
Shea-Porter Huizenga  
Sherman Hultgren  
Sinema Hunter  
Sires Hurd  
Slaughter Issa  
Smith (NJ) Jenkins (KS)  
Smith (WA) Jenkins (WV)  
Soto Johnson (LA)  
Speier  
Suozzi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—19

Blumenauer Jeffries  
Bridenstine Johnson, Sam  
Castro (TX) Lowenthal  
Denham Lynch  
Fortenberry Pascrell  
Hudson Richmond  
Huffman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1809

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:  
Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chair, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 586.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chair, I was inadvertently delayed on rollcall numbers 585 and 586. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 585 and “yes” on rollcall No. 586.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR.

CARTWRIGHT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the

gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 186, noes 232, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 587]

AYES—186

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Neal
Aguilar	Fudge	Nolan
Barragán	Gabbard	Norcross
Bass	Gallego	O'Halleran
Beatty	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Bera	Gomez	Pallone
Beyer	Gonzalez (TX)	Panetta
Bishop (GA)	Gottheimer	Pascrell
Blumenauer	Green, Al	Payne
Blunt Rochester	Green, Gene	Pelosi
Bonamici	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Gutiérrez	Peters
F.	Hanabusa	Peterson
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Pingree
Brown (MD)	Heck	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Higgins (NY)	Polis
Bustos	Himes	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Hoyer	Quigley
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Raskin
Carbajal	Jayapal	Rice (NY)
Cardenas	Johnson (GA)	Rosen
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Kaptur	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Keating	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Chu, Judy	Kennedy	Sánchez
Ciçilline	Khanna	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kihuen	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Schiff
Clay	Kilmer	Schneider
Cleaver	Kind	Schrader
Clyburn	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Langevin	Scott, David
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Lawrence	Shea-Porter
Correa	Lawson (FL)	Sherman
Costa	Lee	Sinema
Courtney	Levin	Sires
Crist	Lewis (GA)	Slaughter
Crowley	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
Cuellar	Lipinski	Soto
Cummings	Loeb sack	Speier
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Suoizzi
Davis, Danny	Lowe y	Swalwell (CA)
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham,	Takano
DeGette	M.	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Titus
DeLauro	Lynch	Tonko
DelBene	Maloney,	Torres
Demings	Carolyn B.	Tsongas
DeSaulnier	Maloney, Sean	Vargas
Deutch	Matsui	Veasey
Dingell	McColumm	Vela
Doggett	McEachin	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael	McGovern	Vislosky
F.	McNerney	Walz
Ellison	Meeks	Wasserman
Engel	Meng	Schultz
Eshoo	Moore	Waters, Maxine
Espallat	Moulton	Watson Coleman
Esty (CT)	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Evans	Nadler	Yarmuth
Foster	Napolitano	

NOES—232

Abraham	Banks (IN)	Bishop (UT)
Aderholt	Barletta	Black
Allen	Barr	Blackburn
Amash	Barton	Blum
Amodei	Bergman	Bost
Arrington	Biggs	Brady (TX)
Babin	Bilirakis	Brat
Bacon	Bishop (MI)	Brooks (AL)

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

NOT VOTING—14

Bridenstine	Kuster (NH)	Ryan (OH)
Fortenberry	Lowenthal	Smith (NE)
Huffman	Richmond	Thompson (CA)
Jeffries	Rooney, Thomas	Webster (FL)
Johnson, Sam	J.	Wilson (FL)

□ 1814

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

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

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) having assumed the

chair, Mr. MITCHELL, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 469) to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 577, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on the amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 234, noes 187, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 588]

AYES—234

Abraham	Collins (GA)	Gianforte
Aderholt	Collins (NY)	Gibbs
Allen	Comer	Gohmert
Amash	Comstock	Goodlatte
Amodei	Conaway	Gosar
Arrington	Cook	Gowdy
Babin	Costello (PA)	Granger
Bacon	Cramer	Graves (GA)
Banks (IN)	Crawford	Graves (LA)
Barletta	Cuellar	Graves (MO)
Barr	Culberson	Griffith
Barton	Curbelo (FL)	Grothman
Bergman	Davidson	Guthrie
Biggs	Davis, Rodney	Handel
Bilirakis	Denham	Harper
Bishop (MI)	Dent	Harris
Bishop (UT)	DeSantis	Hartzler
Black	DesJarlais	Hensarling
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart	Herrera Beutler
Blum	Donovan	Hice, Jody B.
Bost	Duffy	Higgins (LA)
Brady (TX)	Duncan (SC)	Hill
Brat	Duncan (TN)	Holding
Brooks (AL)	Dunn	Hollingsworth
Brooks (IN)	Emmer	Hudson
Buchanan	Estes (KS)	Huizenga
Buck	Farenthold	Hultgren
Bucshon	Faso	Hunter
Burgess	Ferguson	Hurd
Byrne	Fitzpatrick	Issa
Calvert	Flores	Jenkins (KS)
Carter (GA)	Fox	Jenkins (WV)
Carter (TX)	Franks (AZ)	Johnson (LA)
Chabot	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (OH)
Cheney	Gaetz	Jones
Coffman	Gallagher	Jordan
Cole	Garrett	Joyce (OH)
		Katko

Kelly (MS) Newhouse  
 Kelly (PA) Noem  
 King (IA) Norman  
 King (NY) Nunes  
 Kinzinger Olson  
 Knight Palazzo  
 Kustoff (TN) Palmer  
 Labrador Paulsen  
 LaHood Pearce  
 LaMalfa LaMalfa  
 Lamborn Peterson  
 Lance Pittenger  
 Latta Poe (TX)  
 Lewis (MN) Poliquin  
 LoBiondo Posey  
 Long Ratcliffe  
 Loudermilk Reed  
 Love Reichert  
 Lucas Renacci  
 Luetkemeyer Rice (SC)  
 MacArthur Roby  
 Marchant Roe (TN)  
 Marino Rogers (AL)  
 Marshall Rogers (KY)  
 Massie Rohrabacher  
 Mast Rokita  
 McCarthy Rooney, Francis  
 McCaul Ros-Lehtinen  
 McClintock Roskam  
 McHenry Ross  
 McKinley Rothfus  
 McMorris Rouzer  
 Rodgers Royce (CA)  
 McSally Russell  
 Meadows Rutherford  
 Meehan Sanford  
 Messer Scalise  
 Mitchell Schweikert  
 Moolenaar Scott, Austin  
 Mooney (WV) Sensenbrenner  
 Mullin Sessions

NOES—187

Adams Ellison  
 Aguilar Engel  
 Barragan Eshoo  
 Bass Espaillat  
 Beatty Esty (CT)  
 Bera Evans  
 Beyer Foster  
 Bishop (GA) Frankel (FL)  
 Blumenauer Fudge  
 Blunt Rochester Gabbard  
 Bonamici Gallego  
 Boyle, Brendan Garamendi  
 F. Gomez  
 Brady (PA) Gonzalez (TX)  
 Brown (MD) Gottheimer  
 Brownley (CA) Green, Al  
 Bustos Green, Gene  
 Butterfield Grijalva  
 Capuano Gutiérrez  
 Carabajal Hanabusa  
 Cárdenas Hastings  
 Carson (IN) Heck  
 Cartwright Higgins (NY)  
 Castor (FL) Himes  
 Castro (TX) Hoyer  
 Chu, Judy Huffman  
 Cicilline Jackson Lee  
 Clark (MA) Jayapal  
 Clarke (NY) Johnson (GA)  
 Clay Johnson, E. B.  
 Cleaver Kaptur  
 Clyburn Keating  
 Cohen Kelly (IL)  
 Connolly Kennedy  
 Conyers Khanna  
 Cooper Kihuen  
 Correa Kildee  
 Costa Kilmer  
 Courtney Kind  
 Crist Krishnamoorthi  
 Crowley Kuster (NH)  
 Cummings Langevin  
 Davis (CA) Larsen (WA)  
 Davis, Danny Larson (CT)  
 DeFazio Lawrence  
 DeGette Lawson (FL)  
 Delaney Lee  
 DeLauro Levin  
 DelBene Lewis (GA)  
 Demings Lieu, Ted  
 DeSaulnier Lipinski  
 Deutch Loeb sack  
 Dingell Lofgren  
 Doggett Lowey  
 Doyle, Michael Lujan Grisham,  
 F. M.

Shimkus  
 Shuster  
 Simpson  
 Smith (MO)  
 Olson  
 Smith (TX)  
 Smucker  
 Stefanik  
 Stewart  
 Perry  
 Stivers  
 Taylor  
 Tenney  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Thornberry  
 Tiberi  
 Tipton  
 Trott  
 Turner  
 Upton  
 Valadao  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Walden  
 Walker  
 Walorski  
 Walters, Mimi  
 Weber (TX)  
 Wenstrup  
 Westerman  
 Williams  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Woodall  
 Yoder  
 Yoho  
 Young (AK)  
 Young (IA)  
 Zeldin

Slaughter  
 Smith (WA)  
 Soto  
 Speier  
 Suozzi  
 Swalwell (CA)  
 Takano  
 Thompson (MS)

NOT VOTING—11

Bridenstine  
 Fortenberry  
 Jeffries  
 Johnson, Sam

Titus  
 Tonko  
 Torres  
 Tsongas  
 Vargas  
 Veasey  
 Vela  
 Velázquez

Visclosky  
 Walz  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters, Maxine  
 Watson Coleman  
 Welch  
 Yarmuth

Smith (NE)  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Webster (FL)  
 Wilson (FL)

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and we have a lot of work to do to better secure our Nation's cyberspace, and we cannot underestimate these challenges.

During our district work period last week, I took the opportunity to go on a cybersecurity tour to understand better what Rhode Island's initiatives are. During that time, I visited some of the Ocean State's growing cybersecurity companies, stopping by SecureWorks' Providence campus and speaking on a panel at Carousel Industries' AlwaysOn Technology summit.

I learned about efforts to stem cybercrimes from the Rhode Island State Police, and I joined Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea at an election security workshop for local officials.

At the Rhode Island Society of CPAs, I encouraged our accountants to advise their clients about cybersecurity risk, and I joined State Senator Lou DiPalma to promote cyber hygiene practices.

Most importantly, I spoke to PTECH students and participants in CyberPatriot about their importance as the next generation of cybersecurity leaders.

Mr. Speaker, cybersecurity may be the national and economic security challenge of the 21st century, but with the talent that we have in Rhode Island, I am confident that we can take it on.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SAM COKER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Dr. Sam Coker, who passed away on October 12, 2017, at 87 years of age.

Dr. Coker was an active member of his community, serving as a church leader and board of trustee for 31 years at Young Harris College in Young Harris, Georgia.

First and foremost, he was a Methodist minister, where he served at multiple churches across Georgia. Dr. Coker's dedication is exemplified by his multiple trips to Jerusalem, where he baptized friends and colleagues in the Jordan River.

In 2015, he was awarded the Young Harris College Artemas Lester Award for a lifetime of dedication to Christian service.

Because of his love for education and others, he created the Gene Allison Coker scholarship in honor of his late wife. This scholarship enabled many

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1827

REMOVAL OF NAMES OF MEMBERS AS COSPONSORS OF H.R. 3941

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following names be removed as cosponsors of the bill, H.R. 3941:

- Mr. CARBAJAL of California
- Mr. PRICE of North Carolina
- Ms. FUDGE of Ohio
- Mr. HUFFMAN of California
- Mr. VEASEY of Texas
- Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD of California
- Mr. CÁRDENAS of California
- Mr. LOEBSACK of Iowa

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

There was no objection.

□ 1830

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MONTANA EDUCATOR, CRAIG WILSON

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an educator who touched the lives of thousands of Montanans with his love for our State as well as his knowledge and passion for Montana politics. As one of Montana's foremost political scientists, Dr. Craig Wilson was well known across the State and across both sides of the aisle.

For 34 years, Professor Wilson spent his days in front of students in a classroom at Montana State University Billings, helping them understand the world in which they lived.

He conducted reliable and respected surveys that engaged Montanans on issues that mattered most to them. His method was honest and straightforward, a welcome approach in today's politics.

Craig was a loving husband to Kristianne, a proud father of Collin and Evan, and a doting grandfather to Blair and Jett.

Dr. Wilson was an educator in and out of the classroom. He was dearly loved and will be missed.

students to achieve higher education and attend Young Harris College.

Dr. Coker was a generous man, and he will be greatly missed.

#### TAX REFORM

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, day after day, the President and congressional Republicans have sought to frame their tax proposal as a tax cut for hardworking middle class families and not a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans, even going so far as to say it will not add to the deficit. Quite simply, they are trying to sell the American people a dream that will not become a reality.

In New Jersey alone, 25 percent of the residents will see their taxes increase by \$2,400, annually. That means one in four New Jerseyans are affected by this failed strategy of trickle-down economics.

These aren't the very rich. I am talking about New Jersey's regular working families. These New Jerseyans are a part of the 47 million Americans that will see a tax increase.

This horrific tax reform plan and the rhetoric my Republican colleagues are using to garner support is simply fake news. It is a tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

I refuse to participate in the crippling of the middle class and the working class and the halting of continued growth of the American economy by rubberstamping this billionaires-first tax scheme.

#### TAX REFORM LISTENING TOUR

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week in Minnesota, I conducted a tax reform listening tour, visiting small businesses in our community about why tax reform is so important. Throughout the tour, it was evident that these small businesses were enthusiastic that tax reform means more jobs, higher wages, and a stronger economy.

Diversified Plastics in Brooklyn Park, an employee-owned company that manufactures and assembles plastic injection products, said that being able to immediately expense new equipment will allow them to invest more in their company and hire more people.

Northstar Balloons in Plymouth, which manufactures and distributes foil party balloons, said that a Tax Code that provides stability and predictability will allow them to invest in their company with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the message was clear: fixing a broken Tax Code will help small businesses hire more people, give their employees a raise, and create a

growing and a more competitive economy.

#### FILVETS

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, our country is forever grateful for the service and sacrifice of the over 200,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who bravely served our country during World War II, heroes like Sixto Tabay, the last living Filipino World War II veteran on the Island of Kauai, whom I had the good fortune to meet with recently, people like him who fought bravely and sacrificed greatly.

So many made the ultimate sacrifice alongside our American troops in that war, yet their service for decades has gone unrecognized by our country.

Because of legislation that we passed, today, a very special day, these warriors were finally receiving the recognition that they earned and deserve, joining the heroic ranks of the likes of the Tuskegee Airmen and Hawaii's own 442nd 100th Infantry Battalion, as we honored them in the U.S. Capitol with the Congressional Gold Medal, our Nation's highest civilian honor.

To Major General Antonio Taguba, the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project, and all of our World War II Filipino veterans and their families who worked so hard and were so patient in making today a reality, "thank you very much to all of you," "maraming salamat sa inyong lahat."

#### GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(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. Mr. Speaker, October is German-American Heritage Month. I am co-chair of the Congressional German-American Caucus with Congressman BILL KEATING, and our caucus highlights German contributions to our country.

It is estimated that 50 million Americans have German ancestry, and according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Germans are the largest single ethnic group in the United States.

The caucus works to emphasize the friendship and alliance between the United States and Germany. We do so through an Oktoberfest networking event and through our support for programs like the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange internship program. The caucus also discusses timely topics such as trade, security, and foreign affairs and how they relate to our German counterparts.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we have a proud German heritage. Frederick Muhlenberg, a German immigrant and Lutheran pastor from Pennsylvania, whose family also founded Muhlenberg College, was the first

Speaker of the House following the signing of the new Constitution.

The caucus has more than 100 members, and I urge all those who are interested in joining to do so today during German-American Heritage Month.

#### DENOUNCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was joined by many of our colleagues to echo the pleas of over 100 women who came dressed as brides here to D.C. to put a face on the brutal murder of Gladys Ricart, a victim of domestic violence who was killed in 1999. Yesterday I said that I was Gladys Ricart and that we were all Gladys Ricart.

While this was happening, Mr. Speaker, I am distressed to inform you that a woman in my district in Inwood was fatally stabbed to death and beaten with a dumbbell by her long-time boyfriend. Police officers found Claudina Cruz dead, with multiple stab wounds to the torso and head trauma.

She is also Gladys Ricart. We are all Gladys Ricart.

I ask my colleagues to join me in denouncing domestic violence for Gladys, Claudina, and every victim of domestic violence across the country. Congress must reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act when it comes before us next year.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MALCOM RANDALL VA MEDICAL CENTER

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida.

Named after its first director, who ran the hospital for 30 years, the Malcom Randall VA Center first opened its doors to our Nation's veterans on October 22, 1967. Since then, it has grown from its original staff of 500 to be the centerpiece of our Nation's largest veterans health delivery system.

Today, the Malcom Randall VA Center serves over 140,000 veterans a year, consists of 14 hospitals and clinics, and acts as a teaching hospital in conjunction with the University of Florida medical school and other affiliates.

The services Malcom Randall VA provides to our veterans cannot be overstated, and I am proud to know that this institution is in my hometown.

Once again, congratulations to them for reaching this milestone.

#### FEMA DENIALS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House



for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have often said that, even though the sun is shining after hurricanes and storms, the people are still hurting. Houston is resilient—and I might just say, “Go Astros”—but I think it is important to talk about those who are impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

I rise to help FEMA, because there is a large percentage of denials in my district. I believe that there should be a large promotion, if you will, informational provision to indicate to people the process for appealing FEMA denials.

FEMA, itself, admits that many times the denials are based upon technical issues, that they should go to disaster recovery centers; but no one knows that if there is not a massive effort of information, number one.

Number two, there are still in the thousands of homes in and around my district and in Texas that are waiting for FEMA inspectors.

I have offered suggestions. Those suggestions should be taken up: college students, using resources of finding temporary employees, people who are already working but may have the skills to spend some hours as a FEMA inspector.

In my phone are so many pictures of homes with garbage outside, people's belongings. It is now garbage. It is their belongings. It is their life out on the front steps of their home. They are waiting for an inspector. The New York Times article says they are waiting for an inspector.

FEMA, let's work together. People are hurting. That should be part of our recovery and our appropriation coming up.

#### NORTH KOREA HAS WON THE TITLE: A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the saber-rattling rogue regime of North Korea should be back on the state sponsors of terrorism list, and here is why:

This year, the North Korean regime kidnapped, tortured, and killed American citizen Otto Warmbier.

In 2014, North Korea launched a cyber terrorist attack against Sony Pictures. A U.S. court also found, in 2014, that North Korea materially supported terrorist attacks by Hezbollah in Israel.

In 2010, another court found that North Korea provided support for the terrorist organization the Japanese Red Army for their 1972 attack at an Israeli airport.

In 2009 alone, there were three weapons shipments from North Korea to terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas.

U.S. officials have said North Korea aided Assad the Butcher by setting up

a nuclear reactor that was destroyed by Israel in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear, North Korea is a state sponsor of terrorism, so let's let them officially wear the title along with their buddy, Iran.

And that is just the way it is.

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#### MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS ARE SICK AND TIRED

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, middle class Americans are sick and tired; sick and tired of footing the bill so that rich-folk millionaires and billionaires can get another tax break.

The Republicans' proposed tax reform plan is nothing but a tax cut for rich folks. It translates to increasing taxes for the poor and middle class families in our country. That means that families already struggling to make ends meet will have a tougher time making that car note, that mortgage, and gaining nothing in return.

As a country, the GOP billionaire tax cut plan steals hundreds of billions of dollars from the U.S. Treasury. That means that we can't make crucial investments in infrastructure, job training, or research and development that would help give people a good-paying job.

Reducing our tax base also translates into cuts to popular programs like Medicare. You know how much everybody likes that.

The American people want tax reform, but not a plan that would literally jeopardize families' livelihoods. We must put middle class families first in this country, and the GOP tax plan fails to do that. We can and must do better for the American people.

#### LIFE IS WASHABLE PROVIDES FRIENDLY ACCESS SENSORY SAFETY KITS

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Life Is Washable, an organization that provides comfort and support to individuals suffering from sensory processing disorders.

Locally, through their partnership with the Jim and Juli Boenheim Foundation, Life Is Washable provides friendly access sensory safety kits at sporting events and concerts across the region.

Often, guests suffering from a sensory disorder or a medical condition that impacts the senses, including autism or dementia, find it difficult to enjoy loud, brightly lit events.

The tools in these kits range from earmuffs to antiglare glasses, and help ensure that those with sensory needs

can enjoy a sporting event or concert comfortably without the usual burdens they experience. This innovative approach has helped improve the quality of these events for those with sensory disorders across the country.

So far, several major venues in New York have begun using these kits, including the Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton and the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

We are grateful to Life Is Washable for the important steps their staff has taken locally to reduce the burdens on those suffering from a sensory processing disorder.

#### WE NEED TO BAN BUMP STOCKS

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 1 month since the mass shooting in Las Vegas occurred; 58 dead, more than 500 injured, many from California—the deadliest shooting in our history.

And here we are, 1 month later, and I am ashamed to say that this Congress has not taken a single action to prevent the next shooting.

After the shooting, 64 Republicans signed a letter to ATF, asking ATF to regulate bump stocks. ATF just notified us that it could not act. It could not act. The ball is back in our court.

Will those Members act now? Representative CICILLINE has introduced a commonsense bill to ban bump stocks. If you signed the letter, you should cosponsor the bill. It is that simple. What are you waiting for?

Mr. Speaker, there are some problems that we cannot solve, but this one is not one of those.

#### A FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to shed light on domestic violence during this month of October, I would like to highlight a bill, H.R. 909, the Pet and Women Safety Act.

This necessary bipartisan legislation introduced by my friend Representative KATHERINE CLARK and I will establish a Federal grant program to provide a safe haven for the companion animals of domestic violence victims.

Studies show that almost half of domestic violence survivors do not leave their abusive relationships out of fear of what would happen to their beloved pets. When less than 5 percent of domestic violence shelters are able to house pets, it is no wonder why so many victims choose to stay in these relationships for as long as they do.

Our bill empowers these victims and gives them the necessary resources to help them step out of the shadow of fear and uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, the Pet and Women Safety Act now enjoys the bipartisan support of 237 of our colleagues. I encourage every Member of Congress to add their name to this legislation, and I ask our leadership to bring H.R. 909 for a vote.

#### THE DEBT BETRAYAL

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in 2010, Tea Party Republicans were swept into office on a passionate plea to eliminate the deficit, to reduce the national debt, and to not pass on a great fiscal burden to our children.

Upon election, they boldly formed the Freedom Caucus, the fiscal watchdogs of the House. At the time, the national debt, in 2010, was \$13 trillion, and many were deeply concerned about our Nation's fiscal situation, and they made a promise to do everything in their power to rein in wasteful spending and to get government's fiscal House in order.

Now here we are in 2017, after nearly 7 years of a Republican-controlled Congress, and the debt is over \$20 trillion. That is 7 years of a Republican-controlled Congress and \$7 trillion in additional debt.

Now we have a tax giveaway of an additional \$2.5 trillion to pass on to our children. I ask all the so-called fiscal conservatives in this Chamber, all the so-called Freedom Caucus members, where is your big talk about the debt now? Is your desire to claim a victory worth betraying your deepest principles forever?

#### THE GREATEST ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAM IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the greatest anti-poverty program in all of human history: the free enterprise system. Maybe the most remarkable achievement in human history is the fact that, over the last 40 years, about 80 percent of the world's worst poverty has been eliminated.

We know the right combination of smart investments in things like research, education, infrastructure, and defense; fewer burdensome regulations; and simpler and fairer taxes creates the perfect environment for growth and innovation.

So far this year, we have secured investments in things like boosting programs for early childhood education and Head Start, and medical research at the NIH. We have done away with job-killing regulations, saving hard-working Americans billions in compliance costs and millions of hours in paperwork.

Now we have the opportunity to reform our Tax Code to help millions of Americans keep more of their hard-earned money, help small businesses create millions of new jobs, and help millions rise out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to act. Let's get tax reform done and get tax relief to those who need it the most.

#### BRING UP THE DREAM ACT

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there are so many different issues. We are talking about tax reform, but I want to go back to an issue we have talked about for several months now, and that is the DREAMers.

I rise today to call on the House leadership to bring up the Dream Act. The DREAMers who came to this country as children were brought by their parents for a chance to pursue the American Dream.

These young Americans go to our colleges and universities. They are our teachers and doctors and serve in the military, and we cannot afford to upend the lives and dreams of these 800,000 DACA recipients—people like Andres, a DREAMer who lives in my district. He came to this country as a child, and America is the only home he knows. He attends school here, earned his associate's degree, and became a building engineer. He built his personal relationships in our country and contributes every day to our society. His work, his friends and family are all in the United States. It would be a cruel mistake to force him to give all that up and send him back to a country he doesn't know.

Nearly 9 out of 10 Americans support the DACA program. It is our responsibility to the American people and to the hundreds of thousands of young DREAMers in this country to pass the Dream Act now.

Mr. Speaker, we should do so as soon as we can.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S CORRECT AND NECESSARY DECERTIFICATION OF THE JCPOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, President Trump decertified the Iran nuclear deal. Tonight, during this hour, several Members of Congress will be speaking here on the House floor about the President's correct and necessary decertification, and discussing the urgent need to address Iran's problematic nuclear and non-nuclear activities.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA, otherwise known as the Iran nuclear deal, is deeply flawed and very one-sided for what is in it, and it is fatally flawed and deeply one-sided for what is not in it.

The so-called deal props up the wrong regime in Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terror, with a jackpot of \$150 billion of sanctions relief.

The United States made a slew of permanent concessions in exchange for temporary concessions on the part of the Iranians—a point that comes into greater focus as the sunset provisions are analyzed.

This deal is not a pathway for how to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, it is a blueprint for exactly how Iran can acquire a nuclear weapon.

We can and must do better. President Obama said this agreement was not built on trust, it was built on verification. I am still waiting for an answer on how you can support a deal based on verification without knowing what the verification regime is.

The verification agreement between the IAEA and Iran still hasn't been submitted to Congress, and Secretary Kerry has admitted that he never read it.

We have learned, though, that Iran collects some of their own soil samples and inspects some of their own nuclear sites. No U.S. inspectors are permitted to participate in any of these inspections at all.

The verification regime must become adequate and transparent, and Americans should know what the verification agreement is.

Since the JCPOA was entered into, Iranian aggression in the Middle East, Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere has only increased. These bad activities have only gotten worse since all of the leverage that brought the Iranians to the table was negotiated away in the JCPOA.

Iran has continued to illegally test fire intercontinental ballistic missiles and finance terror. They even seized one of our naval vessels, subsequently holding hostage and publicly embarrassing 10 American sailors.

Iran has committed to wiping Israel off the map, and they chant, "Death to America," in their streets on their holidays, all while unjustly imprisoning American citizens. They call Israel "the little Satan" and America "the great Satan." These are, unfortunately, just a few of Iran's bad activities.

It is so important to note that Iran has not only violated the spirit of the nuclear deal with its nonnuclear bad activities, it has also violated the letter of the deal. For example, Iran spins

more IR6 centrifuges than they are allowed to under the JCPOA. They have assembled more IR8 rotor assemblies than they are allowed to. They have attempted to acquire carbon fiber that they agreed that they wouldn't. They stockpiled more heavy water than they were supposed to under the JCPOA. Iran is also not allowing any inspections at all at any of their military sites. Iran is not only violating the spirit of the deal, but they are also violating the letter of the deal.

President Trump was absolutely correct to decertify the JCPOA. If Iran is serious about helping turn the JCPOA into a truly reasonable agreement, then they should make those intentions clear, both in private conversations with the United States and the other countries of the P5+1, but also in their public rhetoric. Many of Iran's other bad activities will need to cease.

If Iran does not want to save the JCPOA, then the sanctions should immediately ramp up.

Throughout this next hour, we will discuss the President's correct decision to decertify, as well as the urgent need to eliminate Iran's problematic nuclear and nonnuclear activities.

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Joining me tonight are Members of Congress from all across our great country who are deeply passionate about America's best interests and supportive of the President's decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal.

At this time, it is my great pleasure to welcome the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. JOE WILSON, a leader on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and throughout all of Congress, who oftentimes has been to the Middle East, who is a grandson of a veteran, a son of a veteran, and a proud father of four veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership. We sincerely appreciate his leadership for American families, particularly based on his service in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 1983, an otherwise peaceful Sunday morning in Beirut, Lebanon, there was, tragically, a disruption of a suicide truck bomb that crashed into the Marine Corps barracks, killing 241 courageous U.S. Marines. This was the deadliest attack, 21,000 pounds of TNT, since the U.S. Marines were in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Investigators determined that Hezbollah, an Iran-backed terrorist organization that has targeted America and our allies for decades, was responsible for the attack.

The 34th anniversary of the Beirut attack serves as a solemn reminder that we have a responsibility to defeat Hezbollah and radical Islamic terrorists across the globe, many of whom are financed by Iran, all the way from Niger to the Philippines. It is important that we defeat the terrorists over-

seas to protect American families at home.

President Donald Trump's decision to decertify the Iranian deal was correct. President Trump is protecting American families. The deal was reckless and dangerous from the start; it never served the interests of American families; and it threatened the safety and security of America and our allies in the region, from Israel to southeastern Europe, Greece, Bulgaria, and Romania.

I am grateful to join Members of the House, especially my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in promoting the fight against global terrorism. This includes tougher sanctions like those being considered by the House that target Hezbollah and its financiers in Tehran, and it includes working together with President Trump's administration that is committed to peace through strength.

I am grateful to thank Congressman LEE ZELDIN from New York, an appreciated Iraq veteran, for his leadership and for being firm with the Iranian regime, which subjugates its extraordinary people.

As the father of four sons who have served our country overseas, I want to say once again: God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WILSON for his continued leadership.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my privilege to bring up a freshman from Tennessee's Eighth Congressional district, DAVID KUSTOFF. Last Congress, I had the privilege of being both the lowest-ranking Jewish Republican in Congress and the highest-ranking Jewish Republican in Congress. But now that we have DAVID KUSTOFF from Tennessee here, we voted for each other to chair the Jewish Republican Caucus of two, and 1 day we may have a minion. These are our dreams that someday may come true.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the President's decision to decertify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or what is known as the Iran deal.

This deeply-flawed Iran deal has failed to prevent the Iranian regime from ballistic missile testing and overall hostility that threatens American national security interests. Quite frankly, this was a bad idea from day one.

Most recently, on September 23, 2017, Iran test-fired a new long-range missile that could carry multiple warheads, and is the country's third test of a missile with a range of approximately 1,240 miles.

An Iranian news agency further stated how this missile "adds to Israel's misery and will be their nightmare."

As we have seen, Iran continues to be the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, and the IRGC has known connections to Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza.

Over these past few years, we have seen these terrorist proxy groups carry out attacks on American troops and innocent Israeli civilians. In addition, Iran has gained access to over \$100 billion in previously frozen assets, enabling the money to be funneled to various terrorist organizations.

From the frequent ballistic missile tests to supporting terrorism and funding proxies, such as Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, Iran has escalated its aggressive behavior since the deal was signed just 2 years ago.

Ultimately, this deal temporarily pushes back Iran's ability to build up its nuclear infrastructure and does not cease the Iranian regime's ambition to become nuclear after 15 years. The bad deal, therefore, ushers Iran into a nuclear club, where it can continue to test uranium pathways and pursue illicit nuclear materials, unbeknownst to the IAEA.

President Obama entered that poorly crafted agreement using unilateral executive authority, quite frankly, circumventing the consent of Congress and disregarding the will of the American people. As we have seen, this was clearly a bad deal from day one. It does not stop Iran's path to obtaining a nuclear weapon, but, rather, paves it.

As we work in Congress to implement further sanctions against the Iranian regime, we must work toward a strategy that protects our allies in the Middle East and effectively prevents Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. We must remain vigilant against those who wish to inflict harm on America, and stand united with our allies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KUSTOFF for his important, insightful words.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure at this time to introduce the gentleman from Florida's Third Congressional District. He is an important voice on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, very learned on these issues related to Iran and the Middle Eastern region especially, and a great Member here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of Mr. ZELDIN and I appreciate him using that word "learned." It feels good.

You know, this is an interesting thing, because I was there during the time that John Kerry and the President were negotiating this deal.

Keep in mind, this is a deal that John Kerry and the President agreed to, but nobody signed. We didn't sign it, our Senate never voted on it, and Iran didn't sign it. So this is a deal in paper only that nobody has signed. If you

were to do any business transaction in the real world, this piece of paper would be worthless.

I want to mention words of one of our previous Presidents. It has been about 60 years after President Dwight Eisenhower announced that Atoms for Peace Program, and one lesson is clear: "Civilian nuclear programs flourish only through cooperation and openness. Secrecy and isolation typically are signs of a nuclear weapons program."

So here we are. I have in front of me the Institute for Science and International Security, August 31, 2017, and in the introduction, it says: "One of the most serious compliance issues concerns the IAEA's access to military sites and credible verification of Section T, which prohibits key nuclear weapons development activities and controls dual-use equipment potentially usable in such activities. In this report, the issue of verifying Section T is discussed. The absence of credible implementation and verification of Section T undermines the effectiveness of the JCPOA."

My colleague, Mr. ZELDIN, brought up that we know they are using IR-6 and IR-8 centrifuges. We know they have the carbon fibers that they are not supposed to have. We also know that they have overproduced heavy water more than two times. The first time, we bought it at the American taxpayers' expense. The other two times, it has gone to Russia. The only reason you would have an excess of heavy water is if you are producing nuclear fissile material.

In addition to that, the heavy water—the inspections that we are supposed to do anytime, anywhere,—John Kerry said this over and over—anytime, anywhere, that we can go, and if they are noncompliant, the sanctions will snap back. They must have used an overstretched rubber band because nothing has ever snapped back.

With the IAEA supposedly being able to inspect anywhere, there are so many places that are off limits. It is only those areas that Iran says that we can go in and inspect. Parchin military site is a place that we know they detonated a nuclear trigger. We have not been able to go in there and check the soil. Yet we have to accept their word that they are checking the soil.

I brought this up in the committee, and I am going to repeat it here. It would be like having a drug addict testing his own urine sample and taking it to the lab. It is just not the way to do business in the 21st century on something that is so important.

During that time, when we negotiated or when the deal was being negotiated, there was an intelligence report—I don't know if you were in the Congress then, but there was an intelligence report that had always had Iran as a state sponsor of terror. The year this deal was done, state sponsor of terror was taken off. And when we questioned about it, they said it was an oversight. This deal just stinks from the beginning.

John Kerry said: No deal is better than a bad deal.

This is a bad deal. The President should decertify it. It does not take us out of the deal, but it allows us to put the pressure back on Iran so that they are fully compliant with the letter of the law.

If we don't hold up people to the letter of the law as we move forward in future negotiations, i.e., North Korea, why should they follow the letter of the law?

So this is high time that we do this. I appreciate it, and I thank the gentleman for doing this.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, Congressman YOHO brings up some very important points. The Iran nuclear deal was an unsigned political commitment. Those were the words that were given to us by the administration, and to think that we wouldn't have even asked for a signature on something so important was foolish.

The next speaker tonight in this important Special Order in support of President Trump's decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal and the need to address Iran's other problematic nuclear and non-nuclear activities is a freshman from my home State of New York, someone I served with in the New York State Legislature, and we are really excited to have her here serving with us in the Halls of Congress. She has hit the ground running and is very passionate about our military, our veterans, and also especially why we are here tonight, the path forward with regards to Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York's 22nd Congressional District (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Congressman ZELDIN. Obviously, we, from New York, all are so proud for his service as an Iraq veteran, and also for his leadership in serving both in the State Senate and also representing our great State in the House of Representatives on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, on October 13, President Trump made the informed decision to decertify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the JCPOA—or I am going to refer to it as the Iran nuclear deal—and to develop, for the first time, a holistic strategy to address the Iranian menace. I applaud this sound choice, which prioritizes the safety and security of our citizens and the American homeland.

Predictably, the flawed deal with Iran has done nothing to stem that rogue nation's aggression and misbehavior domestically, in the Middle East, and throughout the globe. Quite to the contrary, by front-loading the benefits to Iran, the Iran nuclear deal is funding these destabilizing and dangerous activities.

Human rights abuses continue against the Iranian people as citizens who dare to speak out against the oppressive regime face imprisonment or abuse. Supporters of the Iran nuclear

deal told the American people that this deal would lead to a more open Iran, with a renewed acceptance of diverse voices and opinions from within.

□ 1915

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, there have been already over 450 executions in Iran this year alone. Obviously, the so-called moderates within the regime with whom we negotiated the Iran nuclear deal either aren't as moderate as we thought or are simply irrelevant in this regime.

The American people were told further that the Iran nuclear deal would bring Iran into the fold and make the nation a more productive, contributing member of the international community.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, Iran's transgressions in the region continue to be appalling. The Iranian regime is expanding its malicious network of control through increased financial and military support for terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah and Hamas.

In Syria, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps has provided fighters and expertise to the brutal Assad regime that gases and brutalizes its own citizens. Iran has shown no signs that it is interested in pursuing peace or even curbing its malevolent behaviors. Chants of "death to America and "death to Israel" continue as Iran rapidly develops its missile program and engages in proxy conflicts with the U.S. and our allies.

I thank the President and my colleagues, as I indicated, especially Congressman LEE ZELDIN from New York, for continuing to shine the light on this important national security issue.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman TENNEY for being here, for her remarks this evening, and for her leadership on this important deal.

It is my pleasure at this time to yield to Congressman ANDY BARR, who is a leader on the House Financial Services Committee. He has been very active in the efforts as it relates to sanctions. It is also important to note that it was sanctions that brought the Iranians to the table, and applied an incredible amount of economic pressure.

The Iranian regime that is in charge desperately needed relief in order to get through their next election, and now the Iranians have had an opportunity to experience life with that sanctions regime and life without it. Chairman BARR is a very important voice here in the Halls of Congress for ensuring the right leverage is on the table to deal with Iran's nuclear and non-nuclear activities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership on this issue; his voice in criticism of this flawed nuclear deal with Iran; and, of course, for his valiant service to the United States in the military.

I rise tonight in strong support of the President's decision to decertify this

deeply flawed JCPOA, the Iran nuclear deal under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. I agree with the President's finding that Iran is not transparently, not verifiably, and not fully implementing the agreement. I agree with the President's finding that continued sanctions relief is not in the vital security interest of the United States.

That is because the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran was a dangerous and historic mistake. The deal provided the mullahs in Tehran with roughly \$100 billion in upfront sanctions relief in exchange for Iran's promise, future promise, to temporarily pause its enrichment program.

Unfortunately, the agreement contained fatally deficient verification protocols and the International Atomic Energy Agency now concedes that it has no capacity to verify that Tehran is engaged in activities which could contribute to the development of a nuclear explosive device. That is because under the terms of the agreement, the very terms of the JCPOA, international inspectors are barred from accessing Iran's military sites where illicit nuclear activities are most likely taking place.

President Obama's promise that there would be "anytime, anywhere inspections," but that promise was replaced with "managed access" to suspect nuclear sites in which international inspectors must appeal to Iran, Russia, and China in a bureaucratic process that would take days during which Iran could remove anything covert and in violation of the agreement.

As Congressman ZELDIN correctly pointed out, we don't even know what the verification protocols actually are because we haven't been able to access the secret agreement between international inspectors, non-U.S. inspectors, and the leadership in Tehran.

But the most serious concern is not that Iran would cheat. It is that even if Iran is fully complying with this agreement, bad outcomes are guaranteed. First, Iran will be allowed an arsenal of nuclear weapons in as little as 10 years. Under the very terms of this agreement, Iran was not denied a nuclear weapon. The path was paved for Iran to have an arsenal of nuclear weapons with international sanction.

Iran was not required to dismantle key bomb-making technology. It was permitted to retain vast enrichment capacity, and it was allowed to continue research and development on advanced centrifuges, and it will be allowed to continue to acquire intercontinental ballistic missiles. Intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Why do you need intercontinental ballistic missiles if you have peaceful designs for your nuclear program?

Those of you who are listening at home across America, remember this: an intercontinental ballistic missile is not a missile designed for Tel Aviv. An intercontinental ballistic missile is de-

signed for New York City; for Washington, D.C.; for Atlanta, Georgia; for Los Angeles, California; and for Seattle, Washington; and for Chicago.

Our homeland security has been jeopardized because of this fatally flawed agreement. Iran will receive a sanctions relief jackpot. They have already received upwards of \$100 billion so far. In my capacity as the chairman of the subcommittee that oversees sanctions, oversees the Treasury Department's implementation of sanctions, I can say that we have heard it. We have heard the reporting that, as a result of this agreement, Iran has not become pacified. Iran has actually accelerated its support for terrorist proxies in Lebanon, Gaza, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Nigeria. Because Iran's neighbors know that this deal reverses a decades-long bipartisan policy blocking Iran's nuclear program, this agreement continues to risk a nuclear arms race in the broader Middle East.

They are apologists. There are defenders of the Iran nuclear deal, and they say it is working. They say there is evidence of dismantling of the nuclear program, but we have the benefit of almost 2 years of implementation of the deal. We have the benefit of hindsight to see if this deal is actually working.

Here are the facts. The facts are that since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was implemented in January of 2016, Iran has continued to sponsor Hezbollah and other radical terrorist militias in the region. Its support for the Assad regime alone, including the use of planes to airlift military supplies, has helped claim an estimated 400 lives. Last April, even President Obama suggested that the Iranians were violating the spirit of the deal by engaging in these activities.

Rather than being deterred, in October, Iran sentenced three Americans to long prison terms on bogus charges. In January of this year, the country tested a ballistic missile in violation of U.N. Security Council resolution 2231. In April, just as a commercial airline manufacturer was announcing new sales to Iran as a result of the sanctions relief under the JCPOA, we learned that dozens of Syrian civilians, including at least 11 children, were gassed in an Iranian-supported chemical weapons attack.

Additionally, Iran has stated that it will no longer permit inspections of its military bases. It continues to attempt to intimidate our allies, and is facilitating the imports and exports of arms.

As of February 2017, Iran has fired as many as 14 ballistic missiles, and the leaders of Iran continue to chant "death to America," and pledge to wipe Israel off the face of the planet.

So where do we go from here?

As the chairman of the subcommittee that oversees enforcement of sanctions, we have been working on additional measures that can be taken, including non-nuclear sanctions consistent with the JCPOA to hold Iran accountable for its malign activities.

On April 4, we held a hearing on the effectiveness of non-nuclear sanctions against Iran, where we determined that Iran Air, a state-owned commercial airline, has used its aircraft to transport fighters and weapons throughout the Middle East on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp. As a result of these findings, I wrote a letter to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin urging him to ban the sale of commercial aircraft to Iran Air.

Similarly, I supported two appropriations amendments that would prevent the sale of aircraft to Iran and prohibit U.S. firms from financing such a sale.

Finally, I recently drafted a letter to the Treasury Department urging it to identify all entities it believes to have transacted business with the IRGC, a precursor to possible additional secondary sanctions.

These actions are all important and relevant in the aftermath of the President's correct decision to decertify the deal because it invites Congress to step in and offer constructive recommendations on how to address the flaws, the fatal flaws, in the JCPOA. These are some of those recommendations to the administration, and we hope the Treasury Department will respond accordingly.

Going forward, we must do the following to stem Iran's nuclear ambitions: We must designate the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization. We must make permanent the sunset clauses on Iran's nuclear program and testing. This cannot be temporary prohibition of the Iran nuclear program. This must be a permanent ban on Iran ever having nuclear weapons capability and the capability of delivering those weapons.

Finally, we need to do a better job strengthening the agreement, revising the agreement, scrapping the old agreement, and actually getting to anytime, anywhere inspections. That means we have got to work with the P5+1 and our European allies to revise the JCPOA so that we mandate anytime, anywhere inspections of nuclear facilities, and so that we are guaranteed that the IAEA, that international and U.S. inspectors have access to all suspected sites within the territorial boundaries of Iran.

In conclusion, I want to thank Congressman ZELDIN for the Special Order. I want to thank President Trump and his administration for their leadership on stopping Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, and for the important national security imperative of revisiting this flawed Iran nuclear deal so that we can actually achieve peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership in pursuing this very important objective.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. Certainly in the days, the weeks, the months that are ahead, many throughout our country will be leaning on his leadership as we discuss the path forward as far as sanctions and the right way to reestablish the leverage that

brought the Iranians to the table in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman ROKITA is a strong voice in ensuring that America has a strong but effective foreign policy, one that makes sure that our military is always set up for success, our veterans are taken care of when they come home. As I mentioned earlier, as I was introducing Congresswoman TENNEY, part of that effort, certainly is ensuring the right path forward as it relates to Iran.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), from Indiana's Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding and for hosting this Special Order. In my humble opinion, the people of New York are lucky to have a gentleman like him representing them; and I know it is the highest honor of his life as well.

I also want to associate with my good friend, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), for the remarks he made. I think he has made an excellent record of not only the premise of the deal, but the effect of the deal so far.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from New York that Mr. BARR is going to be critical in leading the effort forward in sanctions, whether they are part of the JCPOA or not. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his words tonight as well.

Earlier this month, President Trump set a new direction for the United States, a direction of leadership. He made clear that we would no longer allow the Iranian Government to continue to pursue nuclear weapons, continue funding terrorism, or threaten the very existence of our great friend, Israel, the strongest ally we have in the region.

President Trump made clear that, unlike the previous administration, we will not reward Iran for chanting "death to America," and we will not allow this terrorist regime to dictate our Nation's foreign policy.

Getting the Iran deal done was the only thing the previous administration cared about. Think about that, just getting the deal done. I think we all remember that sentiment around here: getting the deal done no matter how terrible was the only thing the previous administration cared about. We had to get the deal done. We had to get the deal done, as bad as it was.

□ 1930

It is unlike our current President who has demanded action to hold Iran accountable, guarantee our national security, and protect Israel and our allies across the world night and day. I appreciate the President's leadership on this and other matters.

The United States never should have signed onto the deal in the first place, Mr. Speaker, because it was a bad deal. It gave Iran immediate access to \$150 billion, it allowed the Iranians to con-

tinue their ballistic missile research, and it contains a sunset provision that will allow the Iranians to return immediately to enriching uranium without consequence.

Now, even then-Secretary of State John Kerry said: "Some of the \$150 billion will end up in the hands of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or other entities, some of which are labeled terrorists."

That was our Secretary of State's direct quote admitting that some of this \$150 billion was going to get to terrorists.

There is no situation in which the United States should allow money to get to terrorists. Hoosiers that I represent see this quite clearly. Surely, the Americans that the rest of us represent see the same thing. But then-President Obama and Secretary Kerry allowed this to happen and were cheered on, in fact, by many in this very Chamber and many in the Senate.

This year alone, Iran has tested their ballistic missiles at least three times, and they tested a rocket space launch vehicle. Now, in their most recent test in September, they used a ballistic missile with the potential range to hit Israel, the only stable democracy in the region.

As Mr. BARR pointed out, Mr. Speaker, intercontinental ballistic missiles aren't even meant for Israel. They are meant to come here. They are meant to go to our other allies—a bad deal indeed.

The threats Iran poses are truly extreme: terrorists, a nuclear arms race, and continued threats to America and its neighbors. Unfortunately, we cannot go back in time and stop then-President Obama from signing this disastrous Iran nuclear deal—and, by the way, it is signing in the theoretical sense because Mr. YOHO is also right, Mr. Speaker, when he said that this was a set of papers that truly had no signatories. It was an executive action by then-President Obama for sure. But, all in all, no matter what the semantics, it was a bad deal.

But we can—we can—move forward by creating tough sanctions like, Mr. Speaker, Mr. BARR was pointing out and making sure Iran is held accountable. That starts tonight with the work that LEE ZELDIN and other Members of Congress are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York again for yielding to me, and I thank him for his leadership. Mr. Speaker, let's get it right this time. Let's make sure Iran doesn't become the threat that the previous administration has allowed it to become.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ROKITA for being here and for his important words as well and for all of the Members who have spoken.

I recognize House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE, Congressman PETE ROSKAM, and former Congressman, now CIA Director, Mike Pompeo. These are some of the voices during the course of these last few

years on this very important issue on the need to hold Iran accountable and to fight for the best possible agreement for the United States.

Over the course of tonight, we discussed what was in the JCPOA, and we discussed the JCPOA as far as what wasn't in it and some of the challenges that we have faced since the JCPOA has first been entered into.

We all want to deal with Iran's bad activities. We have to ask ourselves: How are we going to do that? What is the leverage that brought the Iranians to the table to negotiate the Iran nuclear deal? How do we get that leverage back?

Now, some people out there are saying that Iran is abiding by their word and that the United States would somehow be going back on our word by the President decertifying the Iran nuclear deal. We can have a discussion about what violates the spirit of the Iran nuclear deal.

We talked about Iran's other bad activities: their financing of terror, their overthrowing of foreign governments, illegally test-firing intercontinental ballistic missiles, holding Americans hostage, and publicly embarrassing American Navy sailors. We had to pay a ransom to get hostages back in January of 2016. They call Israel the Little Satan, America the Great Satan. They pledge to wipe Israel off the map. They chant "death to America." They are supporting Assad in Syria and Hezbollah.

What do we do to deal with Iran's nonnuclear bad activities? Right now we don't have the leverage to deal with that. We really needed to bring that to the table when we were sitting down with Iran last time because, when you negotiate away the leverage that brings them to the table, what is left to deal with all of those activities that we would say violate the spirit of the JCPOA?

But people say that if the President decertifies the Iran nuclear deal, then that would mean that we are going back on our word and that Iran has been abiding by the deal. We cannot forget about all of the ways that Iran is violating the letter of the JCPOA.

Why is there no accountability in debate, as we know, that Iran spins more IR-6 centrifuges than they are permitted to under the JCPOA? Why aren't we talking about that?

Why aren't we saying that Iran is not following their word when they assemble more IR-8 rotor assemblies than they are allowed to under the JCPOA?

Why aren't we saying that Iran is not following through with their word as they attempt to purchase carbon fiber that they are not allowed to try to purchase under the JCPOA?

Why are we giving Iran a free pass?

Does the President's opposition despise him so much that they are willing to literally take Iran's side when Iran says that we will never be able to inspect any of their military sites?

Before, during, and after this deal, they said that we will never be able to

inspect all their military sites. The Obama administration said we will inspect their military sites. So you have a material disagreement on this JCPOA, this Iran nuclear deal.

We said that sanctions were going to be phased in over time based on compliance. The Iranian regime said sanctions relief was going to be immediate, no suspension. But why are we not holding Iran to their word on the ways that they are violating the letter of the JCPOA?

Why is it that before implementation day when inspectors, the last time they got to Parchin and they found particles in the soil that are consistent with nuclear capability, and then after we discover those particles the Iranians say, "That is it. No more access to Parchin," why are we not saying that Iran is not following their commitments under the JCPOA? This is the letter of the JCPOA.

Now, it would be great if we can have a discussion here about what the verification regime is. I would love to read the deal between the IAEA and Iran. When I was at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing with then-Secretary of State John Kerry and I wanted to engage with him, have a conversation about what the verification agreement was, I was shocked that even he said that he hadn't read the verification regime between the IAEA and Iran. It really makes you scratch your head.

I asked the question here on the House floor last Congress while we were debating the JCPOA. President Obama says that we are entering into the JCPOA not based on trust, but based on verification. So the question that I posed then, and I still haven't gotten an answer today, is: How do you support a deal based on verification without knowing what the verification is?

We are propping up the wrong regime. In 2009, during the Green Revolution, an undemocratic election, millions of Iranians went to the streets. These are people who go to the streets that right now there are people—millions of Iranians today—who would love a free, stable, democratic Iran. After an undemocratic election, they went to the streets. We said that it was none of our business.

Fast-forward years later, we are paying ransom of \$400 million that was disputed for good reason for decades, claims going both ways. There is a reason why that money wasn't paid out. There was a dispute, multiple claims, U.S. to Iran and Iran to the United States, and \$1.3 billion of interest. They said that it wasn't a ransom. \$1.7 billion in cold, hard cash in pallets that had to get delivered at the exact same moment of the American hostages—by the way, not all of them—at the exact same moment of the American hostages being released, and we are saying that that is not ransom.

That was a coincidence that we are signing documents in the middle of

January on the same exact day within 24 hours of each other.

Now, after we provided a jackpot of sanctions relief in exchange for this very one-sided deal, there was an election. After that election in Iran, members of the American media and around the world said that this was evidence of progress in Iran that the most moderate candidates were elected.

But do you know what that completely ignores? The 12,000 most moderate candidates not being allowed access to the ballot. We are propping up the wrong regime.

After our American sailors were detained, held hostage, and embarrassed in videos and photography all around the world, we said, "Thank you." That was our response, "Thank you."

After all the concessions that were made as part of the JCPOA, our Secretary of State became president for the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, and here we are. Fast-forward to today, and everyone who wants to see this President fail will stand with Iran before they would stand with the United States. They will ignore Iran's violating the spirit of the JCPOA. They will turn a blind eye with their head in the sand over Iran's violating the letter of the JCPOA.

Mr. Speaker, we gathered here this evening to talk about the President's correct decision to decertify the JCPOA, the Iran nuclear agreement, and to talk about the need to eliminate Iran's very problematic nuclear and nonnuclear activities. We heard from a half dozen other Members of Congress: Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina's 2nd Congressional District, DAVID KUSTOFF of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, Congressman TED YOHO of Florida's 3rd Congressional District, Congresswoman CLAUDIA TENNEY of New York's 22nd Congressional District, Congressman ANDY BARR of Kentucky's 6th Congressional District, and Congressman TODD ROKITA of Indiana's 4th Congressional District. I thank them, and I thank all of my colleagues for their leadership on this issue.

There is important work ahead. There really should be more Members on both sides of the aisle working together on behalf of the American people putting country first on this issue.

People since the election pledged to entirely oppose and obstruct this President on everything and anything. While the President's hand was on the Bible, the streets of the parade route were lined up with people holding up signs that said "impeach him now"—while his hand was on the Bible.

□ 1945

Last November, Americans all around this country elected a President whose hand was on the Bible, yet people are calling for his impeachment just for the fact he got elected. Every day we are here, we have Members who come to the floor doing whatever they can in any way that day, that minute, to try to tear the President down.

I had disagreements with President Obama, but he was my President. We disagreed on the Iran nuclear deal. That is okay. We can disagree. We should disagree with President Trump, President Obama, President Bush before that, when we have strong philosophical differences on policy. That is what we are elected to do. We are not elected to all just come here and agree with each other.

But for those who are so set politically on trying to bring this President down, so much so that they will take Iran's side in this over the United States' side, I encourage you to rethink that and put country over party, because we need to work together as colleagues representing the greatest country in the world on a better path forward.

It is a privilege for all of us to be able to serve here in the United States Capitol in the United States Congress, because there is so much history on this floor. There is going to be much debate ahead on what challenges lie ahead for us with regard to Iran.

With servicemembers in harm's way, we understand and we reflect that that is what is most important. We should never send our troops into harm's way unless they are sent to win. We send our troops to win, or we do not send them at all. When they come home, they are treated with the love, dignity, and respect that they deserve on behalf of a very grateful nation; and with a strong, consistent foreign policy and taking care of our vets and setting up our military for success. It is having the right foreign policy with challenges that are in front of us in the Middle East and elsewhere.

That is why we are here for this Special Order hour in support of the President's decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal. Mr. President, you made the right decision. We stand with you. We stand with the United States. We want to hold Iran accountable. We want the best path forward for our great country.

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

#### PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: AMERICAN IDEALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak. I want to start by saying that my colleague from North Carolina is here, and I know there is going to be a group of Members from North Carolina who are coming to address their constituents. So if you are a North Carolinian looking in on this, you have come to the right place, but you are going to have to hear me first. I am speaking on behalf of the Progressive Caucus.

I don't know if Representative ZELDIN is still in the room. I couldn't quite resist the opportunity to respond to his provocative remarks where he said that it appears there are people in Congress who are so determined to take the President down.

I couldn't really figure out who he was talking about. Then I realized he is probably referring to Republican Senator JOHN MCCAIN from Arizona, or maybe Republican Senator JEFF FLAKE from Arizona, or maybe Republican Senator BOB CORKER from Tennessee, all of whom have blown the whistle this week on the egregious violations of the basic norms of the Presidency by this President, who continues to demonize and vilify U.S. citizens and engage in the pettiest and most juvenile of exchanges with people and generally demonstrate what most Americans now regard as his unfitness for the Presidency.

So it seems like there was an attempt to make it a partisan issue. I think if he has got a partisan problem with what someone is saying about the President, he needs to talk to members of his own party who are the ones who are screaming the loudest about the outrageous excesses and abuses coming from the White House today.

That is not what I came here to talk about, Mr. Speaker. I just thought it was a little bit beyond my humanity to endure that lecture, especially about impeachment, when the Representative comes from a party that impeached President Clinton over one lie—one lie about sex—and we get a profusion of dozens of lies every single day from the White House, from this President, about matters of public policy, crucial matters of national security, and so on.

That is not even to get into the question of admitted obstruction of justice, bragging about the fact that he had fired the FBI Director because he was involved in the Russia investigation; not even talking about the rampant abuse of power that we see as recent as this week with apparently corrupt dealings in terms of the Puerto Rican rescue, when 80 percent of the island is still without power, and it looks like there are all sorts of sweetheart contracts that are afoot there.

It is not even to go to the question of the domestic Emoluments Clause and the foreign Emoluments Clause, which are defied every single day with the money that is pouring forth from foreign governments directly to the Trump Hotel and Trump Tower and the Trump golf courses all over the world.

I am not going to get into any of that stuff because I want to talk about something hopeful and uplifting tonight. I want to talk about America's responsibilities in the world, something that we used to take really seriously.

I want to talk about what America is and who we are and what debt of responsibility we owe to the rest of the world and how well we are doing today, given what is taking place around the world.

Now, in America, unlike most countries in the world—or at least a lot of countries in the world—we are not defined by virtue of being one race or one ethnicity or one religion or one political party or one system of belief. We are unified just by virtue of the fact that we have one Constitution and one Bill of Rights. We all agree to adhere to it and live under it and struggle for a more perfect union under that umbrella.

Mr. Speaker, every day we get to come to work, and we see the busts and the statues and the portraits of great Americans. We see Frederick Douglass, we see Thomas Jefferson, we see John Adams, we see George Washington.

Mr. Speaker, America was the first Nation on Earth conceived in revolutionary insurgency against a monarchy, an arbitrary political leadership, and the fusion of church and State.

Our forebearers rebelled against centuries of religious warfare between the Catholics and the Protestants every bit as vicious and bloody as what we see in the Muslim world today between the Sunni and the Shia. They rebelled against the idea that, as Tom Payne put it, the king is law. He said that in the democracies, law would be king.

That was the idea behind America. We would govern ourselves. As Jefferson put in the Declaration of Independence, all men are created equal, all of us are endowed with inalienable rights—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—and government is legitimately erected only on the basis of the consent of the governed.

Now I hasten to say that all of those beautiful ideals were not realized at the start of our Nation. Let's not make-believe. Let's not pretend.

We didn't start, in the words of that great Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, as a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. We started as a slave Republic of White male property owners over the age of 21, where the vast majority of people could not vote and could not participate: indentured servants, slaves, women, and so on.

But still, the idea was there, and those beautiful, tantalizing ideals were inserted by Thomas Jefferson, whose memory was defended recently by a group of hardy and defiant University of Virginia students who surrounded the statue of Thomas Jefferson to defend it against the rampaging mob of racist skinheads and Klansmen who had come to desecrate the memory of Jefferson and everything that he believed in with his ideals and the words that he put in the Declaration of Independence.

Those were the founding ideals of the country, and through successive waves of political and social struggle and constitutional change, we have opened America up. Through the Civil War and the Reconstruction amendments, we opened America up:

The 14th Amendment gave us equal protection and due process. The 13th

Amendment abolished slavery. The 15th Amendment said no discrimination on the basis of race in voting. The 17th Amendment shifted the mode of election from the State legislatures to the people. The 19th Amendment gave us woman suffrage. The 23rd Amendment said people here in the District of Columbia could participate in Presidential elections. The 24th Amendment abolished poll taxes. The 26th Amendment lowered the age of voting to 18 all across the whole country.

The whole trajectory of our constitutional development has been towards greater equality and freedom for the American people. That is who we are. We are a nation that united with other nations around the world to defeat fascism, Nazism, Stalinism, communism, and totalitarianism in the last century. We did that.

We stood with Eleanor Roosevelt and the United Nations in proclaiming the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined the rights of freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press, taking all those rights and freedoms that we fought for in America that are in our Constitution and trying to make them a global ideal so that all of the people of the world could enjoy the fruits and the experience of liberal democracy.

When we stood at our best as a country, we have been on the side of freedom movements. We have been on the side of human rights. We have been on the side of victims of government authoritarianism and persecution. That is who we are as a country.

It is all being forgotten and frittered away with the chaos that has descended not just upon the White House—that is too easy, I would say to my dear friend Mr. ZELDIN—on this institution, on lots of institutions in Washington, D.C. We are forgetting who we are.

Tom Payne said America was a nation conceived as a haven of refuge for people fleeing from religious and political persecution from all over the world. That is why our great symbol has been the Statue of Liberty and not a 14th century wall and barbed wire. That is not the real symbol of America.

Now, we are living in a time of rising authoritarianism and tyranny all over the world, from Russia to Saudi Arabia to Hungary to the Philippines to Venezuela. You name it. Authoritarian states everywhere are cracking down on free speech and free press, jailing enemies of the states and journalists, persecuting citizens for their religious beliefs and denying the essential human rights that are encoded in our national DNA, in our Constitution, and in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

While the White House and this administration have abandoned U.S. leadership for human rights, the governments of the world are stepping up their authoritarianism. In Burma, in



Myanmar, the government is waging brutal ethnic and religious violence against Rohingya Muslims, thousands of whom have been killed and more than 100,000 of whom have fled the country, in terror.

Now, this savage campaign of ethnic cleansing in Burma by the Buddhist-led government is being turned on all Muslims in that country. And what is our government doing? Nothing.

In Turkey, which I will have a little bit more to say about in a moment, there is a vicious crackdown on free speech and free press, and the jailing of journalists and citizens without due process. In Russia, there continues to be outrageous human rights abuses against the personal political enemies of Vladimir Putin; against the LGBT community, which continues to be reviled and demonized by the government. In Chechnya, there are campaigns against journalists, and so on. In the Philippines, President Duterte has overseen the killing of thousands of people in a brutal war on drugs, with no due process at all, where the police can simply declare that you look like a drug user, you look like a drug dealer, and then they can have you killed.

It is also in Venezuela, where Maduro has consolidated his power and is denying the rule of law at every turn; in Saudi Arabia; in Iran, which was mentioned before, with brutal campaigns against ethnic minorities—one of the leading administrators of capital punishment on Earth, fomenting terror abroad.

□ 2000

Saudi Arabia, which Freedom House calls among the worst of the worst, where torture is present, where women are victims of almost pervasive sex discrimination—I think just a couple of months ago they won a limited right to drive in 2017—and on and on.

And across the world, governments have passed laws against blasphemy, against heresy, against apostasy, against witchcraft, against sorcery, against all kinds of imaginary religious offenses which were wiped off of the books of our State laws centuries ago under the First Amendment, and yet there are people rotting in jail today because they belong to the wrong religious group and they are accused of blasphemy or apostasy in Iran or in Saudi Arabia or Bangladesh, or any other number of countries which use the tools of the state to oppress people because of their religious faith and their religious worship.

What does President Trump do? Well, he personally praised Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines and invited him to come to America. His first state visit was to Saudi Arabia, where he publicly said that he was not going to take issue with anything that they were doing in terms of human rights, didn't speak about any of the people rotting in jail in Saudi Arabia in a way that completely violates the human rights understandings and norms of the world.

He has praised Erdogan in Turkey. And, of course, we know of his infamous and somewhat inscrutable relationship with Vladimir Putin, certainly has nothing to say about human rights violations taking place against Russians, tens of thousands of whom have summoned up the courage since the President took office to march in the streets against political corruption and for human rights. And our government does nothing to support the people in civil society in Russia who are trying to stand up for the idea of human rights in their country.

Trump says, when he goes to Saudi Arabia: We are not here to lecture. We must seek partners, not perfection.

And he has found those partners all over the world: Duterte in the Philippines, Putin in Russia, Orban in Hungary. On and on down the list, you find a despot, you find a tyrant, you find a kleptocrat and a bully, you have found a newfound buddy of the United States of America.

Now, over the summer, media outlets reported that the State Department wanted to drop the promotion of democracy and human rights from the Department's mission. The State Department has since eliminated the [www.humanrights.gov](http://www.humanrights.gov) website and moved its content to an alternative and more obscure web address.

In May of 2017, Secretary of State Tillerson reversed decades of bipartisan consensus that human rights and democracy are not only essential components of U.S. foreign policy and national security, but universal values that the U.S. has adopted as a guiding principle of international legitimacy. And, of course, everyone knows of President Trump's attempts to withdraw from treaties and agreements all over the world, including, of course, the Paris accord on climate change.

Now, all of these actions, all of these statements are a betrayal of who we are as a country. We are not defined by race. We are not defined by ideology, unlike other countries around the world. We are not defined by religion. We are defined by an idea of liberal democracy committed to equality and freedom for all. If we give that up and we surrender that, we surrender what is most precious and defining about the United States of America, Mr. Speaker.

And guess what. We have got human rights problems right here at home that we need to be dealing with.

Do you know we have millions of Americans who can't vote and are not represented in Congress? This anomaly was brought home to us in a very sharp way over the last several weeks with the crisis in Puerto Rico, where people still lack access to medicines that they need, where people—a majority of the population still lacks access to clean water, and power is out for four-fifths of the population. Those are our people. Those are our citizens. Those are Americans in Puerto Rico.

But why were they treated differently? Why was there this notorious

negligence and lethargy in responding to the plight of people in Puerto Rico? Well, they have no voting representatives in this Chamber or in the United States Senate, so we have got millions of people unrepresented.

Right here in the Nation's Capital, in the District of Columbia, we see the exact same democratic deficit, the exact same discrepancy and discord between our values and our ideals and what the reality of daily practice is. We are the only democratic nation left on Earth where the people of the capital city are disenfranchised in their national legislature. We are the only one.

I have only been in this body for 10 months, Mr. Speaker, but I have noted how frequently and how joyfully this body will rise to trample the local legislation adopted by people in the District of Columbia who can't fight back because they don't have voting representation in Congress, and so we are very happy to kick them around if they have got a different point of view on death with dignity. Of course, death with dignity in the District of Columbia should be of no concern to us. What should be of concern is life with democracy in the District of Columbia if we are going to be faithful to our ideals.

They get to decide, not us. But as long as they are excluded from representation in the national legislature, they are going to continue to be kicked around on questions of gay rights and whether or not poor women can be given full access to reproductive healthcare in the District of Columbia, another issue where the majority in this body decided to squash the political self-determination of more than 650,000 American citizens who live right here in the Nation's Capital.

We have got millions of people who are disenfranchised. That is a human rights problem. So we have got to deal with that. Maybe if America begins to stand up again for human rights around the world, we will begin to stand up again for human rights in our own country.

So this is not a partisan issue. Of course, one of our great leaders in the advancement of human rights in America was President Abraham Lincoln, a great Republican, and his friend Frederick Douglass, a great Republican. I take pride in that. I take pride in the Republicans who fought for freedom and democracy in America. They are as much a part of my legacy as great Democrats like Franklin D. Roosevelt or President Barack Obama, the people who fought for civil rights and civil liberties in my party. So we should cherish everybody in our history who moved forward the engines of freedom and democratic change in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say these are tough times in America. There is a lot of chaos that has descended upon our country, and, Mr. Speaker, we need all Americans to know, but especially young Americans to know, what we really stand for.

We have a claim, a very strong claim to being the greatest nation on Earth, and it has got nothing to do with the military, and it has got nothing to do with our GDP. It has got to do with the way we were created, what our founding ideals were, and then the commitment of the people always to try to realize those ideals and engender a more perfect Union as we go along.

Let's keep America moving in that direction so we will continue to be a beacon of light to oppressed people all over the world.

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 30 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The story of this great Baptist convention is a testament to its founders, Reverends William Warrick, Edward Eagles, C. Johnson, L.W. Boone, B.B. Spicer, H. Grimes, John Washington, Charles Bryant, Sutton Davis, and R.H. Harper, the visionary men who founded the convention on October 18, 1867.

Since its founding, Mr. Speaker, great men and great women have maintained the convention's strength and viability. The General Baptist State Convention is the oldest convention of African-American Baptists in the United States of America. The General Baptist State Convention consists of more than 500,000 Baptist believers belonging to more than 1,400 churches, including my home church, the Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church of Wilson.

The convention is subdivided into 58 associations, each presided over by a moderator. Over the last 150 years, the convention has been led by well-trained and spirit-led theologians. The current president and executive board chair is my friend Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, of Salisbury, North Carolina. He is the 32nd president of the convention.

Mr. Speaker, the current officers of the convention are: First Vice President At Large, Dr. Leonzo Lynch; First Vice President, Dr. Ricky Banks; Second Vice President, Dr. J. Vincent Terry, Sr.; Third Vice President, Reverend O.D. Sykes; Fourth Vice President, Reverend Prince R. Rivers; Recording Secretary, Reverend Curtis O. Donald; Assistant Recording Secretary, Reverend Matthew Rouse, III; Statistician, Dr. Nathan Scovens; Parliamentarian, Reverend Reginald Wells. The

Historian is Dr. Harry L. White, and the hardworking Executive Secretary-Treasurer is Dr. Haywood T. Gray.

Mr. Speaker, the Black church in North Carolina did not begin at the end of slavery. It became more pronounced and more transparent at slavery's end, but it existed for many years. It existed for many years prior to the end of slavery.

In 1831, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law making it a crime for any free person of color or slave to preach or exhort in public, or in any manner officiate as a preacher or a teacher in any prayer meeting or other association for worship where slaves of different families were collected together.

Can you imagine?

The punishment for preaching the gospel—beginning in 1831, it was a crime. The punishment for violation was a whipping of up to 39 lashes on the bare back.

Notwithstanding this prohibition against preaching, the Black church existed as a secret association of slaves who worshipped privately. As the antebellum period proceeded, a few of the White churches, at the urging of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, finally allowed people of color to hold church meetings under the supervision of a White person; and, at times, a member of the White race would conduct the service.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed on January 1, 1863, and the 13th Amendment ratified on December 6, 1865, there were 4 million slaves who obtained their freedom; 300,000 of those lived in North Carolina. The former slaves, with assistance from White northerners and the Freedmen's Bureau, began the struggle toward freedom and equality. It was the Black church that led the way. This movement consisted of Black Baptist leaders and Black Methodist leaders and other religious leaders, both Black and White, who understood the importance of the former slaves having the ability to worship and serve their God without fear.

□ 2015

At the end of the Civil War, the former slaves built churches throughout North Carolina. Many were of the Baptist denomination, and they were erected with lightning speed.

In 1867, they came together, Mr. Speaker, at First African Baptist Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina. And I have a picture of it on display. They came together at the First African Baptist Church in Goldsboro to form the General Association of Colored Baptists of North Carolina, which was the original name for the convention. And I might say, Mr. Speaker, that my grandfather, Reverend Fred Davis, would, in 1916, become the fourth pastor of this church.

Not only did Black Baptists build churches, but one of their greatest

achievements was the establishment and maintenance of historic Shaw University in Raleigh, which will be discussed by my colleagues, Congressman DAVID PRICE and Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS, in just a moment. Shaw University's contribution to African-American empowerment must be known and understood by all North Carolinians.

Those pioneers, who were trained at Shaw University, went into communities and established institutions and engaged in professions that empowered future generations. They went to all corners of our State. They went to eastern North Carolina; Piedmont, North Carolina; Triad; and the Federal area, which is where our esteemed sergeant at arms grew up in, Ms. Hamlett. Ms. Joyce Hamlett grew up in the Federal area. There were many other areas that were covered by graduates from Shaw University.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to include in the RECORD a list of names of African-American physicians, dentists, pharmacists, lawyers, ministers, and teachers who were also trained at Shaw University.

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA (1867–2018)

William Warrick 1867–1869  
 A. B. Williams 1869–1872  
 E. Eagles 1872–1874  
 L. W. Boone 1874–1875  
 Joseph Baysmore 1875–1876  
 Caesar Johnson 1876–1882  
 Joshua Perry 1882–1884  
 Caesar Johnson 1884–1885  
 N. F. Roberts 1885–1889  
 A. W. Pegues 1889–1895  
 C. S. Brown 1895–1897  
 Augustus Shepard 1897–1911  
 B. D. Griffin 1911–1918  
 O. S. Bullock 1918–1924  
 J. S. Brown 1924–1928  
 R. R. Cartwright 1928–1932  
 J. T. Hairston 1932–1940  
 P. A. Bishop 1940–1958  
 W. H. Davidson 1958–1959  
 R. M. Pitts 1959–1964  
 John W. White 1964–1970  
 Chancy R. Edwards 1970–1974  
 Joy J. Johnson 1974–1978  
 John R. Manley 1978–1982  
 E. Burns Turner 1982–1986  
 J. B. Humphrey 1986–1990  
 Willie B. Lewis 1990–1994  
 Clifford A. Jones, Sr. 1994–1998  
 John D. Fuller, Sr. 1998–2002  
 Charles T. Bullock 2002–2006  
 Gregory K. Moss, Sr. 2006–2010  
 Howard W. Parker, Jr. 2010–2014  
 Nilous M. Avery, II 2014–2018

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), a former Bennett College professor.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and join my colleagues, Congressman BUTTERFIELD and Congressman PRICE, in congratulating them on their achievements and the appointment of their 32nd president, Dr. Avery.

In North Carolina, the convention partners with Shaw University, the

oldest Historically Black University in the South and one of the oldest in the Nation.

As a retired professor, as you heard, of 40 years from Bennett College in Greensboro, founder of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, and a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee here in the Congress, it gives me great pride to reflect on the general support that the convention gives to Shaw and its students.

I feel a special attachment to Shaw, since that is what became my alma mater. North Carolina A&T State University was located on Shaw's campus during its first year. Its history of leadership, activism, and service is well-documented. The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, founded on Shaw's campus in 1960, and the Center for Alternative Programs in Education—CAPE—had its beginnings there in 1980.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ADAMS for those enlightening remarks and for her extraordinary leadership not only here in Congress, but for 40 years that she spent in the classroom at Bennett College. She has been a trailblazer for sure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), who also is a former college professor, who represents the Fourth Congressional District. I thank him for joining us tonight.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I commend him for taking up this Special Order and giving Representative ADAMS and myself the opportunity to participate and to pay tribute to the General Baptist State Convention.

The mention of Shaw University brings me to my feet because I, too, want to reflect on this significant Baptist institution, which is in the Fourth Congressional District, in downtown Raleigh.

Shaw has also recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, a history that parallels that of the General Baptist State Convention.

I was there last week in historic Estey Hall. I have to say—yes, point out the historic building there on the campus—when I first came to the Congress in the 1980s, my first appropriations earmark was for Estey Hall. Believe me, that was just a little bit of seed money. But Shaw has restored that building in a beautiful way. The acting President of Shaw, Dr. Paulette Dillard, is doing a wonderful job of leading that university.

But the occasion last week was an inaugural lecture. The Adam Clayton Powell-Ella Baker lecture is going to be an annual occasion at Shaw. I was honored to give that lecture to a very lively group of students and faculty. Then we had a luncheon in Estey Hall afterwards and a great discussion, just liberal arts education at its best. I appreciated being part of that occasion,

and I certainly, over the years, have come to appreciate what Shaw means: a Baptist institution. It is tied very, very closely. Shaw University Divinity School is affiliated—an institution that this convention has nurtured and that, in turn, has served thousands of people, and enriched the life of North Carolina.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman PRICE very much for those words, I thank him for his leadership and his relationship with Shaw University, and I especially thank him for mentioning Estey Hall.

For many of us, who have grown up in North Carolina, we know the relevance and the importance of Shaw University. We know how Shaw University trained many hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals, who came into communities all across North Carolina and made a difference. They came into the classroom, and they taught at elementary schools and high schools all across our State. They went onto college campuses and became college professors. Many of them became lawyers because Shaw University had a law school during those days. Some became physicians and dentists. Some became pharmacists.

Shaw University was a real educational engine not just in North Carolina, but throughout the country, during those very difficult days. And I say all that to say that it was the General Baptist State Convention and its predecessor that helped enable Shaw University to be born. Shaw University has done so much for so many.

I recall, as a child, my parents would tell me that they, too, attended Shaw University. My dad went to Shaw University from 1919 to 1923. My mother attended Shaw University for high school. During those days, African Americans did not have the benefit in most communities of a high school education and so many of the young teens would go to Shaw for high school. It was there at Shaw University that my parents met. My dad was in undergraduate school, my mother was in the high school, and they met right on the porch of Estey Hall back in 1919.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Price and Dr. Adams for raising up Shaw University and just telling the world what the General Baptist State Convention did by creating the environment where Shaw University could thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both of them for coming to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for any concluding remarks.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD for yielding.

I just wanted to add that he was almost a Shaw Bear with his parents attending there. Just last year, I had the opportunity to address Founder's Day to all of the students there.

Many firsts Shaw boasts: the first college in the Nation to offer a 4-year medical program, the first Historically

Black College in the Nation to open its doors to women, and the first Historically Black College in North Carolina to be granted an "A" rating by the State Department of Public Instruction.

Over the years, as Mr. BUTTERFIELD has said, many scholarships have been provided to those students. They have encouraged the students to not only attend their divinity school, but we find that many of them have become college presidents: the founder of North Carolina Central, the first President of Elizabeth City State, and North Carolina A&T State University were all Shaw Bears, and we are delighted. So the lives that the General Baptist State Convention has touched throughout its existence is beyond admirable and almost beyond comprehension.

I want to close by saying that W.E.B. Du Bois reminded us that of all the civil rights of which the world has fought for for 500 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.

So I praise the General Baptist State Convention and its commitment to education, and Shaw University, as well, for their charitable giving and for their dedication to educating young people through these 150 years, a century and five decades.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Very well said, Congresswoman ADAMS.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for any concluding remarks.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for this opportunity.

I would like to conclude by reflecting on some of the outstanding pastors who have led this convention and led the congregations that comprise this convention. I hesitate to name any because there are so many who have served so faithfully and so well.

But I want to share some memories, and I think our listeners in North Carolina will remember these as well. They exemplify what this convention has been all about and the leadership it has offered.

Dr. Charles Ward, for example, long-term pastor of the First Baptist Church in Raleigh, a civil rights leader, a mentor to so many people over the years, and a revered pastor. I remember him so well as I first began to think about running for Congress and sought his counsel. He unfailingly gave wise counsel and encouragement. He, of course, was a leader in the General Baptist State Convention.

Reverend Lorenzo Lynch, from Durham, North Carolina, another former leader of the convention. His son, Leonzo, is now the vice president of the convention. Leonzo Lynch is a powerful prophetic preacher. He had a huge impact on the city of Durham. The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People recently honored his lifetime achievements. And his daughter, former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, returned to Durham to be part of that recognition.

I think of C.R. Edwards, former president of the convention, pastor for so many years at the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, a long-term leader of the North Carolina General Assembly, and special assistant to North Carolina's Governors. Again, a mentor, a wise man, someone who was a good man and who knew how to bring out the best in others.

I think of W.B. Lewis, who recently passed away, another former president of the convention. He was pastor for a long time of the—I say a long time—decades upon decades of the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh. He was a pioneer in figuring out how to work with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to form a nonprofit corporation to build affordable housing, which, to this day, stands in Raleigh—rental housing for the elderly.

Finally, I think of John R. Manley, 60-plus years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, a dear friend of mine. Another former president of the convention, by the way. This was a pattern for these leading pastors to offer that kind of State leadership, as they were offering local leadership. John Manley also was a champion of housing. Manley Estates stands right there in that community. I know how hard John Manley worked on that because we worked together. We have this housing in the community because of his vision.

I can go on and on. But this is such an impressive honor roll of leaders—pastors—who have not only led their flocks, but they have led the State and, in many cases, national religious organizations.

The General Baptist State Convention has enabled millions of people over these years to deepen their faith and to express that faith in ministering to those whom Jesus called, “the least of these,” and to advance the struggle for justice in this country.

So I am proud to join my colleagues in this tribute tonight. And I say to the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that many faithful members of the congregations, the leaders, may you go from strength to strength, and may you continue to approach the gospel powerfully and be a force for good and justice and right in our community.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, as I was listening to Congressman PRICE a moment ago recite the names of those great men who have led the General Baptist State Convention, I could not help but to think that I, too, remember all of them. And then I glanced down at the list of presidents that I am going to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in just a few moments from now, and there have been 32 men who have served as presidents of this great con-

vention, and I have had the privilege of knowing 12 of them.

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I did not realize that until I actually pulled out the list and started counting: C.R. Edwards, who Mr. PRICE recognized a moment ago; Joy Johnson; John Manley; E.B. Turner; J.B. Humphrey; W.B. Lewis; Clifford A. Jones, Sr.; John D. Fuller, Sr.; Charles T. Bullock; Gregory K. Moss, Sr.; Howard W. Parker, Jr.; and the current president, Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, that of these names that I just mentioned, three of those passed away in this calendar year.

They have been great Baptists and they have been great North Carolinians and great Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues and I want to thank the General Baptist State Convention for 150 years of incredible work in North Carolina, and I thank the men and women of both clergy and laity who keep this convention alive and well.

Mr. Speaker, if I can close by simply using my dear, departed uncle as but one example of a Black preacher who gave his entire life to his ministry.

Reverend F.L. Bullock of Enfield, born 1896, pastored four churches that were one-Sunday-per-month churches. Married to my mother's sister who was a teacher, he was paid very little. Every day of his life, Reverend Bullock would visit the sick and minister to the needs of his community.

After serving as pastor for 64 long years, he was diagnosed with cancer. No health insurance, no life insurance, no pension from any of his churches, he died at age 84, several days after preaching his last sermon.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of pastors have devoted their entire life to the ministry. Many are remembered, but so many of them are not.

Today, the three of us pay tribute to all of them from the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

May God bless the memory of each of them for making our communities a better place to live, and may God continue to bless the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and its current leaders as they continue to serve God and his people of all races, creeds, and stations in life.

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

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1766. An act to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill

and joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2266. An act making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 111. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Arbitration Agreements”.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 504. An act to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2928. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled “Live Fire Test and Evaluation Management Plan for the T-AO 205 Fleet Replenishment Oiler Program PRE-MDAP-ACAT IC Milestone B/C”, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2366(c)(1); Public Law 99-500, Sec. 101(c) (as amended by Public Law 99-591, Sec. 101(c)); (100 Stat. 3341-144); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2929. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's interim final temporary rule — Regulation Crowdfunding and Regulation A Relief and Assistance for Victims of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria [Release No.: 33-10416] received October 20, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2930. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rules — Wool Products Labeling; Fur Products Labeling; Textile Fiber Products Identification (RIN: 3084-AB29, 3084-AB27, 3084-AB30) received October 20, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2931. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report covering the period from June 9, 2017 to August 8, 2017 on the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501) and 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 102-1, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-422); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2932. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to

Congress on the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué", the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement", and the United States-Cuba January 2017 "Joint Statement", together known as the Migration Accords, March 2017 to September 2017, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, Sec. 2245; (112 Stat. 2681-824); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2933. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No.: 02-17, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2934. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period of April 1, 2017 — May 31, 2017, pursuant to Sec. 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with Sec. 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2935. A letter from the Executive Analyst (Political), Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of nomination and 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.

2936. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0555; Product Identifier 2016-NM-183-AD; Amendment 39-19037; AD 2017-19-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2937. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0623; Product Identifier 2017-NM-024-AD; Amendment 39-19038; AD 2017-19-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2938. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0561; Product Identifier 2016-NM-141-AD; Amendment 39-19043; AD 2017-19-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2939. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbohaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0452; Product Identifier 2017-NE-14-AD; Amendment 39-19050; AD 2017-19-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2940. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Louisiana Towns; Leesville, LA; and Patterson, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0183; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ASW-4] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2941. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0639; Product Identifier 2017-CE-016-AD; Amendment 39-19052; AD 2017-19-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2942. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Siemens S.A.S. Smoke Detectors [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0099; Product Identifier 2017-NE-02-AD; Amendment 39-19035; AD 2017-19-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2943. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Midland, TX and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Odessa, TX and Midland, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9481; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASW-18] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2944. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0140; Product Identifier 2017-NE-05-AD; Amendment 39-19048; AD 2017-19-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2945. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Restricted Area R-2306F; Yuma Proving Ground, AZ [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7055; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AWP-11] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2946. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0767; Product Identifier 2017-NE-26-AD; Amendment 39-19049; AD 2017-19-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2947. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Wayne, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0287; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ACE-6] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2948. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Mineral Point, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0181; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-7] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2949. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Cheyenne, WY [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9473; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ANM-7] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2950. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-3004A and R-3004B and Establishment of R-3004C; Fort Gordon, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0886; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-11] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2951. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lemoore NAS, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0219; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AWP-5] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2952. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Brainerd, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0188; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-8] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2953. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Soldotna, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9588; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AAL-5] received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2954. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9143; Product Identifier 2013-SW-037-AD; Amendment 39-19051; AD 2017-19-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 18, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2955. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Record Disclosure and Privacy (RIN: 3245-AG52) received October 20, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

2956. A letter from the Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Administration's certification that the level of screening services

and protection provided at Atlantic City International Airport in New Jersey, under this contract will be equal to or greater than the level that would be provided at the airport by TSA Transportation Security Officers and that the screening company is owned and controlled by a citizen of the United States, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44920(d)(1); Public Law 107-71, Sec. 108(a); (115 Stat. 613); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

2957. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA); Fecal Occult Blood (FOB) Testing [CMS-3271-F] (RIN: 0938-AS04) received October 18, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### 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. CONAWAY: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 2936. A bill to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-370, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2936. A bill to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-370, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 2823. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that retirement investors receive advice in their best interests, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-371, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2936 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2823. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than January 10, 2018.

#### 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 Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 4115. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of industry or sector partnerships; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 4116. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require reporting by drug manufacturers to increase transparency in drug pricing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4117. A bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 4118. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. GARRETT, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota, and Ms. STEFANK):

H.R. 4119. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to develop a plain language disclosure form for borrowers of Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. ROSEN):

H.R. 4120. A bill to provide for a comprehensive interdisciplinary research and development initiative to strengthen the capacity of the electricity sector to neutralize cyber attacks; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 4121. A bill to establish in the United States Agency for International Development an entity to be known as the United States Global Development Lab, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 4122. A bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 4123. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a report to Congress with respect to North Korea's procurement of engines and technologies from a foreign source, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. AMASH, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 4124. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to protect privacy rights and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), Oversight and Government Reform, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOVE (for herself and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 4125. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 4126. A bill to provide for the accurate reporting of fossil fuel production and emissions from public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 4127. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow refunds of Federal motor fuel excise taxes on fuels used in mobile mammography vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4128. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States with Exchanges with low-insurer participation to offer a Medicaid buy-in plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Ms.

FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WALZ, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 4129. A bill to establish a State public option through Medicaid to provide Americans with the choice of a high-quality, low-cost health insurance plan; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4130. A bill to amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PITTINGER (for himself, Mr.

LOUDERMILK, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WALKER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JONES, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, Mr. DUNN, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. YOHO, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MESSER, Mr. BRAT, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FLORES, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 4131. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose federal taxes on bonds used to provide facilities owned by abortion providers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. DUNN):

H.R. 4132. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 4133. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 4134. A bill to redesignate the White Clouds Wilderness in the Sawtooth and

Challis National Forests in the State of Idaho as the Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wilderness in honor of former Idaho Governor and Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 4135. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion for educational assistance programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 4136. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen intensive cardiac rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 4137. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources and the investment credit for certain qualified investment credit facilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself,

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LEE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. BASS, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H. Con. Res. 86. Concurrent resolution condemning the racist and hate-based attacks on our college campuses and reaffirming our support for inclusion and safety in our institutions of higher learning; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself,

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LEE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts):

H. Con. Res. 87. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that temporary protected status for Haitian nationals should be extended until that country has demonstrably recovered from the 2010 earthquake, the cholera epidemic, Hurricane Matthew, and other disasters; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LAWSON of

Florida, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CRIST, Ms. BASS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H. Res. 586. A resolution recognizing the growth and importance of minority women-owned businesses; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ESTY of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. HIMES):

H. Res. 587. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the deduction for State and local taxes is beneficial and should remain intact; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BACON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. COMER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. KNIGHT):

H. Res. 588. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Veterans Small Business Week; to the Committee on Small Business.

#### 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 Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 4115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 4116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 4117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 4118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 4119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 and Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 4120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS  
CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 4123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. LOVE:

H.R. 4125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 4126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 4129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. PITTINGER:

H.R. 4131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill is based on Congress's power under Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution, which grants Congress power over taxation.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 4132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 4133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Medicare is a health care program under current law that is operated by the federal government. This bill would improve the efficiency, accessibility and fairness of the operations of this federal program, especially the purchase of services and freedom to contract between doctors and Medicare recipients. This bill directly affects interstate commerce, which Congress has the power to regulate under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 4134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 4135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 4136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 4137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 173: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. KINZINGER.

H.R. 176: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 233: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 296: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 299: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 392: Ms. DEGETTE and Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 398: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 444: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 495: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 525: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. ARRINGTON.

H.R. 535: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 545: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 620: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 721: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 747: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 754: Mr. PITTINGER.

H.R. 785: Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 792: Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 801: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 820: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 821: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 846: Mr. POCAN and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 919: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 927: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 991: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 1038: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 1108: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1133: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1148: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1150: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1158: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

H.R. 1160: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1164: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1175: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1205: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MESSER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 1253: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1276: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1298: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1344: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 1377: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1384: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1406: Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1421: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1478: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 1496: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COOK, and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 1552: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1606: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1609: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 1636: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1659: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1733: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1865: Mr. LUCAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 1880: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1953: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1955: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 2044: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2077: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2091: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 2152: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 2202: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2234: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2259: Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 2319: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2320: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 2322: Mr. CORREA and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 2339: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 2405: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 2429: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2431: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 2436: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2492: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2498: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2584: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 2601: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 2625: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.



- H.R. 2628: Mr. POCAN and Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 2633: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 2712: Mr. MCCAUL.  
H.R. 2717: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.  
H.R. 2723: Mr. LATTA, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. CONAWAY.  
H.R. 2790: Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. TSONGAS.  
H.R. 2881: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 2901: Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 2943: Mr. CAPUANO and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.R. 2999: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H.R. 3117: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. BARTON.  
H.R. 3136: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 3179: Mr. MESSER and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 3200: Mr. GARRETT.  
H.R. 3222: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 3248: Mr. EVANS.  
H.R. 3275: Ms. ROSEN.  
H.R. 3301: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. BIGGS.  
H.R. 3331: Mr. ESTES of Kansas.  
H.R. 3349: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 3350: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 3378: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 3415: Mrs. WAGNER.  
H.R. 3441: Mr. DESJARLAIS.  
H.R. 3529: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.  
H.R. 3544: Mr. CAPUANO.  
H.R. 3545: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 3548: Mr. GAETZ.  
H.R. 3566: Mr. SOTO and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
H.R. 3596: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 3606: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 3632: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. MENG, Mr. COOK, and Mr. DEFAZIO.  
H.R. 3641: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. CLAY, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 3666: Mr. KIND.  
H.R. 3684: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
H.R. 3692: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.  
H.R. 3695: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 3699: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 3708: Mr. BUDD.  
H.R. 3738: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 3748: Mr. O'ROURKE.  
H.R. 3759: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 3760: Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 3761: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 3767: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 3770: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 3784: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 3792: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.  
H.R. 3798: Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. PAULSEN.  
H.R. 3811: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 3814: Mr. EVANS.  
H.R. 3826: Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 3839: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 3881: Mr. POLIS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. SIREN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 3887: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.  
H.R. 3897: Mr. KIND, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. LANGEVIN.  
H.R. 3918: Mr. ROSS.  
H.R. 3940: Mr. KNIGHT and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 3956: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 3966: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 3970: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 3976: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 3979: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
H.R. 3988: Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 4006: Mr. KENNEDY and Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 4007: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 4020: Mr. SOTO and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 4035: Mr. PALMER.  
H.R. 4051: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 4052: Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 4062: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
H.R. 4073: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.  
H.R. 4079: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 4082: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 4097: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4098: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 4099: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.  
H.R. 4105: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4112: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. CLAY.  
H.R. 4114: Ms. LEE.  
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. KINZINGER.  
H. Con. Res. 43: Ms. MOORE, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. NORTON.  
H. Res. 30: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H. Res. 199: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.  
H. Res. 220: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Ms. DEGETTE.  
H. Res. 244: Mr. GOMEZ.  
H. Res. 257: Mr. CRIST.  
H. Res. 283: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H. Res. 401: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.  
H. Res. 563: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H. Res. 571: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. KHANNA.  
H. Res. 584: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

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#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 3941: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. Cárdenas, and Mr. LOEBSACK.